



UNITED WAY
East Central Alabama

Newsletter:
June 2025



WorkFORCE
Connections

WorkFORCE Connections: Preparing Youth for Purposeful Futures

At United Way of East Central Alabama, we believe every young person deserves the chance to thrive—and thanks to the **WorkFORCE Connections (WFC)** program, that belief is turning into real-world success for dozens of local students.

WFC is a collaborative initiative funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It equips qualified youth ages 16 to 24 with work-readiness training, educational support, and career preparation services designed to launch them confidently into adulthood.

For the 2024/2025 academic year, the impact of WFC speaks for itself:

- 40 youth participated and successfully graduated from the program
- 38 were in-school youth
- 2 were out-of-school youth, including one who earned a CPC certification through WIOA support
- 33 students were enrolled in WIOA, receiving personalized career development services
- 30 students are set to begin post-secondary education in Fall 2025, all on full scholarships or grants
- 1 student earned his CDL, along with skid steer and forklift certifications—before graduating high school
- 13 students are pursuing careers in skilled trades
- 27 students are already employed
- One student is currently preparing for enlistment by studying for the ASVAB
- One is entering a local certification program
- One will join the FAME program at Gadsden State Community College
- Two are entering the CoMeT program at GSCC
- Students collectively earned over \$175,000 in scholarship offers
- Five students improved their ACT scores thanks to WFC tutoring services



These achievements represent more than numbers—they reflect the resilience, ambition, and promise of the next generation of East Central Alabama's workforce. From college classrooms to skilled job sites, our students are making their mark, and we couldn't be more proud. Thank you to the mentors, educators, and partners who make this program possible—and to the students who show us what's possible every day.



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**WorkFORCE Connections:
2024 - 2025 Graduation Photos**





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Help Starts Here

trained operator 24/7
ive database with a
community.



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VITA Brings Over \$1.2 Million Back to Our Community

At United Way of East Central Alabama, our mission is rooted in meeting basic needs and building financial stability. This tax season, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program once again delivered real impact—at no cost to the people we serve.

Through VITA, we provide free tax preparation services to low- to moderate-income households, ensuring every eligible resident can access the refunds and credits they've earned—without paying high preparation fees.

For the 2025 tax season, the numbers speak for themselves:

- 1,346 tax returns completed
- \$1.2 million in tax refunds brought back into our local economy
- Services offered across 3 convenient locations
- Supported by 13 dedicated volunteers who made this possible

Each return filed through VITA represents more money in the pockets of hardworking families, supporting everything from groceries and housing to tuition and savings.

We're proud of our volunteers, grateful to our partners, and inspired by the community members we've had the honor to serve. With every tax season, we continue to empower lives—one return at a time.

Thank you for helping us make a difference.

The Impact: 

\$1.2
Million back into the pockets of our clients!



2025 RESULTS:



Provided VITA services for 1,346 clients.

Free tax preparation services were offered across 3 convenient locations. This was supported by 13 dedicated volunteers who made this possible!