

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2018



OCT 26 & 27

UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA

2018: 425 Volunteers, 1370 Hours of Service Given, 11 projects, \$34,455.50 Impact to the Community



Little Free Libraries

Brown Industries designed, manufactured, and installed 27 new Little Free Libraries at existing locations in Dalton, Whitfield, and Murray counties. The existing Little Free Libraries were in need of replacement due to being weather-worn. Brown Industries saw the need for a Little Free Library that could withstand the elements. The new design and material will allow for better air flow inside and still be able to stand up to the wind, rain, and snow.

Young Leaders Society at Murray and Whitfield Meals on Wheels

The United Way Young Leaders Society helped ensure that homebound individuals in our community can remain safe in their home. They installed storage and coolers that will provide necessary space for the housing of emergency food and resource items for seniors in need. This project will allow the staff and volunteers of the Murray and Whitfield County Meals on Wheels facilities to deliver meals to their clients more efficiently. Young Leaders Society members also delivered meals and goodies with a smile to the clients of Whitfield and Murray Meals on Wheels.



Women's Leadership Council homemade books for Whitfield-Dalton Day Care Center



The United Way Women's Leadership Council worked to help promote literacy at United Way Community Partner, Whitfield County Dalton Day Care Center. The Center needed to expand their homemade book collection to enhance their classroom libraries. Early literacy is an essential part of preparing children for reading readiness as they enter school and that's why the Women's Leadership Council decided to raise their hands and start cutting, gluing, and laminating to create these books. The children now have new picture books to help

them learn about our community and a variety of subjects.

For the past 5 years, the United Way of Northwest Georgia Volunteer Center Cabinet has partnered with the Dalton State College School of Social Work in order to provide funding for a project. Five groups of students, from the senior class, presented their project proposals to members of the cabinet. Each group developed a project plan with a budget of \$250. For this year's project, the cabinet funded the Highland Rivers Outdoor Sitting Garden make-over.

Dalton State Social Work at Highland Rivers

The students repainted the gazebo and picnic tables, created new benches out of pallets, and wrote inspirational words on rocks. This revitalized area gives Highland Rivers clients and family a safe place to enjoy nature.

In addition to the above project, two cabinet members decided to personally fund two other projects that were presented that day. Stuart Nelson, president of Brown Industries, funded \$250 for the project at Greater Works Dalton.



Dalton State Social Work at Dalton Greater Works

Dalton State Social Work students painted, reorganized the pantry, and sorted clothing donations.

Dalton State Social Work at Morris Innovative High School

An anonymous donor funded \$250 for the project at Morris Innovative High School. After learning about depression and suicide prevention in local high schools from United Way Community Partner, Family Frameworks, a group of students decided to take action. The students put vinyl lettering of inspirational quotes, as well as, the suicide hotline number on the stall walls in all eight restrooms.

Dalton High School at Salvation Army

Dalton High School joined in on the fun of Make a Difference Day. Teacher Hailey Brock brought her students to Salvation Army to participate. Together they packed food boxes, sorted through donations at the thrift store, and completed many needed projects around the Salvation Army Campus.

American Red Cross "Sound an Alarm, Save a Life"

Together with the Dalton Fire Department and community volunteers, American Red Cross canvassed neighborhoods near the Mack Gaston Community Center to install smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing alarms, and provided fire prevention and safety education. The Make a Difference Day funding provided 100 new smoke alarms.

Conasauga River Watershed Clean-Up

Volunteers rolled up their sleeves and cleaned up trash from the river and banks at seven locations in Dalton, Whitfield, and Murray counties. Last year they removed 72 tires and 6.61 tons of trash.



Rescheduled Projects

Due to the weather **Carter Hope Center** and **United Way of Northwest Georgia** projects have been postponed. In addition to being a presenting sponsor of Make a Difference Day, Phenix Flooring donated 100 square feet of flooring to United Way Community Partner, Carter Hope Center. Phenix Flooring associates will also paint two porches at the Women's Residence to ensure that they are weather resistant. This project will ensure that Carter Hope Center is able to continue providing life-changing treatment for their residents as they work to get their lives back on track.

