

# 20 ways your United Way gift is at work

This time of year, many of us give to others who are in need to help make their holiday brighter. My family, like many of yours, enjoys family traditions built around filling stockings, shoe boxes or volunteering during the holidays. Last year, United Way connected 1,627 individuals to toys, food and clothing during this season of giving. But let us not forget the United Way donors, volunteers and advocates who put families on the road to success 12 months out of the year.

In our community, 180 companies run an employee United Way campaign helping Campaign Chairman J.T. Finley work to reach his 2015 goal of \$3.7 million to improve education, basic needs and health in Whitfield and Murray counties. Currently through your generous support we are at 80 percent of our ambitious goal. You can help us meet our goal by visiting [ourunitedway.org/give](http://ourunitedway.org/give) to donate online or mailing your donation to P.O. Box 566 Dalton, GA, 30722.

I wanted to take a moment to share with you 20 things that are made possible in our community because of United Way's 10,834 donors and 4,203 volunteers:

## **Education**

1. 560 children received high-quality child care.

2. 496 youth and adults were matched to a mentor.

3. 5,526 children and youth received programming designed to help them graduate from high school on time with the skills to be career and life-ready.

4. 8,287 books were distributed to children.

5. 182 abused and neglected children were supported by a volunteer court advocate.

6. 5,045 young adults received character education, leadership development, outdoor education and workforce develop-

ment.

7. 2,682 youth and adults received healthy dating classes and marriage classes.

8. 2,349 children were in programs designed to help them read on grade level by third grade.

9. 3,140 children and youth attended subsidized after-school and summer programs.

## **Basic needs**

10. 7,543 individuals received assistance to reduce their long-term need for food, housing or utility assistance through counseling, life skills or budgeting classes.

11. 196 people received shelter in a transitional housing unit.

12. 957 domestic violence calls were answered.

13. 18,435 people received food assistance.

14. 50 homeless children attended a two-week summer camp.

## **Health**

15. 618 individuals ranging from infants to the elderly received financial assistance for speech and hearing services.

16. 5,422 hours of respite care were provided to caregivers whose loved one is battling dementia.

17. 80,515 meals were delivered to homebound elderly.

18. 1,232 elderly and disabled received nursing care, bathing, nutrition, therapeutic activities and enriching programming during the day.

19. 57 individuals with developmental disabilities were matched with a job coach.

20. 16,470 youth and adults received programming designed to reduce teen pregnancy, crime and alcohol, drug and tobacco use.

Thank you to everyone who is a part of the magic. I am thankful to live in a community where we not only invest in education and prevention services; we help our fellow neighbor when life does not go as planned.

On behalf of the United Way Board of Directors and staff, I wish you a joyous holiday season!

*Amanda Burt is the president of United Way of Northwest Georgia.*



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