



John D. Meadows

Unity Awards

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE, COMMUNITY, AND GENEROSITY





CALHOUN-GORDON
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
NORTHWEST GEORGIA

Since 2005, the Calhoun-Gordon Community Foundation has awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to non-profit organizations making our community stronger.

Thank you to United 4 Gordon and the generous leaders who make so many great things possible!



Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect on this past year, I am reminded every day of the incredible heart that defines Gordon County. This community shows up – not because it's easy, but because we care deeply about one another. Whether it's volunteering your time, investing your resources, or lending a helping hand, each act of generosity strengthens the foundation of our shared mission.

2025 was a year of perseverance, partnership, and purpose. Together, we raised essential funds, connected neighbors to life-changing services, and celebrated the volunteers and businesses that make our work possible. And as we look towards 2026, the momentum continues.

Through today's challenges, United Way of Gordon County remains steadfast in our belief that **when we live united, we all rise together**. United Way's new brand, **United is the Way**, reminds us that unity is not just a slogan – it's a commitment. It's the belief that when one person, one family, or one business steps forward, we all move forward.

Tonight, as we gather to celebrate the **John D. Meadows Unity Awards**, we honor not only our award recipients but every individual who has given, volunteered, and cared. You make this community stronger. You remind us that hope is alive in Gordon County – and that United is, and always will be, the way.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Claire Norman

Executive Director
United Way of Gordon County



Our Mission

To change lives, connect our community, and inspire generosity – because United is the Way.

DONATE 



109 S. KING STREET, CALHOUN, GA 30701
WWW.GORDONCOUNTYUNITEDWAY.ORG
(706) 602-5548

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

The strength of Gordon County is found in neighbors helping neighbors, and these companies lead the way. Through their generosity and commitment, lives are changed, needs are met, and hope is renewed every day. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and their belief in a brighter future for our community.

CHAMPION IN UNITY



TREND SETTER



GAME CHANGER



2025 UNITY AWARD SPONSORS



JOHN MEADOWS MEMORIAL



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Investing in and supporting our communities

Working together to make a difference in the lives of our friends,
neighbors and the community.

For more information, contact your Edward Jones Financial Advisor
Edward Jones cannot accept gift cards, cash or checks as donations.



Tim Mull
Financial Advisor
100 N Court St
Calhoun, GA 30701
706-602-5402

CEA#99018-A AECSPAD 2103005



John D. Meadows

Unity Awards

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE, COMMUNITY, AND GENEROSITY

6:00 PM Welcome Reception

6:10 Opening Remarks

6:15 John D. Meadows Tribute Video

6:25 Prayer and Dinner

6:45 Board Member Recognition

7:00 United Is The Way Video

7:10 Business Impact Awards

7:20 Partner Agency Volunteer Recognition

7:30 Rising Star & Volunteer of the Year Presentation

7:40 Jim Lay Legacy Award Presentation and Video

7:50 Special Presentation

7:55 Closing Remarks

John D. Meadows

A leader. A friend. A light in our community

In Loving Memory of John D. Meadows, III

John D. Meadows, III exemplified unwavering loyalty and determination in serving our community, emerging as a dynamic and impassioned leader for our state. His enduring legacy of leadership and selflessness will forever remain etched in the hearts of many.

His spirit continues to inspire United Way of Gordon County and all who believe in the power of giving back. Through his example, we are reminded that true leadership is rooted in service, humility, and compassion.

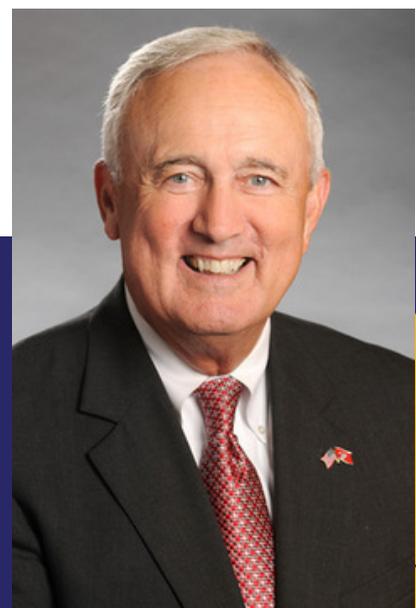
With Deep Gratitude

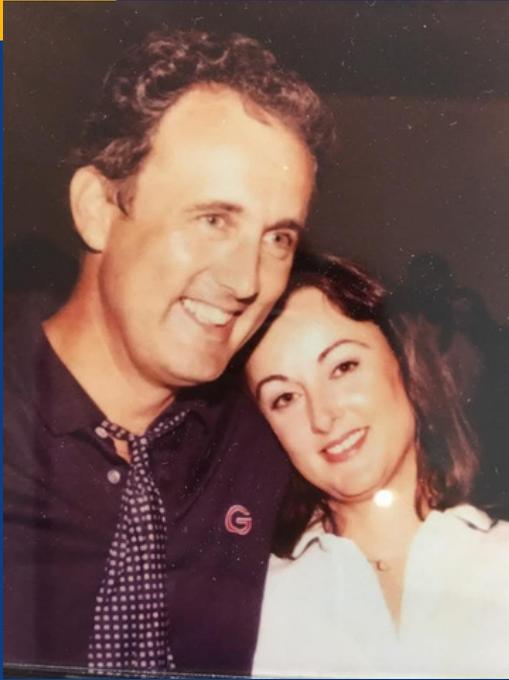
We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Meadows family for sharing John's legacy of kindness, vision, and dedication. Your family's continued support and belief in this community ensure that his passion for helping others will live on for generations to come.

United is the Way we carry forward his light.



**VOTE FOR
JOHN MEADOWS**
Post No. 3
CALHOUN CITY COUNCIL
November 17, 1982
Your Vote and Support
Sincerely Appreciated

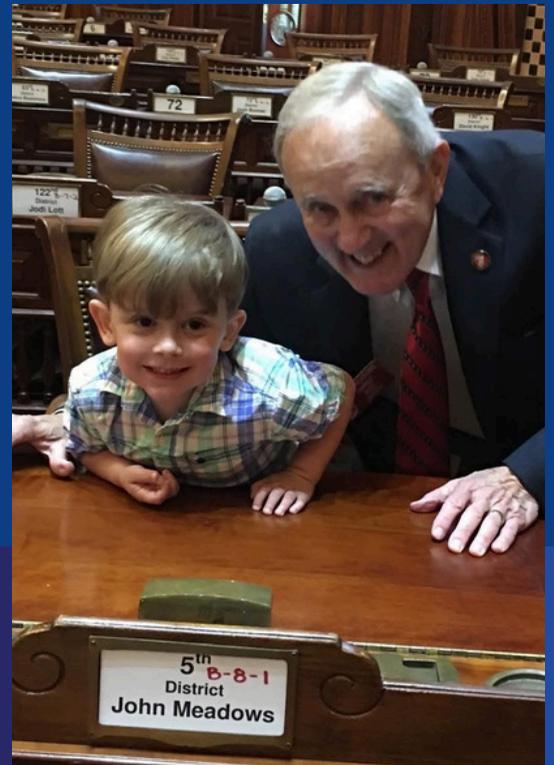




July 2 2008

Courtesy Photo

Representing the Lady Yard Dawgs are from left to right Ana Hales, Alex Hales (bat boy), Callie Walraven (team manager), Carol Pearson (first base), John Meadows (state representative), Shirley Woodall (coach) and Rachel Hyatt (second base).



Jim Lay Legacy Award

Awarded in Memory of Eddie Reeves

In Loving Memory of Eddie Reeves

Eddie Reeves was the very embodiment of servant-leadership. As President of the United Way of Gordon County from 2007-2013, Chair of the Calhoun City Schools Board of Education for nearly a decade, and a coach, mentor and community volunteer across youth sports and civic service, he dedicated his life to uplifting others.

Born on November 20, 1965 in Alpharetta and later calling northwest Georgia home, Eddie brought faith, integrity and unyielding devotion to each role he accepted. He volunteered with little-league teams, served as “Fast Eddie” on the radio sidelines, and helped shape the future of education and business in Gordon County with the same quiet determination he brought to every practice, meeting and community event.

In his honor, the Jim Lay Legacy Award recognizes the spirit of giving back that Eddie lived every day—and ensures that his legacy of selflessness, teamwork and community impact continues to shine.



Jim Lay Legacy Award

Awarded in Honor of Kyle Smith, Jr.

Kyle Smith, Jr

For more than six decades, Kyle Smith, Jr. has quietly shaped the heart and soul of Calhoun through his unwavering service and devotion to others.

A lifelong educator and advocate for literacy, Kyle founded the Calhoun-Gordon County Literacy Council and spent years inspiring a love of reading in children—often donning his signature Cat in the Hat costume on Dr. Seuss Day to make learning come alive.

Since 1961, he has faithfully taught Sunday School at Calhoun First Methodist Church, mentoring generations with grace and wisdom. His commitment to community extends to the Voluntary Action Center, the Harris Arts Center, and countless local programs like Imagination Station, where his compassion has left an enduring mark.

In 1996, Kyle's dedication to community and education was recognized when he carried the Olympic Torch through Calhoun—a symbol of the light he continues to bring to others. United Way of Gordon County is proud to honor Kyle Smith, Jr. with the Jim Lay Legacy Award, celebrating a lifetime of service, leadership, and love for his community.



Volunteer of the Year

Awarded to Tim Cooper

Tim Cooper

Tim Cooper embodies the true spirit of service, leadership, and compassion. Since leaving the Army, he has dedicated himself to strengthening his community and uplifting others.

As State Coordinator for Team Red, White & Blue, Tim helped veterans across Georgia reconnect through physical activity and shared purpose.

Through his work with Sheep Dog Impact Assistance, he deployed throughout the Southeast to support disaster relief efforts, always putting others first.

Locally, Tim's generosity has touched countless lives – from organizing community festivals and fundraisers to delivering stockings to nursing homes and reminding people in their darkest moments that they matter.

A natural leader with a servant's heart, Tim Cooper continues to inspire others to give, serve, and unite for the greater good.

Jasmine Miller

Jazmine Miller represents the heart of youth leadership and service in Gordon County. Since joining 4-H in 2022, she has poured her energy into projects that strengthen her community – from the Community Kindness Club and River's Alive cleanup to her leadership in the Unity Run and Adopt-a-Mile initiatives.

Her compassion extends far beyond scheduled events; when she encountered a man in crisis, Jazmine's instinct to help led her to connect him with shelter resources and later launch Young Samaritan, a youth-led effort supporting the homeless. Through her work, she has inspired others across Georgia, sharing her project at state and national 4-H gatherings.

With her boundless kindness and commitment to helping others, Jazmine exemplifies the bright future of community service – proof that age is no barrier to making a difference.

Rising Star Award

Awarded to Jazmine Miller

Beacon of Light

Workplace Campaign: When we give together, our light shines brighter.

United4Gordon Sponsors

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UNITED WAY
Gordon County

Board Members

Guided by Heart. Grounded in Service.

Board of Directors Outgoing Members

- Jimmy Amick – Vice-Chair, Engineered Floors
- Randy Black – Board Member, Nourison Home
- Allen Bowen – Board Member, Gordon County Schools
- Kristy Brown – Board Member, LGE Community Credit Union
- Maricella Cunningham – Chair, MC Transactions
- Joseph Darby – Secretary, Mannington Mills
-  Bram de Bruyne – Treasurer, Mohawk
-  Heather Hess – Past-Chair, Designed Conveyor
- Giles Jones – Board Member, Jones & Erwin, PC
-  Mary Ann Owens - Board Member, Community Volunteer
- Kayla Ralston – Board Member, Calhoun City Schools
- Christy Reeves - Board Member, Mohawk
- Kim Reynolds – Board Member, Hamilton Health Gordon – Vitruvian
- Leigh Rogers - Board Member, Shaw Industries
- Amanda Ruddell – Special Events Chair, LGE Community Credit Union
- Kim Silvers – Board Member, Builtwell Bank
-  Shane Watson - Board Member, Apache Mills
- Vivian White - Board Member, Traxx Corporation

2026-2028 New Members

- Tim Cooper - Oothcalooga Lodge
- Jaime Garrett - Calhoun City Schools
- Jesse Kalal - Aaron's
- Ben Lamb - Shaw Industries
- Adrian Lyles - Lyles Wealth Management
- Jenean Nared - Apache Mills
- Missy Richards - John Meadows Memorial

Trust Committee Members

- Jason Awtrey - Shaw Industries
- David Repp - Mohawk
-  Vickie Spence - Community Volunteer
- Chris Tarpley - United Community Bank
-  Bram de Bruyne - Board Liaison

2026 New Trust Members: Ben Lamb, Christy Reeves, and Shane Watson

**UNITED WAY OF GORDON COUNTY IS STRONGER BECAUSE OF YOUR VISION, PASSION, AND SERVICE.
UNITED IS THE WAY.**



UNITED WAY
Gordon County

Partner Agencies

Our Partners in Purpose

Boys and Girls Club of Gordon County

706-629-9751

Provides after-school and summer programs for children of all backgrounds and incomes.

Calhoun-Gordon Council for a Literate Community

678-986-6054

Works to end illiteracy by offering free classes to anyone desiring a GED at no cost. English as a second language is taught, and courses are offered for adults who have never learned to read.

Calhoun Recreation Department

706-629-0177

Allows children and youth from low-income households to participate in sports at no cost.

Family Resource Center-Prevent Child Abuse

706-625-3311

Prevents all forms of child abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect. Teaches positive parenting and nurturing behavior. It helps parents and children develop strong self-esteem and provides training to new mothers.

George Chambers Resource Center

706-629-2987

Provides supportive services for adults with disabilities. It helps develop work, recreation, and social skills.

Gordon County 4-H

706-629-8685

Promotes the development of leadership skills in local youth, grades 4-12, through educational enrichment programs and learning opportunities. Provides competitive opportunities and school clubs.

Gordon County Child Advocacy Center (CACSA)

706-602-2184

Combats child sexual and physical abuse by providing advocacy, education, and services to alleged victims and their non-offending caregivers. It also provides forensic interviews, crisis intervention, therapy, and support.

Gordon County Domestic Violence Outreach Office

706-625-5586

Works to end violence in the home by providing shelter, support, and advocacy to victims. The organization also works in the community to change attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors.

Gordon County Recreation Department

706-602-4435

Allows children and youth from low-income households to participate in sports at no cost.

Voluntary Action Center

706-629-7283

Offers emergency programs and services for financial assistance, groceries, hot meals, and homeless day shelter.

Winner's Club of Calhoun

706-629-9074

Serves disadvantaged and at-risk children and young adults living in Gordon County from birth to 21. It also provides mentoring, family support systems, and individualized tutoring to enhance education performance.

UNITED WAY OF GORDON COUNTY PROUDLY SUPPORTS A NETWORK OF LOCAL NONPROFIT AGENCIES THAT DELIVER ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND FINANCIAL STABILITY. TOGETHER, WE CREATE REAL AND LASTING CHANGE FOR FAMILIES ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY.

UNITED IS THE WAY.



UNITED WAY
Gordon County

The Impact

Change happens when a community unites

9,144 Total Households Served

295,768
services provided
through the work of our
Partner Agencies.

21,795
Total
Individuals Served
in Gordon County



8,733

Services were provided to prevent child abuse and provide education for strong families.



26,502

Educational services were provided to men, women, and children.

183,910

services to
4,647 kids were
provided programs
for a safe place to
stay, education,
healthy life skills,
leadership and
character
development

15,318

individuals received
assistance with finances,
housing, employment,
disaster relief, food, utilities,
and other basic needs.



14,462

Services and advocacy were provided to 1,212 individuals who were impacted by violence.

Every day, Gordon County demonstrates that UNITED action brings about change. TOGETHER, we're shaping a future where everyone can achieve their full potential.

United is the Way our community thrives TODAY and TOMORROW!

YOUR SUPPORT POWERS LOCAL SOLUTIONS AND BRIGHTER FUTURES.

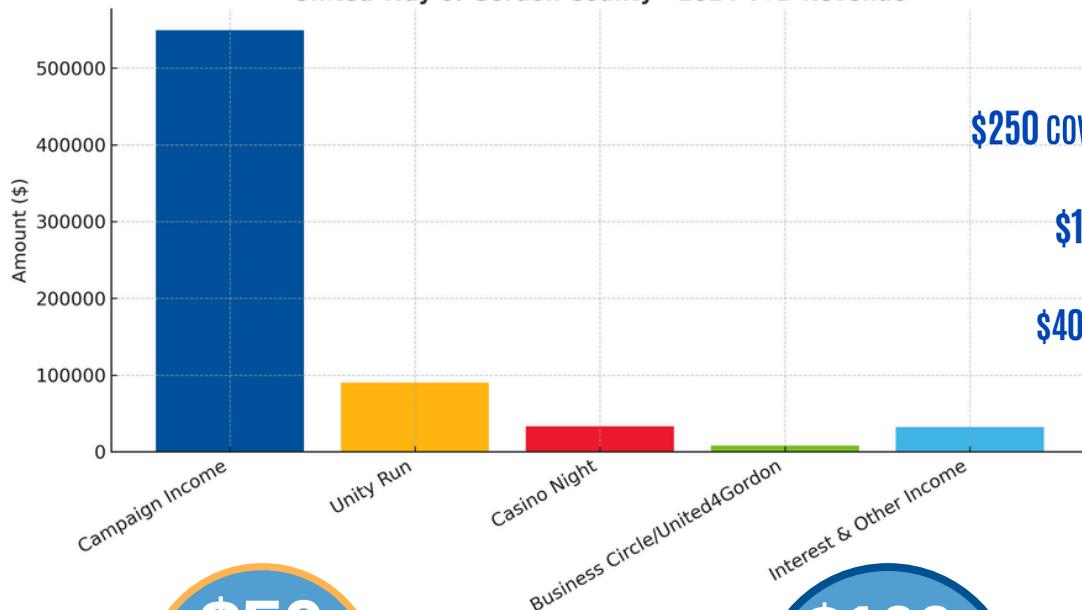


UNITED WAY
Gordon County

The Numbers

Every act of giving creates a ripple of hope

United Way of Gordon County - 2024 YTD Revenue



\$3.50 provides 1 Hot Meal

\$250 covers the materials & total testing fees to obtain a GED

\$10 Provides resources for kids to help obtain lifelong Literacy

\$400 covers the expense for youth to attend After-School Program for 1 year

\$50

provides 15 Hot Meals

\$30

provides a child with a scholarship for summer camp for 1 week

\$100

provides groceries for up to 15 individuals

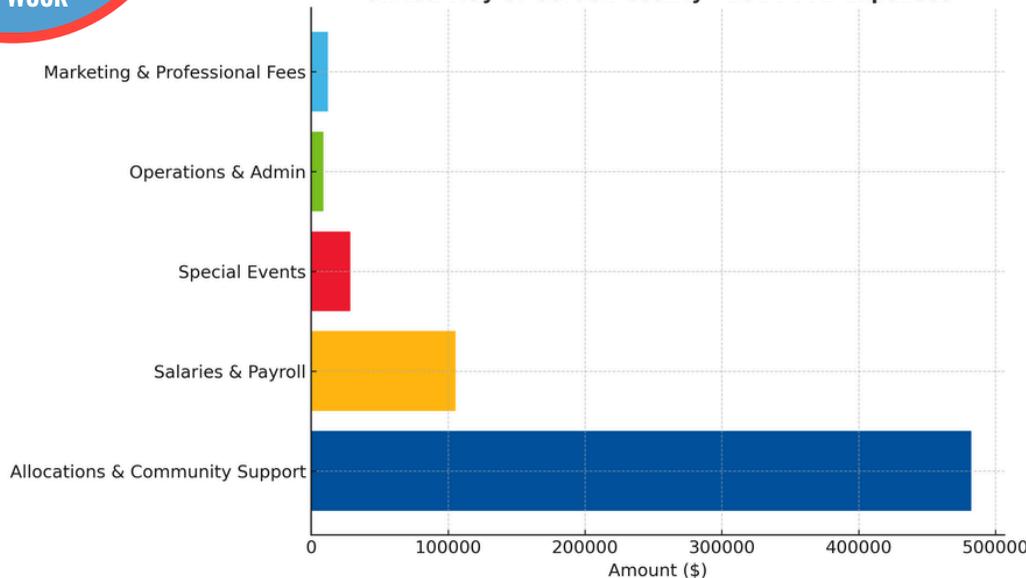
\$25

Provides a hotline call for victim in crisis

\$250

Provides one forensic interview for a child victim of abuse

United Way of Gordon County - 2024 YTD Expenses



Because of your giving, lives are brighter, families are stronger, and hope continues to grow in Gordon County.



UNITED WAY
Gordon County

2025 In Review

Every act of giving creates a ripple of hope



PRATER FORD
Ford
Building Together
DRIVE 4 UR C@MMUNITY

Take the wheel. Help your
COMMUNITY.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.



Thanks to the unwavering support of our sponsors and community partners, both the Bettye Butler Memorial 32nd Unity Run and 4th Annual Casino Night have flourished. The Unity Run once again united neighbors, families, and businesses – surpassing its sponsorship goal by nearly 20% – with **\$78,000 in sponsorships and 1652 registered runners**. Casino Night, while slightly below its sponsorship target, saw **record-breaking attendance** and engagement, proving that our community’s heart for giving is stronger than ever.

This year’s Kids’ Race brought together more than **150 enthusiastic youth** for a day of family fun, fitness, and giving back. Participants collected much-needed items for the CAC/SAC, the Family Resource Center’s “Carol’s Closet,” and the Voluntary Action Center. Beyond the excitement of the races, the event created a meaningful opportunity to inspire our youth – showing them the joy and importance of helping others in our community.

Together, these events are more than fundraisers – they’re celebrations of what happens when Gordon County comes together to support its own. Every sponsorship, every registration, and every smiling face reflect the spirit behind our message: **United is the Way.**

EVERY STEP, EVERY SPONSORSHIP, EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS – UNITED, WE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE

Proud partner of United Way of Gordon County



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MOHAWK

THANK YOU, UNITED WAY OF GORDON COUNTY!

TOGETHER, WE DO **MORE** FOR OUR COMMUNITY!



MORE WITH MOHAWK