

Meet J.T. Finley

Our heritage is rich with generous philanthropists and fundraisers who set aside competitive business environments and join together to take care of the people who live and work in Whitfield AND Murray counties. Donning the United Way campaign chair badge is not a task to be entered into lightly. When I look down the list of our past campaign chairs, two words come to mind: integrity and passion for improving lives.

Meet J.T. Finley, our 2015 Campaign Chair.

I asked J.T. why he believes so strongly in United Way. He, not missing a beat, responded, "I have seen the impact that many United Way organizations have on the kids in our community. Nothing can replace that. All kids deserve a fair chance."

Youth development is near to J.T.'s heart as he has served on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters, a United Way partner agency, since 2001, and was a Big — an adult mentor — from 2001 to 2014. His Little, Logan McDermott, graduated from Southeast Whitfield High School in 2014.

A member of Dalton First United Methodist Church, he serves as an usher, children's council



Amanda Burt

member and he and his wife teach children's church. He served as chairman of the stewardship committee for 2014.

When not out helping the community he loves so much, J.T. enjoys reading and studying World War II. One of his favorite quotes is from Maj.

Dick Winters, who always told his men before patrols, "Hang tough!"

J.T. was born and raised in Dalton and graduated from Dalton High School in 1995 where he played football, basketball and ran track all four years. J.T. attended Pellissippi State College before returning home to work his family business, Maryville Jewelers, where he has passionately served for the past 17 years.

J.T. and his high school sweetheart, Alison, will celebrate 10 years of marriage this July. She is the intermediate literacy coordinator at City Park Elementary. The Finleys have a five-year-old son named Miles who J.T. says "is a pistol."

Please join me in patting J.T. on the back as we begin another year of synergizing donors, advocates and volunteers to improve education, basic needs and health in our very special community.

This week, I invite you to join our board of directors and community partners as we celebrate game changers in our community at our annual meeting and volunteer awards on Tuesday, March 10, at 3:30 p.m. at Stage 123 in downtown Dalton.

Thanks for being part of our heritage. Together, we are creating brighter futures.

Year-United Way Campaign Chairs

1952: Frank Percy and W.M. Barganier
1953: A.L. Azhary Jr. and Dan Amaker
1954: David Hamilton and Tom McKoy
1955: Marion Simms
1956: Clarence Johnson
1957: Joe Ginsburg and R.E. Hamilton
1958: Gibb Watts and Jerry Gold
1959: Rollins Jolly and Frank McCarty
1960: Wilson Rogers
1961: Dr. Gilbert and Harry Moore
1962: Art Wink and Bill Bice
1963: Clifford Hale
1964: W.K. Inman
1965: Robert Rutland
1966: James Miller and Norris Little
1967: Norris Little and Bob Shaw
1968: Bob Shaw
1969: Bill Steve
1970: Earl Ball
1971: John Hackett
1972: Pat Broadus

1973: Jack Rogers
1974: James Kaye
1975: Paul Diamond
1976: Daylon Williams
1977: Daylon Williams
1978: Gordon Sweeney
1979: Joe Szollosi
1980: David Price
1981: David Price
1982: Charles Allgood
1983: Carole Jones
1984: Chip Sellers
1985: Bud Morrison
1986: Trammell Scott
1987: Joe Stubbs
1988: Jim Jolly
1989: Tom Ramsey
1990: Elvin Farrar
1991: Stan Crawford
1992: Skeeter Pierce
1993: Charles HS
1994: Brad Rowe
1995: Cleon Sumner
1996: Doug Squillario
1997: Frank Thomason
1998: Dawn Sanders
1999: Danny Morgan
2000: Don Cope
2001: Thomas Poston
2002: Vance Bell
2003: Rich Sparzani
2004: Bryan Hair
2005: Mitch Sanford
2006: David Renz
2007: Pete Sigmon
2008: David Gregg
2009: Marybeth Meadows
2010: Rhett Orr
2011: Bill Davies
2012: Kevin Sanders
2013: Bob Ringer
2014: Brian Anderson
2015: J.T. Finley

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