

Get connected to the community

At United Way, we are in the business of building better futures. I love looking around our community and seeing so many people come together to develop plans to improve northwest Georgia. We are blessed to have local community leaders and members volunteer their time, talents, and treasure to ensure our wonderful legacy continues.

As I think about all of the things that make a community great, I always think of having a sense of belonging. Finding a place where we feel valued and can contribute helps us feel connected to our community. At United Way, we offer many ways for people to get connected. We connect people with the opportunity to change lives, volunteers with the chance to do good, youth

with leadership skills and development, and those in need with resources to give them a helping hand. The United Way of Northwest Georgia family is made up



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of many members who are all connected through the common goal of fighting for the education, basic needs and health of every person in our community.

Our Young Leaders Society (YLS) is the perfect example of how to get connected. Young Leaders Society is committed to retaining young professionals in our community by connecting them to their peers and potential mentors. They are also given hands-on opportunities to see the impact that they have through giving, volunteering and advocating. YLS is focused on getting kids career and life-ready. This goal perfectly aligns

with the mission of retaining young professionals, because the same children we are impacting today are the future young leaders of tomorrow.

We invite you to join the United Way Young Leaders Society for The Great Gala on Feb. 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at The Farm for an evening of fun, dancing, and all things 1920s. This event is open to everyone in the community. Tickets can be purchased through Feb. 15 at ourunitedway.org. Tickets are \$65 for YLS members and United Way Leadership Donors. Tickets include heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine and a live jazz band.

We have many opportunities throughout the year for you to get involved. You can join the Alexis de Tocqueville Society (a gift of \$10,000-plus annually), the Women's Leadership Council (\$1,000-plus annually), the Leadership Giving Society (\$1,000 annually) or Young

Leaders Society (\$365-plus annually and under age 40) or you can volunteer at ourunitedway.org/ volunteer to serve others. If you work here but don't live here, we invite you to join us and get connected. You can help ensure that this community where you make your living is successful into the future.

Last week, we announced that we exceeded our \$4.1 million goal. We are so thankful to each individual and company who partners with us to impact lives year round. We will be celebrating all of the donors and volunteers who helped make this happen at our Annual Meeting and Volunteer Awards on Tuesday, March 5, at 3:30 p.m. at Stage 123 in downtown Dalton. Please join us and learn how United Way is building a better future for our community!

Amanda Burt is president of United Way of Northwest Georgia.