



Local high school students Grace Anderson, left, and Fletcher Griffin helped build a ramp for a wheelchair-bound woman in the community thanks to United Way of Northwest Georgia funding of the Dalton Area Project.

United Way helps fund Dalton Area Project

SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA

“This ramp will enable her to go outside for the first time in years,” Grace Anderson said of the impact of her volunteer service. “I am part of a team who is building a ramp for a wheelchair-bound woman in our community.”

Anderson is a rising sophomore at Dalton High School and just one of the 200-plus youth who volunteered for the Dalton Area Project (DAP), funded in part by a \$10,000 United Way of Northwest Georgia grant. The grant helped with home repairs for 15 families in Whitfield and Murray counties, including the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.

Projects included renovations in bathrooms and kitchens, building porches, outside landscaping and building wheelchair ramps for the disabled.

“Instead of doing a service project elsewhere, it’s rewarding to give back in your own community — right next door,” said Fletcher Griffin, a local high school sophomore.

The United Way grant provided funding for construction supplies and home



From left are Charlie Patrick, Austin Burt and Clay Walker, who were part of a team of 200-plus youth repairing homes thanks to United Way of Northwest Georgia funding of the Dalton Area Project.

repairs. United Way’s Safe Home Initiative impacts individuals’ basic needs by reducing the long-term need for food, housing and utility assistance.

While some of the youth are new to service, others have been involved with DAP for the past several years. All took away value from the experience. Clay Walker, a rising seventh-grader, was excited to learn useful skills like “how to use power tools,” but he was very proud to have helped a local family by rebuilding their rotted porch.

Micah Riggle, a United Way board member and DAP project leader, said, “Seeing today’s youth work

together to improve the lives of those in our community is exciting. It’s an honor to see United Way and DAP collaborate to help reduce the long-term needs of those in our community.”

Area youth volunteers endured the heat to change local lives in this project which was led by Nate Juvinal from Dalton First United Methodist Church.

Ken Renz, a United Way volunteer and DAP project leader, said, “Seeing these kids work together to accomplish something that is greater than themselves has been so rewarding. They are making great things happen in our community.”

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Dr. Antalis elected board chair

SUBMITTED BY THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

The Georgia Composite Medical Board elected Dalton resident Dr. John S. Antalis as its chairman for the July 2016-June 2017 term, succeeding Dr. Alice House of Columbus.

“I am truly humbled that my colleagues have blessed me with opportunity and confidence to lead the Georgia Medical Board,” Antalis said. “I am truly committed to the ideals of protecting Georgia’s patients, and to continue the honorable traditions of this board.”

The Georgia Composite Medical Board protects the citizens of Georgia by licensing physicians, physician assistants, respiratory care professionals, perfusionists, acupuncturists, orthotists, prosthetists, cosmetic laser practitioners and pain

management clinics. The board also investigates complaints and disciplines licensees who violate the Medical Practice Act or other laws governing their professional behavior.

Antalis has been a full-time practicing physician at Dalton Family Practice for more than 30 years. Antalis has been elected as president of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) as well as the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians. He was selected by his peers as Georgia’s Family Physician of the Year in 1996 and received the Joseph P. Bailey Distinguished Service Award for Medical Service in 2013. He has been on the MAG Board of

Directors and MAG Foundation and has represented Georgia’s patients and physicians as part of Georgia’s delegation at the American Medical Association at his personal time and expense.

Antalis is also on the board of directors of MagMutual Insurance Co. As part of MagMutual, he is on the Patient Safety Committee and the MagMutual Foundation that has given thousands of dollars to many programs that help Georgians.

Antalis earned his medical degree from St. George’s University of Medicine. He and his wife, Cathy, have been married for 30 years, have three adult children, and reside in Dalton.

The board also elected Dr. E. Daniel DeLoach as its vice chairman.

For more information, visit www.medicalboard.georgia.gov.



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