

ALICE household – Jason

Do you know ALICE? ALICE is a hardworking member of the community who is employed yet does not earn enough to afford the basic necessities of life. ALICE is one emergency away from a financial crisis. ALICE is a woman, ALICE is a man, ALICE is a family. ALICE has many ages, ethnicities and spiritual paths. ALICE lives in many neighborhoods throughout our community.

Jason is ALICE. Jason lives in Stark County with his son. The mother of his son struggles with drug addiction and doesn't have a relationship with him. As a single parent, Jason is solely responsible for supporting his household, and providing for his son.

Jason attended McKinley high school where he enjoyed playing football, although he knew that his skill level wasn't enough to earn a college scholarship. He was a good student, and was enrolled in the college preparatory program. Although he considered attending College of Wooster or Art Institute of Pittsburgh, but did not receive guidance or encouragement to attend college and never pursued those options seriously after graduation. He began working in landscaping after graduating high school.

He went to Las Vegas for a fresh start and worked for an underground utility company. The work was impacted by the 9/11 incident, and he was laid off. He found some odd jobs, then returned to the Canton area and went back to landscaping.

Jason is still employed as a professional landscaper, so his income can be inconsistent depending upon the weather. Work in the warm weather is steady, but sporadic during the winter months. His employer doesn't offer health insurance, but he recently increased Jason's compensation to help him purchase family coverage through the Marketplace.

Jason owns his own home, but the mortgage payment is over \$900, and he is behind on utility bills. He is considering refinancing to get caught up and lower his monthly payment, and is in the process of filling out the necessary paperwork. He is determined to keep his house and eventually give it to his son. Upkeep and maintenance on the home are challenging, especially when something substantial needs of repair or replacing.

When he is working, Jason pays cash to a neighbor for his sons' daycare. Because of this, he can't claim the expense on his tax return. Jason has some family in town that can help him out occasionally. His son will be starting kindergarten soon but hasn't received any preschool or early childhood instruction.

Jason's truck is paid for, but currently needs some work.

Jason has no plan or strategy for the future, and just focuses on getting by day-to-day. His dream job would be professional motorcycle mechanic. A training program would cost money, but he doesn't know what that trade pays to determine if the investment would pay off. He hasn't investigated it any further.

Jason shares his story to help get the message out about ALICE households, and the struggles they face every day.