THE ALICE EXPERIENCE | MEET THE HERNANDEZ FAMILY

Ronald Hernandez, 30
Delivery Driver
$17.50

Natalia Hernandez, 28
Retail Employee
NYS Minimum Wage

Aleese, 2

THE GOAL: OWN A RELIABLE VEHICLE

Ronald and Natalia live in Jamestown and make a combined gross annual income of **$46,800.** Despite limited education (they both finished high school), they were able to find work that pays over minimum wage. They both work part time jobs and alternate shifts to avoid the high cost of childcare. Their hours and schedules fluctuate weekly, and with only one cell phone between them, it's hard to juggle demands. Although the family tries to save, their combined paychecks barely cover their monthly bills and unexpected expenses.

In October, they were forced to relocate because the home they were living in was full of lead. Aleese has developmental delays/health concerns and requires frequent trips to and from a specialist in Buffalo. Ron recently went to the hospital and was treated for anxiety and depression.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- The Hernadez family are eligible for SNAP benefits, but still have difficulty affording the rising cost of food.
- Ron and Natalia purchased a used car with their tax returns last year and costs for repairs have been considerable.

GUIDELINES:

- Keep your goals in mind.
- Budget for all categories - you may not skip a section.
- You may budget for any category in any order.

HERNANDEZ FAMILY

TOTAL FAMILY BUDGET **15 COINS*** TOTAL COINS SPENT: 0

You may not exceed your budget

HOUSING

1
- Studio apartment
- One bath

2
- Apartment
- One bed
- One bath

3
- House
- Two beds
- One and a half baths

CHILD CARE

1
- No access to reliable childcare

2
- Leave kids with multiple family and friends, but found it is unreliable

3
- Put the kids in a reliable, licensed childcare center close to home

SAVINGS

1
- After the bills/food is paid for, no extra money is left

2
- $20 left over each week after all the bills are paid to pay down debt

3
- $50 left over each week after all bills are paid to pay down debt and contribute to savings

TRANSPORTATION

1
- No access to public transportation
- Rely on family and friends for rides

2
- Take CARTS buses, but the schedule can be unreliable

3
- Own your own car

FOOD

1
- Full of carb-heavy, processed foods
- Void of nutrients
- High in fats and sodium

2
- Rely on cheaper cuts of meat
- Canned fruits and vegetables, which are higher in sodium and sugar

3
- Lean meats
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Locally sourced

HEALTH

1
- Avoid going to the doctor

2
- Only go to the doctor when it's an emergency

3
- Proactively address health concerns

NEIGHBORHOOD

1
- Sometimes unsafe, high lead levels
- under resourced schools
- Grocery store within five miles, no proximity to support services

2
- Relatively safe, some lead levels
- Resourced schools
- grocery store & support services within walking distance

3
- Safe, low lead levels
- Abundantly resourced schools
- Two grocery stores nearby access to many support services

TECHNOLOGY

1
- No cell phone
- No computer or internet
- No TV

2
- Cell phone with a prepaid monthly plan
- No computer or internet
- No TV

3
- Cell phone
- Home computer with internet
- TV with cable/streaming

1=1 COIN, 2=2 COINS, 3=3 COINS | YOU CANNOT SKIP A SECTION | KEEP YOUR FAMILY'S GOAL IN MIND WHILE MAKING YOUR BUDGET