



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

O.J. Bryant led a team of Shaw Industries associates who volunteered during the company's United Way Summer of Service at the Boys & Girls Club. On the front row, from left, are Chuck Hodges, Cory Carlson, John Tolson, Patrick Chua and Jesus Contreras Estrada. On the back row are Garren Palmer, Doug Hooker, Bryant, Chris Crump, Brad Daniels and Brad Gentry.

## Service: 60,000 lives impacted

> *Continued from 1C*

Evette Wheeler shared: "Those at RossWoods are extremely special. You cannot help but want to talk to them, listen to their stories, and see the smiles on their faces. In addition, the staff at RossWoods is the most patient, caring, loving group of caregivers I have ever seen."

Shaw associate Dee Dee Lacy stated, "The relationship building and bonding with the individuals there was powerful, and you could see firsthand where and how the United Way funds are making a difference."

Another group volunteered at Friendship House, a child care center in Dalton. They spent time there sanitizing all of the classroom tables and chairs, as well as planting a vegetable garden. The volunteers also painted the concrete near the playground with different colors, numbers and a hopscotch pad, which will enable the preschoolers to learn outdoors. While at Friendship House, associates also interacted with children and hosted an ice cream social.

Volunteers from Shaw Plant 19 took on projects at The GreenHouse, which is an advocacy center for children who have been sexually abused. The first group came in June to pressure wash the house and fence to prepare for painting later in the summer. At the end of the day, Bev Rowan remarked, "This was such a fulfilling project. We had a great time and cannot wait to come back." When volunteers returned to The GreenHouse they painted both the porch and fence, planted flowers and hung window plants. While these projects may seem small these simple things made the building feel like much more of a home for those receiving services at the center.

Other Shaw associates spent time at the Boys & Girls Club. While there O.J. Bryant

shared, "I had a great day giving back to youth in our community. We helped to upgrade the facilities and played kickball with a bunch of highly spirited and competitive fourth- and fifth-graders." The volunteers also helped with maintenance of the mountain bike trail.

Another group from Shaw helped to coordinate and lead curriculum for United Way's GoLEAD program. GoLEAD stands for Generation On Leadership, Education and Development and is a youth leadership program that inspires young people to effect real community change. By providing the caliber of leadership training typically available only to corporate executives and government leaders, the program equips youth to become stronger leaders, conscientious communicators and community-minded citizens.

A team from Shaw Global Sourcing adopted the United Way office. One crew cleaned up the grounds and mulched, while the others visited 26 Little Free Libraries in Whitfield and Murray counties ensuring that they were stocked, and performed needed repairs. The volunteers also upcycled newspaper vending machines that are being repurposed into Little Free Libraries and placed in local schools.

Last year alone, United Way impacted more than 60,000 lives in Whitfield and Murray counties. United Way would also like to extend a special thank you to Shaw Industries for their Live United Summer of Service. Amanda Burt, president of the United Way of Northwest Georgia, extends her thanks: "Shaw Industries embodies the spirit of corporate philanthropy and social responsibility, not just this summer, but all year long. Great things happen when we Live United."

If you would like to get involved in volunteering, please visit [www.ourunitedway.org](http://www.ourunitedway.org).