



United Way of West Alabama

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Gomez to lead United Way annual campaign

Tuscaloosa, AL—(May 26, 2022) Jheovanny Gomez, local restaurateur and philanthropist, will serve as the 2022 United Way of West Alabama (UWWA) Campaign Chair. The Campaign Chair sets the annual campaign goal, helps identify new funding sources and builds relationships with community leaders and corporate donors to garner crucial financial support for UWWA's 26 partner agencies across West Alabama.

A native of Columbia, South America, Gomez moved to Tuscaloosa in May 1999 to study English at the ELI (English Language Institute) at the University of Alabama. He has an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from Shelton State Community College. In 2001, he helped open the first Jalapeños Mexican Grill in Downtown Tuscaloosa, and subsequently, he was offered the opportunity to become a Co-owner. Jalapeños presently have 3 locations in Tuscaloosa and Northport.

Gomez has served in leadership roles in various organizations, including the Diverse Business Council of West Alabama, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Vice-Chair of Membership and Investor Relations, Druid City Business League past president, Boys and Girls Clubs (BGC) of West Alabama past president. During his tenure on the BGC board, he was named National Board Member of the Year.

Gomez currently serves on The Tuscaloosa Education Foundation Board, United Way of West Alabama Board of Directors, Truist Bank Board of Advisors, University of Alabama College of Continuing Studies Board of Visitors and Shelton State Foundation Board, Department of Human Resources of Tuscaloosa County, DCH Foundation Board, Hospice of West Alabama, and PARA Foundation Board.

"Jheovanny is an outstanding example of giving back in our community. We look forward to having him guide this year's campaign to raise more support to impact 1 out of 4 people in our community," says Jackie Wuska, UWWA President & CEO. "Jheovanny is always looking for ways he can make a difference. Just last week he was instrumental in a service industry bill that passed in our state and was signed into law by Governor Ivey. When he sees a need or a way to make things better, he makes it happen."

Well respected for his drive and leadership qualities, he has also been appointed by the Governor to the Small Business Commission for the State of Alabama and is currently serving on the Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Board and Northport Redevelopment Authority. In 2021, Gomez was inducted into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame and Jalapeños Mexican Grill was selected as the Silver Alabama Small Business of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama and the Business Council of Alabama. He was also named a West Alabama Young Leaders Award recipient by United Way's Young Leaders Society in 2018.

"Jheovanny leads by action, and we are looking forward to having him at the helm of our campaign this year," acknowledged Monique Scott, UWWA Campaign Director. "He always brings a positive energy

wherever he goes, and you know his heart is in the right place, which makes it impossible for people to say no to him. His generous spirit is contagious.”

2022-23 UWWA Campaign Cabinet

Jheovanny Gomez	Jalapeno's Mexican Grill
Bert Sims	Way, Ray, Shelton, & Co.
Bobby Bragg	JamisonMoneyFarmer, P.C.
Brenda Ryan	Community Volunteer
Brian Groeschell	SmartBank
Bryan Winter	Winter McFarland, LLC.
Caroline Strawbridge	University of Alabama
Channing Marlowe	Shelton State Community College
Chris Gunter	Buffalo Rock
Daniel Bradshaw	Tuscaloosa Association of Realtors
David Olive	Mercedes-Benz U.S. International
Deidra Diaz	University of Alabama
Dr. Amy Jones	University of West Alabama
Dr. Chester Boston, Jr.	Community Volunteer
Dr. Derrick Gilmore	Stillman College
Dr. Kristin Reed	University General Dentistry
Dr. Paul Diaz	Riverview Dental Designs
Glenda Webb	City of Northport
Harrison Taylor	Community Volunteer
Joseph Marchant	Bibb County Medical Center
Ken Gaddy	Community Volunteer
Kip Tyner	City of Tuscaloosa
Lee Henderson	Self-Employed
Lydia Avant	Tuscaloosa City Schools
Martin Colvin	BankFirst
Mary Bess Paluzzi	Community Volunteer
Max Karrh	Bryant Bank
Michele Coley	Michele Coley Allstate
Mollie Rowe	Eutaw Housing Authority
Nikki Ray	Eat My Beats
Patrick Hamner	Bryant Bank
Rhett Cooper	Peoples Bank of Greensboro
Ryan Stallings	Alabama ONE Credit Union

Sandra Hall Ray	Community Volunteer
Shelley Jones	Community Volunteer
Stacey Ashe	Robertson Banking Company
Tanya Winstead	The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama
Terri Brewer	Tuscaloosa County Schools
Tripp Powell	Self-Employed
Whitni Molden	Hotel Capstone
Zach Wolfe	County of Tuscaloosa

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