

Building blocks of successful teens

Life can be tough as a teenager.

As a mom, what I want most for my children is for them to be happy and feel loved. But, what if your child struggles with isolation and peer pressure, and your family lacks the financial

resources to connect your child to sports, dance, art lessons or other activities where they can make friends?

Meet Ali.

Today, Ali is confident, has leadership skills, participates in school clubs and is planning for college.

But that was not always the case.

Thanks to your gift to United Way, Ali no longer struggles to fit in.

Ali is a Certified Teen Leader for Murray County 4-H, a United Way Community Partner where she has served as a teacher for Cloverbud 4-H, a program for kindergarten through fourth-graders. She also enjoys being a Color Crew Leader at Health Rocks Camp, a camp that teaches local youth how to avoid risky



**Amanda
Burt**

behaviors involving tobacco, alcohol and drugs, as well as, leading a healthy nutritional lifestyle.

Originally terrified to speak in public, Ali is now a well-seasoned public speaker thanks to her acquired life and leadership skills.

Ali plans to pursue a college degree in early childhood education.

Your investment in United Way changed Ali's game.

In 2014, your gift not only helped Ali become the next up-and-coming leader in our community, it also helped 59,035 of our neighbors.

Together we can make sure teens in our community have the building blocks for success: education, basic needs and health.

Youth development programs pay dividends for our next generation, resulting in teens being:

- Four times more likely to make contributions to their communities.
- Two times more likely to be civically active.
- Two times more likely to make healthier choices.

• Two times more likely to participate in science, engineering and computer technology programs during out-of-school time.

The mission of Murray County 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society.

This mission is accomplished through "hands on" learning experiences, focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation and citizenship.

Our investment in 4-H isn't the only way that United Way changes the game in education.

We also support programs that give so many children a foundation for a successful life. Did you know that your investment in United Way will also?

- Enhance school readiness and strengthen family dynamics.
- Provide mentoring, safe places to play, tutoring and leadership development.
- Keep kids on track for school, work and life.

• Prevent child abuse.

We invest in programs that address root causes to create lasting change so that children succeed in school, families' basic needs are met and our local communities are healthy.

Our work brings together philanthropists, businesses, churches, local governments and dedicated community volunteers to create positive, sustainable change for individuals, families and communities in Murray and Whitfield counties.

In the area of education, United Way partners with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Family Frameworks, Family Support Council, Friendship House, Girl Scouts, Murray County 4-H and Whitfield-Dalton Day Care Center. Our

United Way also hosts an AmeriCorps VISTA team of six national service members who mobilize volunteers in schools and educational nonprofits.

So join us.

Visit www.ourunited-way.org to get involved.

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