

# Karen Townsend, Lynn Whitworth and Dixie Kinard

Today is Make A Difference Day, and there are volunteers in the community helping with various projects, from cleaning up the Conasauga river to beautifying school grounds.

Members of the United Way Women's Leadership Council (WLC) will restock books at the Little Free Libraries, boxes that contain free books for anyone from the public to borrow or keep. The WLC is a group of women who volunteer "to improve lives in our community and create lasting change ... to impact



education, basic needs and health in northwest Georgia," states the United Way website, [ourunitedway.org/wlc](http://ourunitedway.org/wlc). The WLC has three co-chairs — Karen Townsend, Lynn Whitworth and Dixie Kinard — who helped organize the

restocking of the libraries for Make A Difference Day and other events.

There are approximately 28 Little Free Libraries in the parks of Dalton and Murray County and they were built, decorated and installed by the WLC to help promote literacy in the community.

"These ladies are involved for such selfless reasons," said Emily Finkell, a WLC member. "They have such a high level of energy and involvement. When they are behind something you know it is going to be done to completion and it is going to be done well. If they are on board, I know I can show up and it is going to be a great project."

The group initially stocked the libraries last year and they work throughout the year to keep them stocked and mended. Members said they placed the libraries in the parks because parks are full of families.

"Book reading and literacy is so important, for children, for adults, for the community," said Townsend.

The WLC also works on other projects to promote literacy and help in the community.

"They are community focused on whatever is good for not only our children, but what is good for future generations of citizens in our area," said Finkell.

Members of the WLC have visited the Whitfield County-Dalton Day Care Center to help get its library started and visited the Friendship House to read to the children there. They have volunteered at the Salvation Army to sort through donated items, pack food boxes and restock the shelves.

"They are wonderful and such mentors to all of us," said Dottie Boring, a volunteer for Make A Difference Day.

For volunteering in the community to promote literacy and other important causes, The Daily Citizen names Karen Townsend, Lynn Whitworth and Dixie Kinard Citizens of the Week.