

## Learning Retail Job Skills and More

Goodwill stores provide funds for vocational rehabilitation programs and low cost goods for customers. They also provide training and jobs for Goodwill program participants.

After graduating from Masuk High School's special education program and completing Goodwill's Life After High School program last spring, Mark Bocchino now works at the Monroe Goodwill Store as a material processor. He is a valuable employee who accepts donations, stocks the racks and shelves and helps keep the store clean. His favorite parts of the job are organizing the books and taking donations.

Working at Goodwill has also been good for Mark. He is comfortable interacting with people now and has developed good customer service skills. Both co-workers and customers have noticed

that he has expanded his vocabulary and is more outgoing.

Susana Teixeira has also benefited from working at Goodwill. After being unable to maintain employment on her own, she sought help from the Department of Developmental Services and was referred to Goodwill. The first few employment opportunities didn't work out. Then, she started working for the Bridgeport Goodwill Store a year ago and finally found her place.

She works on the floor stocking shelves, hanging clothes and answering questions from customers. "I like working with the customers," she says. "I help them find prices and answer any other questions they have." The store management is happy too, because she does such a good job of putting merchandise out.



Mark arranges clothing racks at the Monroe Goodwill Store.



Susana puts handbags out at the Bridgeport Goodwill Store.

## Overcoming the Challenges of Autism

David Santiago has an autism spectrum disorder. He is a bright young man, but he has trouble with social skills. His special interest is video games, about which he has a great deal of knowledge. He came to Goodwill with a desire to get a job at Gamestop, but he lacked the social skills to pursue this goal on his own.

Recognizing that individuals with an autism spectrum disorder face unique concerns, Goodwill developed a program that focuses on their needs. These individuals are offered one-on-one help with social, life and vocational skills.

Goodwill helps them address social issues such as body language, social fears and conversation skills. They also receive assistance with life skills and are given the opportunity to use a computer program to learn money management skills. They then receive help with completing a job application, writing a resume, interviewing, maintaining employment and dealing with co-workers. Since its inception, the program has helped 14 individuals.

A Goodwill staff member has been working one-on-one with David to overcome his difficulty relating to people, to help him learn life skills such as money and time management and to assist him with getting a job. The efforts have been successful. David has made great progress and will soon be working at a local Gamestop store.



Under the one-on-one supervision of a Goodwill staff member, David Santiago learns money management skills via a computer program.

# Enjoy Tax Savings When You Give to Goodwill

As we face the future, we know that the generosity of our donors will make all the difference in how successful we are. However, we are not the only ones who benefit from your generosity. In addition to feeling good because you are helping people improve their quality of life, you can gain a sizable tax savings by donating to Goodwill. There are many ways to donate.

**Cash.** A cash gift by check or credit card is a quick and easy method for making an outright charitable gift. If you itemized deductions on your income tax return, gifts of cash are generally deductible in amounts up to 50% of your adjusted gross income with a five-year carryover of any excess. Be sure to keep receipts, acknowledgements and bank records related to your gifts. **Cash donations may be mailed to Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut, Inc., P.O. Box 3366, Bridgeport, CT 06605. Or, go to [www.goodwillwct.org](http://www.goodwillwct.org) and donate on-line.** We will send you an acknowledgement for tax purposes.

**Securities.** Charitable gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds held for more than one year can save you money twice. By donating appreciated securities to Goodwill, you may avoid capital gains tax on the difference between the price you paid for the securities and their current market value the date the gift is made. You may also be able to deduct the current market value of your securities gift. Visit our web page for information on how to donate securities, or you may call 203-581-5319.

**Material Donations.** Saleable items of clothing, household goods, furniture, books and antiques may be donated at any Goodwill store or attended donation center listed on page three of this newsletter. You may deduct the fair market value. According to law, the items must be in good condition, and the donor is responsible for placing a value on them. Your donation receipt may be used for tax purposes. For more information on how to deduct these items, please refer to IRS publications 526 and 561.

**Donor Recognition**  
The Goodwill Donor Wall of Honor, recognizing donors who have contributed \$2,500 or more, is currently being updated. For more information or to verify your current total, you may call 203-581-5319.

## Planned Giving Helps You and Goodwill

**Leave a legacy!** You can make your generosity live on and save taxes too through careful estate planning. In addition to the satisfaction that comes from making a gift that improves the lives of others, the best gift plans improve your financial and tax situation.

**Bequests.** Bequests of any size will help Goodwill Industries serve our local community for generations to come. A bequest, whether in the form of cash, securities or other property, may be fully deducted in determining federal estate taxes and inheritance taxes. You may designate a percentage of the cash and/or other property in your estate to go to Goodwill, you may name a specific property or specific dollar amount or you may name Goodwill as the final beneficiary to receive whatever remains in your estate after other heirs are provided for.

**Charitable Remainder Trust.** A charitable remainder trust is an arrangement where a donor transfers assets to a trust that will pay income to the donor (or someone else chosen by the donor) annually for a specified time period. The trust is built with assets you contribute, such as securities, appreciated property or cash. Many donors hold assets that would make wonderful gifts sometime in the future, but are currently needed to provide for present needs.

You're entitled to a tax deduction in the year the gift is made, while the property continues to produce income for a specified time period. At the end of that time period, Goodwill receives the remainder of the trust assets. With a charitable remainder trust you can save on income taxes now and on estate and probate costs later, while contributing a major gift to Goodwill.

**For more information, call 203-581-5319 to request one or more of our brochures or our *Ways to Give* booklet. You can also e-mail [fundraising@goodwillwct.org](mailto:fundraising@goodwillwct.org). Be sure to consult your attorney and/or financial planner regarding which donation vehicle best fits your financial circumstances.**

If you have already remembered Goodwill in your will and would like to be named to our legacy society, please let us know.



*Edgery Gadea-Delgado enjoys selling valentine treats.*

## Community Experience Program Improves Lives

Goodwill's Community Experience Program has come a long way and so have its participants. Sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, the program, which began with five individuals, now serves eighteen people. The program's mission is to enhance and enrich the lives of each participant through assessments, vocational training, volunteer experiences and social and recreational activities. Three participants currently earn wages by working in Goodwill's Transitional Employment Program.

Community integration activities continue to improve and expand. Activities include volunteer projects, visits to museums and libraries and trips to nature centers, parks and zoos. They make dog biscuits and donate them to a local animal shelter. Two individuals help walk dogs and others volunteer at St. Vincent's Medical Center where they help deliver flowers to patients.

To enhance personal growth, the program offers a wide range of in-house activities. These activities promote social integration, improved health and fitness, creativity and life skills development. For Valentine's Day this year, program participants and staff conducted a bake sale and drawing in the Goodwill cafeteria. Staff donated prizes and baked. Program participants put baskets together for the drawing and had a great time selling the goodies. They raised \$200 to use to go bowling.

**If you would like to receive Goodwill news updates via e-mail, please notify [relations@goodwillwct.org](mailto:relations@goodwillwct.org).**

## Goodwill Thanks Community for 301,400 Pounds

Go green. Recycle by donating to Goodwill. This year, Goodwill asked the community to start spring cleaning early and recycle by bringing large bags of gently used clothing and household items to a Goodwill store or donation center during a 5-day *Weigh Good Donation Drive* in mid March.

Along with a tax-deduction receipt, donors received a chance to win a prize. Goodwill's goal was to collect 200,000 pounds in donations of clothing and household items. Prizes included a GPS navigation system and two Visa gift cards.

**Your response was terrific! You donated 301,400 pounds, exceeding our goal by over 100,000 pounds and making the drive a huge success.** As a result, all of our stores are now packed with inventory and great bargains.

<u>GOODWILL STORES</u>	<u>ATTENDED DONATION CENTERS</u>
<b>BRIDGEPORT</b> 165 Ocean Terrace	<b>BETHEL</b> 45 Grassy Plain Street
<b>BRISTOL</b> 1228 Farmington Avenue	<b>BETHLEHEM</b> Recycling Center, Route 61 N
<b>BROOKFIELD</b> 165 Federal Road	<b>FAIRFIELD</b> 1 Rod Highway/Off Reef Road
<b>DANBURY</b> 2 Beaver Brook Road	<b>GLASTONBURY</b> Recycling Center, 2340 New London Turnpike
<b>GLASTONBURY</b> 2709 Main Street	<b>GREENWICH</b> Recycling Center, Holly Hill Lane
<b>MILFORD</b> 321 Boston Post Road	<b>NAUGATUCK</b> Tain Station, Water Street
<b>MANCHESTER</b> 232A Tolland Turnpike	<b>NEWTOWN</b> Landfill, Ethan Allen Road
<b>MONROE</b> 574 Monroe Turnpike	<b>REDDING</b> Recycling Center, 84 Hope Well Woods Road
<b>NEWINGTON</b> 45 Costello Road	<b>RIDGEFIELD</b> 231 Ethan Allen Highway
<b>NEW MILFORD</b> 141-143 Danbury Road	<b>SHELTON</b> 200 Leavenworth Road
<b>NORWALK</b> 15 Cross Street	<b>SOUTHBURY</b> Transfer Station, Kettletown Road
<b>STAMFORD</b> 1 West Broad Street	<b>STRATFORD</b> Burlington Coat Factory, Barnum Avenue Cut-off
<b>TORRINGTON</b> 1849 East Main Street	
<b>WATERBURY</b> 829 Lakewood Road	
<b>WESTPORT</b> 1572 Post Road East	

## Summer Camperships

Thanks to the generosity of the community, Goodwill is able raise the funds each year to offer many summer camperships. Last year, eight adults attended Camp Hemlocks, a camp for people with disabilities.

In addition, 32 children, who without help could not afford to do so, spent a couple of weeks at camp, enjoying fresh air, making new friends and learning new skills.

**Watch for this year's appeal letter in your mail soon.**



*Cyrus and Cyra Williams enjoy a day a camp.*

## Hispanic/Latino Program Nationally Recognized

Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut was recently recognized by Goodwill Industries International for excellence in serving Hispanic/Latino populations. The award was the result of two and one-half years of research, surveys, interviews and analysis by workforce development research teams. Judi Kibbe, Director of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services, and Myriam Zalada, Hispanic Services Coordinator, traveled to Atlanta to receive the award.

Goodwill's Hispanic/Latino Services program began 1980 with a grant to help Hispanics who experience language and cultural barriers obtain employment. It was the first statewide bilingual program in the country. Today, the program continues to provide vocational, career and English language assessments. Once work aptitudes, career interests and English literacy skills are evaluated, individuals are referred to adult literacy, educational, job training and computer classes within the community. When they are ready to seek employment, Goodwill provides participants with job-seeking-skills training and placement assistance. In 2007, this program served 131 individuals and placed 29 people in jobs in the community.



*Myriam Zalada and Judi Kibbe hold up their award certificate for all to see.*

## Royal Bank of Scotland Volunteers Make Holidays Bright at Goodwill

Goodwill Industries is very grateful to a hard-working, loyal and generous group of volunteers from the Royal Bank of Scotland in Bridgeport for their help with holiday events. In 2007, they helped fill 360 boxes with Thanksgiving food for local families in need, made 200 ornaments for Goodwill's children's Christmas party and wrapped 200 gifts.



*RBS volunteers pose with boxes of Thanksgiving food they assembled for local families.*

## 130 Companies Provide Community Work Sites

Every day, Goodwill's Employment Services staff works hard to develop partnerships with local companies that can provide job sites where Goodwill can assess and/or place people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

In 2007, 130 companies agreed to work with Goodwill. The process begins with a referral followed by an intake to acquire information on the individual's needs and abilities. The next step is to develop vocational goals and a plan. Then, Goodwill assists the individual with resume writing, interviewing and job retention skills. Often, a two-week assessment takes place at a local company to determine if a particular job is a good match.

Because every person is different and the severity of disabilities vary, the jobs developed range from supermarket bagger to dental assistant to accountant. The staff strives to meet the needs of the employer as well as those of the employee. The employee gets a job at which he/she can succeed and become self-sufficient, while the employer gets a reliable, hard-working employee who contributes to the success of the company.

Actual jobs that Goodwill placed people in this year include: administrative and clerical worker, assembly worker,

CNA and HHA, dental assistant, floral assistant, food service worker, hair salon assistant, housekeeping and laundry assistant, machine operator, pet care worker, recreation aide, porter, maintenance worker, retail associate, stock room processor, teacher's aide and telemarketer.

Many times, a company hires an individual immediately following an assessment. Other times, an individual needs to try several jobs before finding the right match. What makes this program successful is that the community works together. As a result, everyone wins.



*Goodwill graduate Tequea Gandy works as a dental assistant in Dr. Tina Gage's office in Stratford.*

## Employer Honor Roll

Goodwill appreciates all local employers who provide a place in their organization for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. The following companies have hired Goodwill graduates in recent months. We thank these and other businesses that hire our people and encourage you to purchase their goods and utilize their services.

ABCD	National Wholesale Liquidators
ACW	North Wind Pizza
Arena at Harbor Yard	Northbridge Health Care
Artic Warehouse	Oasis Market
Basket Beyond Belief	Pep Boys
Best Friends Pet Resort	Uno Chicago Grill
Big Y	Price Chopper
Bill Ray	Prudential Insurance
Bob's Stores	Quizno's
Bow Tie Cinemas	Rags & Crafts
Brandman's Paint	Residence Inn by Marriott
Burger King	Sacred Heart University
Buyer's Capital	Salvation Army
CDI Headstart	Sears
City of Bridgeport	Service for Peace
Coleman Park Healthcare	Shaw's Supermarket
Creative Health & Fitness	Smergalino's
Connecticut Post	St. Joseph's Manor
Department of Social Services	Steve & Barry's
Eder Trucking	Stop & Shop Supermarket
Equinox	Subway
Firestone	Syms
Focus Mailing	Take Time Cafe
Fruits & Flowers	Target
Funding & Development	Tina Gage, DDS
Paul H. Gesswein & Co.	TJ Maxx
HNH Home Health Care	Trumbull Printing
Home Goods	UPS
Home Town Buffet	Veronica Holmes Home
Jewish Home for the Elderly	Victor Intl. Hair Design
Julianna's Housekeeping	Walgreens
Kohl's	WE Bassett
Limited Too	Weedman Lawn Care
Marshalls	William B. Meyer
Master Cuts	Yellow Cab Company

**You can change a life. Donate today!**  
[www.goodwillwct.org](http://www.goodwillwct.org)

### GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

**of Western Connecticut, Inc.**

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