any members of our community struggle to find or maintain affordable housing for themselves and their families.

In Champaign County, a person would have to work 73 hours a week at minimum wage simply to afford the average two-bedroom apartment and the cost of utilities.

In an effort to support members of our community who are homeless, United Way of Champaign County collaborated with local churches, businesses, individuals and community organizations to create the Men’s Winter Shelter. It serves as an emergency shelter option for homeless men, something that had been missing and needed in Champaign County.

“It took a whole lot of collaboration, over six months to get where we are now. Providing shelter is more than just opening the doors to a building—there are so many factors involved,” said Beverley Baker, United Way’s Director of Community Impact.

For local families that are in need of temporary shelter, the Emergency Shelter for Families is available. Before the Emergency Shelter for Families, Champaign County did not have an emergency housing option where families could remain together.

The permanent model for this program opened in June of 2016 thanks to dedicated and complete community collaboration.

In addition to housing issues, United Way works to help families achieve financial stability through:

- Financial education classes
- Job training programs
- Tax preparation assistance
- $423,363 in grants to 10 local financial stability programs

Without financial stability, it is difficult to take steps towards a brighter future. Both the Emergency Shelter for Families and Men’s Winter Shelter are not simply about shelter but are about providing a path forward, toward success and stability for everyone in our community.

This is your IMPACT.