

# Living Wage Study 2022 Report

Perspectives Shared by Mary and Donna



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## On Income Challenges with Social Security



“The challenges were when my husband died, we lost his social security. I didn’t have the money I used to have so I went into a big bind paying my bills, gas, electric and my mortgage especially. Thank God for the organizations that are out there to help me, otherwise I might have been outside on the street.” – Mary

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## On Income Challenges with Social Security



“They bought the house which they have now and they have a mortgage which is very hard for my Mom right now. When my Dad passed, his income had helped pay and together they were able to make it. It was even tight then, but on one social security income down to just her it’s very difficult. Right now, she can’t afford her mortgage.” – Donna (daughter)

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## On Housing Challenges & Rising Costs



“Finances are very difficult. Everything is going up so high. People can’t afford it, especially senior citizens and trying to get into a senior high-rise building, forget it, it’s 3-4 years of waiting...a lot of senior citizens need the help... Neighborworks was very good to me. They helped me in many ways. They cleaned the backyard and they are helping me with my mortgage.” – Mary

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## Difficulties in Getting Assistance



“If the agencies would eliminate some of the red tape, such as the waiting lists and the income restrictions it would be much better. It’s hard because the economic structure of today is not what it was twenty years ago. I think they need to reevaluate what is happening in the economic realm, especially for the elderly.” – Donna (daughter)

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