

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Community School Coordinator Named**

United Way of Central Georgia is pleased to announce that Amanda Juarez has joined our team as the community school coordinator for LH Williams Elementary School. Amanda recently graduated summa cum laude from Middle Georgia State University (MGA) where she majored in Psychology. During her matriculation at MGA, she interned with UWCG creating mental wellness sessions targeting youth and senior adult residents of the Pleasant Hill neighborhood. Throughout her professional career, she has developed and mastered skills in administration and project management.



Amanda is a proponent of school-centered neighborhood revitalization and is excited about this promising, holistic, two-generational approach to school improvement.

In this new role, Amanda will engage with the school and the community as a strategic thought partner responsible for executing the coordination and alignment of resources to achieve desired educational and social outcomes. She will conduct this work in partnership with school staff, students, families, and the community - under the vision and direction of the community schools director, school principal, and the LH Williams Community School Advisory Board.

“United Way of Central Georgia’s strategic focus is on disrupting family poverty,” said George McCanless, President and CEO of United Way of Central Georgia. “With some of the highest poverty rates in the country, we wanted to find the most effective and efficient evidenced-based initiatives that were having success in similar situations, and we quickly identified community schools as that key initiative. We’re excited to have someone with Amanda’s energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge to lead this transformative effort at our first community school.”

Amanda’s favorite quote, *“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved,”* by Helen Keller, speaks to the temperament that sustains her through the arduous challenges and redeeming hope of this world. “We look forward to the organizational contributions Amanda will bring as we implement the community school strategy to positively impact student achievement” said Dr. Sundra Woodford, Community Schools Director for United Way.

A resident of Macon-Bibb, Amanda and her husband, Adrian have three children: Gavin, Leandro "Leo," and Jillian.

## **About United Way of Central Georgia**

United Way of Central Georgia is a leading funder of health and human services that have a measurable impact in fourteen Central Georgia counties and improve the lives of more than 100,000 local people annually. The annual campaign raises more than \$4 million annually and supports 58 programs of 33 local Partner Agencies. United Way of Central Georgia also funds a free, confidential seven-days a week, 24-hours a day information and referral line serving all of Central Georgia. Simply dial 2-1-1 to find or give help. To learn more about what United Way of Central Georgia is doing for the community, visit our website at [www.unitedwaycg.com](http://www.unitedwaycg.com).

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