

Preparing the next generation

# finding your place

Matthew Lewallen joined United Way of Northwest Georgia's Youth Council, looking for a way to serve beyond his school. What he found was something much bigger – leadership, confidence, and a community that believed in him.

As a student at Christian Heritage School, Matthew had always been passionate about community service, but through Youth Council, he connected with different organizations, where he saw firsthand how service can change lives.

Along the way, Matthew gained real-world leadership experience through projects like planning fundraisers and helping lead United Way's Campaign Kickoff event. Those experiences helped shape who he is today.

At school, Matthew founded a STEM tutoring program and served as president of four clubs. He credits United Way with helping him grow into a confident leader who leads with purpose.

**“United Way showed me how to lead with confidence,” Matthew shared. “As I attend Georgia Tech in the fall, I know these experiences will help me stand out by keeping service at the center of who I am.”**

But for Matthew, the greatest impact wasn't just the leadership experience – it was the sense of belonging.

**“While I was searching for a community service outlet, I found something more: I found a support group,” he said. “Through the Youth Council, I have felt genuinely welcomed and valued.”**

Because of supporters like you, students like Matthew are discovering their potential, building confidence, and becoming the next generation of compassionate leaders our community depends on. Your investment in United Way doesn't just impact lives today – it helps shape the future of Northwest Georgia.

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