When you struggle to take care of the basics, it is difficult to think about the future.

When families are worried about getting by, they can't plan and save for their goals or an unexpected expense. And they often have to make impossible choices, such as deciding whether to buy food, pay rent, or go to the doctor.

Right here in Greater Houston, 14% of households are living on wages below the federal poverty threshold, and another 33% of households are working hard but can’t afford the basic necessities of life. This is underscored by calls to our 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE, many of which are for help with basic needs.

In 2021, 211 connected:

- 77,100 people with utility assistance
- 28,000 people with food assistance
- 77,600 people with rent or mortgage assistance
- 56,700 people with health care
- 44,000 people with housing

The safety net also includes immediate, short-term services focused on safety for those fleeing domestic violence, human trafficking, or vulnerable populations such as refugees.

In the Greater Houston area, one in four women experiences domestic abuse in their lifetime. With your support, we invested in programs that helped more than 17,600 women and their children escape from violent situations last year. We also supported refugee resettlement assistance for more than 23,200 individuals.

Last year, we supported 330,400 of our neighbors with basic needs assistance including rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, technology access, food, shelter, and transportation assistance.

The people pictured are real clients served by United Way funded partners.