

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

No, but I am currently looking for part-time work as my take home pay has dropped and I am beginning to fall behind in my day to day expenses. We currently had to have our car repaired and pay a heating bill, which emptied our savings account!!!

Our car will need to be replaced someday in the future, so I am hoping to put some money away for that as well as have something to help our kids attend college!!!

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

Yes, currently we are trying to stretch our budget. We have drained our savings account in the past two years. We have cut back to basics only, no extras like family vacations, eating out, movies, fun events!!! We are still struggling to keep ahead of heating costs and to buy groceries and clothes for two growing boys!!!

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)

We would be able to relax and not deal with financial stress on a daily basis, which takes a toll on the whole family. We would not be able to do vacations, but we might at least be able to take the kids to a movie or eat out once in awhile!!! Small things do matter.

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

Our savings account has gone along the wayside!! We have no back-up for emergencies for the first time in sixteen years!!! We are struggling to heat our home, keep everyone in shoes, keep eyeglass prescriptions current, and maintain our vehicle. We are not letting our kids participate in or attend school events unless they are free and they are not doing the fun stuff that young and teenage children should be able to do. It's been a huge adjustment for our whole family and everyone has made sacrifices in the last two years!!!