



UNITED WAY
East Central Alabama

Newsletter:
November 2024



**SUCCESS
ACADEMY**

Success Academy Expands Opportunities for Calhoun County Youth!

In April 2023, United Way of East Central Alabama took a major step toward empowering local youth by acquiring Success Academy—a youth diversion program that provides critical support for students navigating academic, personal, and mental health challenges. Success Academy’s mission is to equip students in grades 7 through 12 who are involved with the juvenile justice system with tools for resilience and readiness to thrive as they transition into adulthood.

At Success Academy, students receive therapeutic care, academic remediation, school credit recovery, and essential life skills. By helping these young people regain their footing, the program opens doors to brighter futures and empowers them to overcome past setbacks. Through this initiative, United Way is furthering its commitment to ensure every young person has access to opportunities that promote growth and self-sufficiency.

Our dedication was recently recognized by the Alabama Department of Youth Services’ Diversion Program Evaluation, where Success Academy earned a **95% successful completion rate**—a testament to the program’s positive impact. Since then, this initiative has seen over 50 local students graduate the program!

On July 22, 2024, we reached an exciting milestone as we cut the ribbon on Success Academy’s newly renovated location. This new space, outfitted with updated equipment and designed for comfort, provides students with the supportive environment they need to excel. United Way of East Central Alabama is proud to continue this journey, creating pathways for youth opportunity and fostering resilience in our community!



Upcoming Events



Intro to Online Exploitation and Human Trafficking • November 21
9:00 am - 4:00 pm



WorkFORCE Connections Career & Mentoring Event! • December 3 •
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Are you interested in being a mentor? Email abutler@uweca.org!



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Meet the Team!



Jessica Smith Director of Community Engagement



SUCCESS ACADEMY

Jessica Smith serves as our Director of Community Engagement, she has been with United Way of East Central Alabama for 10 years! She proudly leads our Success Academy initiative and loves her students!



Rodney Fomby Director of Student Success



Jasmine Whatley Social Worker / School Counselor



Ke'Ana Wynn Classroom Assistant



Beth Clanton Academic Advisor



Manda Browning Classroom Lead

Success Stories!



"While at Success Academy, they showed me how to not give up, how to do good in life and not fight. I have learned to walk away when something bothers me. I pray that I continue to do good in life as I leave Success Academy!"



"I have successfully completed Success Academy and will be entering 8th grade. My goals are to mind my business, do not get into trouble or fights, and attend tutoring sessions for the subjects I need extra help in. I want to be more involved with sports and clubs my school has to offer."



"Success Academy has allowed me to complete my senior year and graduate with my class. If it wasn't for Success Academy then I probably wouldn't have graduated. This school has helped me a lot"



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Give today!

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