



UNITED WAY
East Central Alabama

Newsletter:
December 2024



WorkFORCE
Connections

WorkFORCE Connections: Five Years of Transforming Lives and Building Futures

For five impactful years, **WorkFORCE Connections (WFC)** has been a cornerstone of the United Way of East Central Alabama's mission to create meaningful change in the community. This innovative program is dedicated to empowering under-resourced youth, ages 16 to 21, by providing them with the tools, resources, and support needed to overcome barriers and build a brighter future. Through WFC, young people are gaining the confidence to complete high school or earn a GED, pursue higher education, join the military, or launch a career in a field they're passionate about.

What sets WorkFORCE Connections apart is its holistic approach to workforce readiness. Participants receive hands-on experience in career preparation, including resume building, financial literacy, and interview techniques. They engage in job shadowing and career mentoring, which gives them valuable insight into their chosen fields. The program's robust life skills training ensures that these youth are prepared not only for professional success but also for personal growth.

WFC participants work closely with career counselors to craft individualized plans that align with their goals. These plans often lead to paid apprenticeships through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), where students gain on-the-job experience that sets them apart in the workforce. With up to 390 hours of paid work-based learning available, funded entirely by WIOA, participants are earning real-world experience while forging paths to sustainable careers. The Anniston Career Center plays a key role in this effort, serving as the hub for these transformative opportunities.

The program's impact is evident in its success stories. In both 2023 and 2024, WFC successfully supported and graduated approximately 40 participants each year, equipping them with high school diplomas or GEDs, professional credentials, and vital career skills. These achievements reflect the dedication of the program's team and the resilience of its participants, who have overcome significant challenges to reach their goals.

As WorkFORCE Connections celebrates its fifth anniversary, the program remains committed to its vision of building a community where every young person has the opportunity to succeed. Thanks to the collaboration between the United Way of East Central Alabama, WIOA funding, Anniston Career Center, and our local United Way donors, WFC is helping local youth turn their aspirations into reality—one diploma, one apprenticeship, and one career at a time.

For more information visit www.uweca.org/wfc or email Program Director, Amber Butler at abutler@uweca.org





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Give today!

Make a Year-End Gift and Transform Lives in East Central Alabama

As the year comes to a close, you have the power to make a lasting impact in East Central Alabama. Your end-of-year gift to United Way supports programs that uplift families, empower individuals, and strengthen our community. Together, we can create brighter futures and opportunities for those who need it most.



Will you join us in making a difference? Here's how your contribution can help:

- **\$10 per month (\$120 annually):** ----->

Provides 5 uninsured individuals access to critical mental health care.

- **\$20 per month (\$240 annually):** ----->

Supplies 104 individuals with crisis food assistance.

- **\$30 per month (\$360 annually):** ----->

Provides 45 pre-k children with free books to encourage early literacy.

- **\$50 per month (\$600 annually):** ----->

Covers 4 weeks of housing for a family experiencing homelessness.



Every gift—no matter the size—helps change lives and ensures our neighbors have the resources they need to thrive.

Ways to Give:

- Ask your employer about **Payroll Deduction**.
- Donate by Credit Card or Bill-at-Home at:
<http://uweca.org/donate>.

Be the difference that makes our community thrive.
Give today and help us meet urgent needs while
building a stronger East Central Alabama!



United Way of East Central Alabama
1505 Wilmer Avenue • PO Box 1122
Anniston, Alabama 36202
ph 256.236.8229
www.uweca.org

Upcoming Events



4th Annual Removing The Blindfold
A Human Trafficking and Online Exploitation
Educational Event • Thursday, January 16 • [Click Here for More Info and to Register!](#)



UWECA Hosts **Business & Biscuits** with the
Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce •
February 6, 2025



Read Across America 2025 •
Friday, February 28, 2025