

MICHELLE HURLEY

One of the community outreach projects of the United Way of Northwest Georgia is called Volunteer Vacations where students spend their days off from school helping in various activities throughout the community.

This past week as schools were out for Columbus Day, another group of 34 local youth volunteered to spend their day away from teachers and books helping others.



To nominate an individual or group, contact Jamie Jones at (706) 272-7723 or jamiejones@daltoncitizen.com. Fax nominations to (706) 275-6641 or write to The Daily Citizen, Attn: Citizen of the Week, P.O. Box 1167, Dalton, GA 30722.

Helping to lead the charge and guiding one of the groups of students was Shaw Industries manager Michelle Hurley. Hurley, who is the manager for Global Sourcing (dyes and chemicals) at Plant 72, has been volunteering with United Way since the spring of this year after recently

moving to Dalton from Tennessee.

"If it wasn't for her, there would have been no way we could have taken that many students," said United Way Volunteer Center Coordinator Amy Faillace. "She did a great job of showing the students what it means to be a leader in volunteering to serve."

Hurley recruited a fellow Shaw employee to help on the day, and the group of students gathered at the United Way for a team-building breakfast where Faillace said Hurley encouraged them to come together as a team. In the morning, the group went to the Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center and helped organize gym activities for the children in the program who were out of school for the holiday.

After a lunch of pizza together, the students and Hurley spent the afternoon volunteering at RossWoods Adult Day Services. Finally, they finished the day with a good old-fashioned car wash, cleaning the vans at Cross Plains Community Partner. Faillace said the day of service wouldn't have been possible without volunteers like Hurley.

"Ever since the spring, she has really been involved in United Way and helping us in our youth programs," Faillace said. "She has just been a great volunteer. We really appreciate her being an asset to United Way and to the community."

For all of her many efforts to better the community, The Daily Citizen names Michelle Hurley Citizen of the Week.