

Leading by example

Today is a day that we've set aside to honor and thank all of the women in our lives who have helped us become who we are. They may be our moms, aunts, grandmas, teachers, ladies from the community or our churches.

As I look around, I see many women who are inspiring change. They are improving lives through sharing their financial resources and their volunteer efforts. Through the years, United Way has helped countless individuals and families lead better lives. It's inspiring to see some of those same people now helping others.

Meet Ricci.

Ricci is a mother of five children (four of which are still at home). She went back to school to become a nurse, and she now runs her own home health care business. Ricci is teaching

her children the importance of giving back.

Not too long ago, Ricci and four of her children lived in a two-bedroom apartment with her mom and niece. She learned about Habitat for Humanity, a United Way community partner, and applied for a Habitat home.

After being approved, she and her children began working on Habitat homes that were being built and then worked on their

home when construction began. Her family was required to put in 350 hours of "sweat equity" as one of the criteria for receiving their home. Ricci went far beyond the required hours. She takes pride in owning her own home with an affordable mortgage and is thankful for the chance to have a place where she and her family can grow together.



**AMANDA
BURT**

Ricci is now giving back by helping to restore and repair homes for others through United Way and Habitat for Humanity.

Ricci is one of many inspiring women in our community. She is leading by example and encouraging her children to give back. Countless women in our community have instilled the value of giving back in their children and that legacy of volunteerism is what sets Dalton apart as a community that is always willing to step up and give back. This perpetuation of philanthropy is inspiring and vital to the continued success of our community. After all, the next generation is full of our future teachers, leaders, innovators and volunteers. United Way is proud to offer opportunities for youth in our community to learn how they can create lasting change.

United Way's Youth United GoLEAD program is the perfect way to get your kids involved this

summer. GoLEAD is a day camp for students who have completed ninth grade through graduating seniors. Students will learn team building, leadership development, how to tackle community issues and volunteer project planning from local industry and business leaders.

The week-long program culminates with a volunteer project planned by the students that will meet needs in the community. Past participants have gone on to receive their Eagle Scout award, new leadership roles in their schools and the Elbert Shaw Memorial Scholarship.

If you would like more information on GoLEAD, please contact amy.faillace@ourunitedway.org or register online. GoLEAD is June 4-8. Space is limited and registration is required.

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