

# Behind the statistics is a glaring fact: Poverty is widespread in our community.

## POVERTY IN PIMA COUNTY

- ❑ Nationally, 13.1% of the population lives in poverty. In Arizona, 14.2 % of families are in poverty
- ❑ According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, 156,000 Pima County residents live at or below the Federal Poverty Level.
- ❑ The Association of Arizona Food Banks estimates that nearly 50,000 of children are living in poverty (this equates to one in five).
- ❑ Some 60,000 seniors in Pima County have incomes at or below the poverty level.
- ❑ The poverty line for a family of three is \$16,000 and a family of four is \$20,650.
- ❑ A minimum wage job in Arizona pays \$14,000 a year.
- ❑ Arizona ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in combined state and local spending on social services.

**WORKING POOR** families are those over the poverty threshold, but making below 200% of the poverty line. **One third of Arizona's population is classified as working poor.**

### Example of "working poor" family:

Married couple with 2 children (ages 3 – 7).

Each parent works full-time earning \$7.75/hr. for an annual income of \$32,000 (\$2,667/mo.)

This income places the family at about 175 % of the federal poverty level, making them ineligible for food stamps or child care subsidies.

### **Their monthly budget would be as follows:**

Child care - \$887

Food - \$552

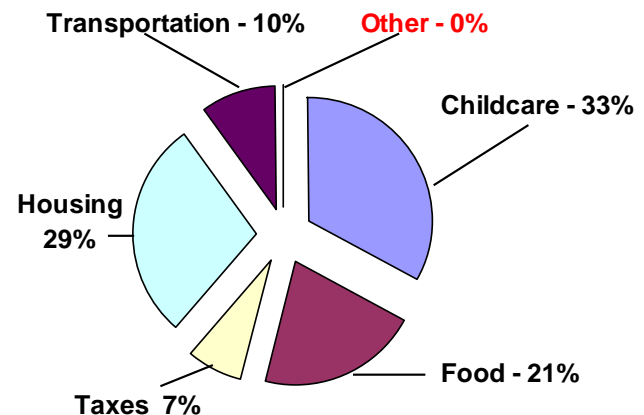
Taxes - \$195

Housing: \$778

Transportation - \$263

Other - \$12

**WHAT HAPPENS when a car breaks down, an illness, or the loss of a job**  
**ANSWER: These incidents can lead to a major crisis.**



## MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES are borderline secure.

- ❑ Less than one out of three middle-class families has long-term sustainable economic security.
- ❑ One in four middle class families is at risk of slipping out of the middle class altogether.
- ❑ More than half of middle class families have no net financial assets whatsoever. Eight out of ten middle-class families are at risk if something goes wrong because not enough assets to meet expenses for at least 3 months.
- ❑ Middle-class families have a median debt of \$3,500.
- ❑ Twenty-one percent of middle-class families have less than \$100 per week (\$5,000 per year) remaining after meeting essential living expenses.
- ❑

Stats from Census, AZ Community Action Association, Association of Arizona Food Banks

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