



# United Way of East Central Alabama

Newsletter - July 2024



## Introducing:

# THRIVE

Integrative Mental Health Initiative

United Way of East Central Alabama's **THRIVE** is an innovative collaborative partnership designed to confront the escalating mental health crisis among the homeless, low-income populations, the uninsured, and the underinsured. This program is a direct response to the critical intersection of mental illness with homelessness and poverty.

**THRIVE** will employ a licensed mental health professional and a clinical licensed social worker who collaborate with clinicians at St. Michael's Medical Clinic to deliver targeted mental health services for shared clients of Interfaith Ministries of Calhoun County, St. Michael's Medical Clinic, and Martha's Hope: The Martha Vandervoort Center to End Homelessness. Services will include a range of therapies, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, free prescriptions, free clinician visits, individual therapy, group therapy, peer support groups, and alternative holistic support tailored to the individual needs of our clients.

If you have any questions regarding **THRIVE**, please contact Kyle Bryan at [kbryan@uweca.org](mailto:kbryan@uweca.org).

Made Possible By:



We cover what matters.

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION  
NURTURING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE

## Find out more about our 2023 Impact!

[bit.ly/uwecaannualreport](https://bit.ly/uwecaannualreport)

## Did You Know?

In 2023, UWECA's **Helping Families Initiative**, in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, helped reduce chronic absenteeism in Oxford City Schools by **35.4%**.

Chronic Absenteeism  
35.4%  
Oxford City Schools (Year 1)



## Upcoming Events

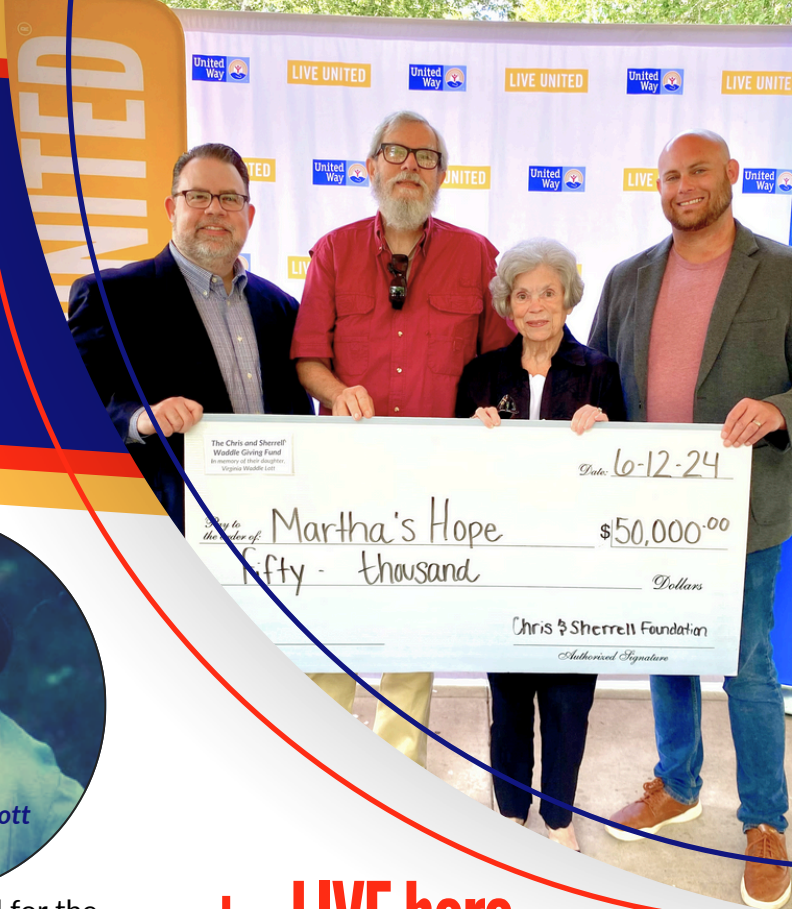


**HopeUNITED:** Women's Self-Defense Class  
Course is 4 sessions • July 23, 25, 31 & Aug 1  
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Register at <https://bit.ly/UWECARAD>



**Save The Date:** UWECA's Campaign Kickoff  
Community Lunch • August 28  
More details coming soon!





Focus Story:

# Hope Everlasting



Virginia Waddle Lott  
1974-2008

At United Way of East Central Alabama, we are deeply grateful for the generous donations we have received from so many businesses, organizations, and private citizens toward our Martha's Hope project. One donation carried with it a story of hope. Chris and Sherrell Waddle gave to the Martha's Hope Project in loving memory of their daughter, Virginia Waddle Lott. The Waddles have long been cherished members of our Anniston community, and their selfless gift to Martha's Hope speaks volumes about their commitment to making a positive impact in our area.

Virginia Waddle Lott embodied the very best of Anniston—she was a caring, compassionate, and dedicated individual who always sought ways to address and solve community challenges. Growing up near 10th Street, attending local schools, and serving as an acolyte at Grace Episcopal Church, Virginia's roots in Anniston were deep and strong. Her pursuit of knowledge led her to college and the attainment of a master's degree in public policy, where she focused on finding solutions to social issues.

Martha's Hope is an initiative that resonates deeply with the spirit of Virginia's life and work. As a transitional living facility, it aims to provide support and stability for those facing homelessness, a cause close to Virginia's heart and one of the most daunting social issues facing society today. Her untimely passing while awaiting a heart transplant was a profound loss to all who knew her, but her hope lives on through this project, and her legacy of compassion and dedication to societal betterment continues.

In Highland Cemetery, Virginia rests, but her impact continues to ripple through our community. Through Martha's Hope, her memory will foster good things—supporting individuals in need, creating opportunities for growth, and nurturing the values she held dear. We are honored to carry forward Virginia's vision and spirit, ensuring that her gift continues to bring hope and positive change to Anniston. Thank you, Chris and Sherrell, for turning a cherished memory into a beacon of hope for many.

**LIVE here.**  
**GIVE here.**  
**HELP here.**



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## Give today!



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**PayPal:** Give today by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR Code.

