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A school is the cornerstone of the community. It cultivated the minds, hearts, and souls of the future generation. More than ever, with the opioid epidemic, the social media pressures, the current pandemic, these little minds, hearts, and souls are just trying to survive but rather than just surviving, they are thriving.

This is thanks to teachers, their support staff, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria cooks - everyone who is going above and beyond expectations to help children break barriers and excel. These are the people who make the difference. To do this job, it takes dedication and commitment. But how can someone commit and focus on helping children succeed when they are worried about paying their rent or fixing a broken transmission? How can a teacher's aid look a kid in the eye and tell them everything will be okay when they, themselves, are choosing between paying their home insurance or car insurance?

To be a successful community and to have a successful school, the employee's need to be able to focus on taking care of the students, not worrying about paying their bills. By dedicating their hearts, minds and souls to their community, they have earned a living wage and they deserve this. This is an investment in our community, schools, children and future.