

Youth-led team provides repairs to area residences

**SUBMITTED BY THE
UNITED WAY OF
NORTHWEST GEORGIA**

A \$5,000 United Way grant provided funding for construction supplies and home repairs. United Way's Safe Home Initiative impacts individuals' basic needs by reducing the long-term need for food, housing and utility assistance.

At 82, Ms. Jones, one of the beneficiaries of the Dalton Area Project grant, said, "I couldn't have asked for better people on this Earth. How many kids would give up days in their summer to help build a home for someone like me?"

As a cancer survivor, Ms. Jones is very grateful to United Way, the Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corp. and the Dalton Area Project volunteers for the much-needed home repairs. John Patrick, a project leader, said the volunteers completed a lot of deep-cleaning and patching of the flooring.

While most of us would rather stay in the comforts of an air-conditioned room, 180 area youth volunteers endured the heat to change local lives during the Dalton Area Project, led by Nate Juvinall from Dalton First United Methodist Church. Fifteen households in the community benefited from



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From left are Tessa Townsend, youth volunteer, and John Patrick, team leader.

the youth-led, adult-supported volunteer project, including elderly and those with chronic illnesses.

Tessa Townsend, a local seventh-grader at one of the sites, said this was her first year participating and that she had a lot of fun and learned how to use different construction tools.

Tessa wasn't alone in her goal to improve Ms. Jones' home. Like Tessa, some of the youth volunteers are new to the whole experience, while others have been involved for the past three years.

United Way works every day to improve lives by investing in high-quality human service programs and by working with philanthropists, businesses, churches, local governments and dedicated community volunteers to create lasting and measurable changes.

You can change the game in basic needs and help people like Ms. Jones get a new start and become independent. To learn more about United Way's work in meeting basic needs, visit ourunitedway.org.