

All in for United Way

Someone much brighter than myself once told me that true giving is giving without holding back. This community is No. 1 for a lot of reasons, and I believe that our entrepreneurial spirit is at the center of our success.

We are “all in,” as they say in Vegas. We are not worried about the now, and we do not dwell on the past. We have that innate ability to look ahead and care about people we have never met before. It has amazed me to see all of the different entities — large and small businesses, school systems, banks — come together to give back to this community which has given us so much. The unwavering determination of every individual

involved in this United Way campaign and those before it show the pride we take in our community here in northwest Georgia.

Every year our United Way sets a lofty goal to ensure the highest levels of service within education, basic needs and health. These three pillars are woven into the community partners which we support, and we could not be prouder to have so many deserving agencies in our area doing

the hard work on the front lines. As our community has risen from the depths of the recession and rebounded in a big way, we have not forgotten those less fortunate and that has shown in the recent success of our campaigns.



**JOE
YOUNG**

More than ever we are seeing the younger generation become involved in giving as well as volunteering. Through the Young Leaders Society we have been able to connect our young leaders across industries and occupations. This and other giving societies allow those that share common goals to come together and socialize, engage in service opportunities, and volunteer. The foundation of this community was established long before this year's campaign, and we were simply able to build off of the success that has been United Way year in and year out. The future is bright and the same can be said about the present. With the help of the United Way board and staff, the campaign cabinet, donors and corporate volunteers, we were able to make great things

happen this year by raising more than \$4 million for our community.

I sincerely thank the United Way staff and volunteers who made this job so easy. Not enough can be said about the behind the scenes efforts that might go unnoticed in newspaper columns like this one. I appreciate the willingness of my campaign cabinet to get out of their comfort zone and make great things happen through their personal and business relationships. Most of all I appreciate the people of northwest Georgia for getting behind my team and supporting such a great cause. Looking forward to next year's campaign. United we win!

Joe Young was the 2017 United Way campaign chair and is the Home Depot business manager at Engineered Floors.