

## **Goodwill Industries of Tulsa Community Update**

The coronavirus has affected all of our daily lives in ways that we could not have imagined as recently as a couple of months ago. I wanted to provide an update to the community about how it has impacted Goodwill Industries of Tulsa. First and foremost, Goodwill is concerned about the health and safety of our employees, program participants, donors and shoppers. Therefore, in accordance with the shelter in place orders issued by the Governors of Oklahoma and Missouri and the Mayor of Tulsa, all of our locations were closed on March 25th and will remain closed except for essential employees until the orders are lifted.

If you are a donor and you have cleaned out your closets during this time we ask that you hold onto those donations until it is safe for us to reopen. Please do not leave them outside our donation sites currently. If you are a store customer, we will be posting information on our website [www.goodwilltulsa.org](http://www.goodwilltulsa.org) about store re-openings when it has been deemed that is appropriate to do so.

If you are seeking the employment services offered by Goodwill's Job Connection locations, we have opened a virtual Job Board on our website [www.goodwilltulsa.org](http://www.goodwilltulsa.org) to assist you in identifying employers that are currently seeking employees. For employers seeking employees, there is a link for you to send us your information so that your jobs can be posted.

If you are interested in the training programs offered by Goodwill's TulsaWORKS Career Academy, we are currently working on converting the majority of the trainings that we offer to on-line courses and currently plan to have those available on May 1st. Visit our website (see above) for updates on exactly when we will be able to begin offering these courses and how to enroll.

For individuals interested in VITA tax preparation services, all locations are currently closed until at least June 1st. We are exploring ways that these can potentially be completed virtually, so visit our website regularly for an update on these services.

As you know, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa is a nonprofit social enterprise that relies on our donated goods program to generate over 75% of the revenue to support our mission of providing jobs, job training and placement services for individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment. Last year we provided services to more 4,700 people in Eastern Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri. To date Goodwill has not laid off or furloughed any of our 550 employees and has committed to paying them through the month of April despite generating no revenues from our stores. Our hope long-term is that we do not have to resort to layoffs or furloughs.

What we do ask is that when the time is appropriate you donate your no longer needed clothing and household items to Goodwill and shop in our Goodwill stores to assist us in recovering. If you would like to support our current efforts by donating directly to Goodwill you can do so by visiting [www.goodwilltulsa.org/give](http://www.goodwilltulsa.org/give). Please stay safe by

following the shelter in place and social distancing directives that are currently in place and we will all get through this difficult time together.

David E. Oliver

President