

# LIVE UNITED™

## ***What We Know About Crisis Services...and what research tells us about our community in times of crisis.***

### **Rates of newly homeless families in Rochester have increased this year.**

The Rochester Housing Authority reported in January 2010, a 15% increase from 2009 in the number of homeless families in Rochester.

### **Families are under increasing stress as the current recession has taken hold.**

In 2009, Rochester's average monthly unemployment rate was 10.4%, up from 7.5% in 2008; in Monroe County, the rate was 7.9%, up from 5.5%.

### **The conventionally used indicator of housing affordability in the United States is spending less than 30% of household income on housing expenses.**

In Rochester, 59% of renters spent 30% or more of household income on housing. Rochester has 81,000 occupied housing units, of which 58% are renter occupied.

### **On the national, state and local levels, single female-headed households with related children have higher poverty rates than other types of families.**

In Monroe County, 38% of single female-headed households live in poverty, more than 4 times higher than the 9% poverty rate for all families.

### **Battered women are often forced to choose between the abusive relationship and living in crisis situations, which may lead to them leaving without adequate supports.**

14% of Monroe County's working-age adults have been physically assaulted by a spouse or dating partner.

### **Emergency meals provided by food pantries, soup kitchens and other organizations are a critical resource for families in need.**

More than 2.7 million emergency meals are provided annually to people in Monroe County.

### **Poverty and the lack of affordable housing are the major causes of homelessness for adults. The typical sheltered homeless family consists of a mother and two or three children.**

There are an estimated 8,000 homeless people in Monroe County: approximately 3,527 single adults, 915 youth on their own, and 1,525 families.

### **Homeless youth are at risk of many negative outcomes, including physical trauma, sexual abuse, untreated health problems and substance use.**

In 2008, there were 1,255 emergency housing placements for 800 Monroe County youth living on their own.

**Persons with low incomes and those living in poverty often have little knowledge of or direct access to basic services for their stability.**

The benefits of creating a national 2-1-1 network, an easy-to-remember number to link persons in need with local health and human services, would exceed costs by \$530 million over a ten-year period.

**There is a gap between the legal needs of low-income people and their ability to get those needs met.**

Low-income households in New York State experience an average of 2.37 civil legal problems annually for which they received no professional legal help to resolve, including legal needs relating to housing and receipt of benefits.