AMBASSADOR Connector
Winter 2017

Are You Goodwill?
A Time to Reflect and Give Thanks

Bob Rosinsky, President & CEO

It’s hard to believe that another year has passed. As we look back to all the accomplishments Goodwill Manasota has contributed to this community in 2016, there is one that I would like to highlight.

Goodwill's dear friend Mike Bryant of Fawley Bryant Architecture created the Rick and Coni Fawley Scholarship Fund to help Goodwill team members who do not have their high school diploma earn their GED. Currently, of the 679 team members with needs assessments, 462 have no post-secondary training and, of those, 105 do not have a high school diploma or GED. Of the 411 Job Connection clients with needs assessments, 199 have no post-secondary training and 70 have no high school diploma or GED.

Through the Fawley Scholarship Fund, Goodwill team members will be able to take classes with a GED teacher at the workplace, while on the clock; Job Connection clients will also have access to free classes to help them earn their GED.

One Goodwill team member who has benefited from the Fawley Scholarship Fund is Nancy Berrones, a single mother to six children who has worked at Goodwill for 14 months. She had to drop out of high school in the 11th grade when she got pregnant with her first child. She has experienced many challenges in her life but is determined to do whatever it takes to make a better life for herself and her children.

We know that it just takes the will of spirit to overcome every obstacle placed in your path. The mission of Goodwill is to answer the call of that spirit and it is our pleasure to engage, accommodate, train, employ and make our organization a meaningful place of employment for every person that we serve.

And it’s with the vision, integrity, compassion and donors, like you - that help Goodwill change lives through the power of work.

Become an Ambassador: Leave a Legacy

Veronica Brandon Miller, Goodwill Foundation Vice President

Will your personal legacy reflect your contributions, wisdom and intent? By partnering with Goodwill, we guarantee that your legacy will reveal your commitment to people who have barriers to employment, returning disabled war veterans and people who simply have disabilities that prevent them from finding a job and achieving self-sufficiency.

Goodwill vigilantly provides the stewardship to ensure that the choices you make about philanthropy and volunteerism provide the opportunity and pathways to success via comprehensive programs and services that allow disabled people to overcome a myriad of challenges. With our help, they secure and sustain employment in their quest for independence.

Allow us to explain and extend new and exciting opportunities - to leave antiquated paradigms behind and create a richer, more complete personal legacy through our Goodwill Ambassador program.

Understand and embrace the tangible benefits that Goodwill brings to our area, like the fact that Goodwill’s donated goods business contributes $81.3 million to the local economy and just last year we diverted 41 million pounds out of the landfill.

Join our Ambassadors – secure your legacy - by helping us to raise awareness and promote Goodwill Manasota’s essential mission as we work with local philanthropists to help change lives through the power of work.
I Am Goodwill

With the help of our fabulous Ambassadors, we are pleased to announced the launch of our 2017 “I Am Goodwill” campaign.

We are so excited that our Goodwill Ambassadors came up with this year’s campaign. The "I Am Goodwill" campaign uses peer recommendations to showcase their power – the ‘power’ to change lives. We appreciate our Ambassadors because they understand our mission and help us reach others in the community. Their belief in and passion for Goodwill has helped us advance our mission and truly change lives.

We’re also inviting anyone else to submit your own stories and reasons why you are Goodwill by helping to make our community a better place. Post your stories, photos or videos to Facebook using the hashtag #IAmGoodwill and visit experiencegoodwill.org/IAmGoodwill for more information!

Every Monday, we post a new story online of how Goodwill Manasota’s mission has assisted people in our community. Please visit experiencegoodwill.org each week for the latest #MissionMonday. Below is Rochelle’s story.

Rochelle was living the American dream – she had a great job at a bank and had bought a condo where she expected to live for the rest of her life.

After many years of working at the same bank, Rochelle was told that her job had been eliminated and that she was going to be laid off.

Without a job, her savings were rapidly diminishing. Her bills were mounting up and her condo fees and mortgage were going unpaid. The day came when she was notified that foreclosure proceedings would begin.

Rochelle came to Goodwill’s Job Connection in a state of crisis. At this point, she had lost her self-confidence and panic had become part of her daily routine. Rochelle was encouraged to continue looking for work in the financial field but was told to be prepared to take her skills elsewhere, if necessary.

Rochelle filled out an application at Goodwill and was pleased to be called for an interview and later was offered the job. Rochelle’s manager was so impressed with her cash handling skills that she promoted Rochelle to lead cashier very quickly.

Rochelle is grateful that she has had the opportunity to pull herself together by working at Goodwill. She came looking for a hand up, not a handout—and that is exactly what she got. It’s what we do.

Mission Moment
Margie Genter, Vice President Mission Services
Immediate past mayor of North Port, Jacqueline Moore, has partnered with Goodwill Manasota to launch a community-wide campaign called “Kindness Community.” The effort is designed to make a positive impact by bringing our community together and encouraging acts of kindness.

The local Kindness Community campaign is modeled after a similar initiative launched in 2010 by California Mayor Tom Tait, who brought Anaheim residents together through daily acts of kindness. For the past seven years, "Make Kindness Contagious" has been celebrated in Anaheim to raise awareness of how an act of kindness can transform both the giver and the receiver; millions of kind acts have been performed and celebrated throughout the community.

“There is no better time to start this campaign than now to help bring our community together, especially in light of the degree of turmoil in our world today,” said Moore. “We cannot be in control of what others do but we can control our actions, so why not make them acts of kindness?”

A social media campaign launched in December with Goodwill Ambassadors sharing their acts of kindness and challenging family, friends, businesses and others to join the movement. A Facebook page, “Kindness Community,” and website, found at experiencegoodwill.org/kindness, have been created in order to provide platforms for people to share their stories and photos.

Ambassador Power Meetings are a great way to keep in touch with Goodwill and see what new opportunities are coming up. They are held the third Tuesday of every month.

Visit the website below for a calendar of events to see where the next meeting will be held along with all upcoming events that pertain to Ambassadors.

www.experiencegoodwill.org/ambassadors
Agencies collaborate to help client of Goodwill's Veterans Services Program

This year, Noah Hoopingarner had much to be thankful for during Thanksgiving. The honorably discharged United States Marine Corps Reserve combat veteran, who served from 2001-2007 and went active duty during both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, has been through some difficult times over the past year, but thanks to Goodwill and a handful of other area organizations and businesses, is now on the road to economic stability.

Hoopingarner, his girlfriend and their four children have recently been homeless and have experienced food insecurity. This summer, he sought help from Goodwill Manasota’s Veterans Services Program. The young man has been described by those who have worked with him as a dedicated and motivated young veteran who just needed some extra help so that he and his family – which was living in a cramped, 1980s-style RV – could get back on their feet.

Goodwill, Able Trust partner to help students with disabilities earn diplomas

For the second year, Goodwill Manasota has partnered with The Able Trust Foundation to expand the High School High Tech (HSHT) program, designed and implemented last year for students with disabilities. The program, which is geared towards students ages 14-22, provides an opportunity to learn about potential career paths in the swiftly growing fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Goodwill Manasota Business 100

Goodwill Manasota Business 100 is an exclusive group of small local businesses who support our mission of “Changing Lives Through the Power of Work.” By becoming a part of the Business 100, you are investing in your community and in the programs that Goodwill provides.

Why you should join:

- Your business will be included on our website with a link to your company website
- Upgraded listing in the Good Guide, Goodwill Manasota’s Resource Guide of community partners distributed throughout our Job Connections, stores and online
- Recognition at all of our events
- Special invitations to exclusive events throughout the year
- Ability to host one of our networking events at your business
- Highlight your company in either our quarterly newsletter or monthly email
- Special recognition at our Ambassador Recognition Luncheon
- Your donation is tax-deductible
- And much more!

Last but not least, the community will know, recognize and appreciate that your company cares about persons with disabilities, veterans and those with barriers to employment. The cost is only $500, but the benefits you'll receive are much greater.

- ALSO -

The Ambassador Good Guide is Goodwill Manasota's new Ambassador directory where Ambassadors can promote their products or services. The guide will be distributed throughout our Job Connections, stores and online.

If you're interested in adding your name or business, please contact Morgan Gerhart at morgan.gerhart@gimi.org or 941-355-2721 x 107.
Upcoming Events

JANUARY 17 — Ambassador Power Meeting
11:30 am - 1:00 pm at Goodwill's Corporate Campus. Power Meetings are a great way to keep in touch with Goodwill, network with other Ambassadors and see what new opportunities are coming up.

JANUARY 31 — Lunch and Learn about Goodwill
11:30 am - 1:00 pm at Goodwill's Corporate Campus. At this free Lunch & Learn we'll present the history of Goodwill, an explanation of our business model and explore the services & programs that we provide.

FEBRUARY 16 — Ambassador Social at Canada Med Services
5:30 pm - 7:00 am at Canada Med Services, 4119 Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota, FL 34233. Join us and fellow ambassadors for an evening of great fun, great food and great networking!

FEBRUARY 24 — Lunch and Learn about Goodwill
11:30 am - 1:00 pm at Mecca Goodwill. At this free Lunch & Learn we'll present the history of Goodwill, an explanation of our business model and explore the services & programs that we provide.

FEBRUARY 28 — Mardi Gras Gala
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Michael's On East. Join us for our signature event where Michael's On East will be transformed into Bourbon Street. Enjoy a delicious New Orleans style meal with wonderful friends.

To learn more or to secure your tickets, visit www.experiencegoodwill.org/events or call 941-355-2721 ext. 104
Sponsorships are still available!

Neighborhood Classes

Goodwill Manasota understands that engaged neighborhoods create a stronger, safer and more vibrant community. Our Good Neighborhood Center offers a wide variety of FREE classes and workshops that are educational, cultural and fun!

Upcoming Classes Include:

Donte's Orientation - Educational Dog Safety Course with Donte's Den
Sandy's Bellies - Bellydancing With a Twist
Buying a Home with No Money Down
Conversational Spanish for Beginners

And so much more!

Visit experiencegoodwill.org/classes for a list of dates and times.

Make sure you like us on FACEBOOK to hear more about upcoming events!
www.facebook.com/GoodwillManasota
We hosted our annual Community Ambassador of the Year Awards Dinner with top awards going to Adams and Reese LLP, Danny Bilyeu, Gloria Moss, iHeartMedia Sarasota, Jewish Family and Children's Service of the Suncoast and SunTrust Bank.

Students at Southeast High School hosted a Be Cool School donation drive. They will be competing with other area high schools to see who can bring in the most donated goods.

Our Ambassadors showed off their singing talents at the Ambassador Holiday Concert and Party featuring holiday songs from Trish and Ashley McConnell, Brianna Moss, Lindsey Nickel-de la O, Sharon Kunkel, Patricia Meringer, Margi Dawson, Veronica Brandon Miller and Fran Kain.

Our travelling Giving Tree visited area businesses this holiday season giving people the opportunity to make donations that supported specific areas such as paying for a Job Connection placement for a veteran.

The Ghostbusters took over our stores each Saturday in October asking shoppers for help to find Slimer hiding in the store to receive a discount on their purchase.
Goodwill Manasota is an industry-leading not-for-profit organization that changes lives through the power of work.

Members of the Board:
Steve Boone, Chair Emeritus
Peter Crowley, Chair Elect
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PGT is the nation’s leading manufacturer and supplier of residential impact-resistant windows and doors. Located in Venice, FL, PGT employs approximately 2,000 employees, making us the largest employer in Sarasota County. Our size and stability allows us to offer excellent pay and benefits, opportunities for advancement and a great working environment.

Saturday, January 28 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Hiring Event at PGT Industries:
1070 Technology Dr. • North Venice, FL • 34275

24/7 Manufacturing Assembly $10.25 - $14.50/hour depending on shift
We are also looking for Loading Techs, Material Handling Professionals, Group Leaders and more!
For details on these positions, look up the job order #s below on employflorida.com: 10318582, 10318577, 10318565, 10265536

Things to Do Before you Go
• Complete online application at www.pgtindustries.com/about/careers
• Register and add resume to employflorida.com, visit your local CareerSource Suncoast or Goodwill Job Connection office for assistance.
• Bring your resume! Pre-screen interviews will be conducted during this event.

Questions? Contact:
Stephanie Chen, Team Lead-Talent Acquisitions
(941) 480-1600 ext. 21021

Ambassador Connector is a quarterly print publication for the friends of Goodwill Manasota. If you wish not to receive this newsletter, please contact:
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Visit our website at experiencegoodwill.org