

1). In the past five years have you had to work a second job while working at the University? If yes, why?

Yes. My pay does not cover my budget. My rent(\$560.00) is 45% of my take home pay, plus I have to pay for utilities. Then there are all the other areas of my life that are stretched(see below) past my earnings.

2). While working here have you needed to borrow money or use a credit card to make ends meet?

Yes, many of times. I have nothing to put into savings so when an emergency happens(car repair) I have to borrow,charge or make an appeal to a community agency for help. For my position we are required to use our car(s) to travel the entire county(no car, no job);but we don't make enough money to do up keep on our vehicles. In fact I'm maxed on my charge card due to car repairs over \$2000.00 from last spring. I don't even make enough to buy a different car.

3). If you made a livable wage, what would you be able to do that you can't do now? (In 2003 the Jobs Now Coalition estimated that the hourly wage needed to meet monthly basic needs for a family consisting of one adult with 2 children was \$19.46)

I'd be able to buy enough groceries to make it thru pay period, I go to food shelf once a month. I'm thankful my kids are grown and I don't have to buy for them; we'd be at the free meals site(s) for dinner if they were still home. I could buy new clothes instead of second hand. I could have some savings for the future. I could do something fun like see a movie when it first comes out instead of waiting 6 months to see it at the \$2.00 theater or buy a magazine or go out for a nice dinner somewhere(I can't remember the last time I did any of these things). I'd love to go to a concert, sporting event, see a play, buy a CD, etc. but those aren't even dreams anymore. I AM THE WORKING POOR !!!!!!! I have no life really except to go to work then to come home and wait to go to work again. The enjoyment that life can give us is totally out of my reach. Every dime goes towards my basic needs and those aren't even met!!!! I have to go beg at least once a month.

4). At your present salary, what do you go without?

I teach nutrition and I can't even buy the foods from the food guide pyramid that the government tells us we should eat daily(fruits and vegetables are in my diet ONCE A WEEK and should be daily). I also can't give to my Church(alms). Everything in my life goes without something. Can't remember the last time I bought a new piece of clothing; Can't remember the last time I planned a vacation; Can't remember the last time I went dancing; Can't remember the last time I went to the grocery store and bought foods that I wanted to eat versus foods that would fill me up(noodles, rice, etc...); Can't remember the last time I bought a gift for someone; Can't remember the last time I was able to take part in our office pot lucks(I have to leave because I can't bring in food for all my co-workers); Can't remember the last time I bought a magazine, newspaper, book, CD, etc... The list is endless.....

I can remember that the last time I smiled was doing my job! Through all of the above, I love teaching, I love seeing a participant understanding the concept and becoming self sufficient. I just wish we were paid enough to meet our basic needs.