**SPOTLIGHT ON AN AGENCY: Darden Rehabilitation**

**Morgan Brown** is a prime example of a client who went through Darden’s work adjustment program, worked in our workshop to gain work experience, developed good work ethics, and has flourished to become very successful. Morgan came to Darden in 2014 after completion of high school. She was unsure what direction she wanted to take in looking for work, so she began working in our workshop while we worked with her job readiness skills and while she gained work experience and developed good work ethics.

Morgan thought she might like housekeeping as a place to start with her job search. We gave her the opportunity to work alongside our cleaning crew here at Darden as part of her work adjustment program. She exceeded our expectations. She was good at cleaning and she followed directions very well.

Her supervisors tell us that Morgan has become a vital part of their team. She has a good attitude, is dependable, and her personality has blossomed since she first started working with them. We believe Morgan’s training while in our work adjustment program in the Darden workshop helped to mold her into the good employee she is today.

*For more information, contact Derek Coburn, Operations Manager, at 256-547-5751 ext 225.*

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**YOUNG LEADERS SOCIETY NEWS**

Young Leaders Society (YLS) is partnering with Maraella Winery, Learning Systems Technology, and Modern Woodmen of America to offer three $1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. In addition, YLS is partnering with Alabama Power Company to offer one $750 scholarship to a graduating senior pursuing a technical certificate/degree. For qualifications, an application or more information, please contact Jessica Brown at jbrown@uwoec.org or 256-547-2581.

The next YLS event will be May 5 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Gadsden Museum of Art. The guest speaker will be professional sport bass fisherman, Clay Dyer. Clay was born without any lower limbs, no left arm and only a partial right arm. He is a phenomenal speaker that you won’t want to miss!

What is YLS? We are an affinity group of United Way’s made up of young professionals, ages 21-45. We meet quarterly and focus on philanthropy, networking, professional and leadership development. For more information, please contact Jessica Brown at jbrown@uwoec.org or 256-547-2581.

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**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

**YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS VITAL LOCAL HUMAN SERVICES.**

Please let us know if you have been giving 10 years or more by contacting Pat Presley at ppresley@uwoec.org or 256-547-2581.

**Memorials and Honorariums**

A gift to United Way of Etowah County in memory of a loved one or in honor of an accomplishment is a very personal and loving tribute. When you send an honorarium, we will promptly send an appropriate acknowledgment to the bereaved family or to the person you wish to honor. The acknowledgment will not include the amount of your gift. We also acknowledge your gift to inform you that we have completed your request. Your thoughtful memorial or honorarium gift also helps carry on the work of improving lives and community conditions far down the road.

That is a lasting impact! Please remember United Way of Etowah County in your will or estate plans, and tell us when you do so we can thank you! Thank you!

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**Mission Statement:** United Way is improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

United Way of Etowah County
P.O. Box 1175
605 South 4th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

Visit our Website at www.unitedwayec.com
Did you know there was a "Paris" community in Etowah County? Did you go by Convention Hall on March 24th? The 2016 Girlfriend Gala Theme was "Meet Me In Paris Ami." So, Beverly Linam, Event Chair, brought Paris to Gadsden’s Convention Hall March 24. She couldn’t do it alone. Her Committee members were:

- Dedra Whitenberg — Preview Day Chair
- Lanette Cook, Amber Condy & Raquel Davis — Sponsors & Logistics
- Dana Snyder — Tables
- Deborah Hawkins and Denise Floyd — Decorations
- Teresa Taylor — Publicity
- Mark Hamilton — Wine Servers

And the Table Decorators.... Oooh La La! There were too many to name here. But the multi-talented decorators were named in the event program.

And the reason why the Girlfriends have so much fun...to support school readiness!

When you invest in school readiness, you:

- Provide 16,800 books to school children, and children in daycare centers.
- Prepare over 60 children in rural areas for Kindergarten through the Kinder Camp program.
- Place 1,600 school-readiness calendars in homes of preschool children, and children in daycare centers.

**THANK YOU!**