

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2008

GOODWILL HONORS ACHIEVERS

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa is proud to recognize its award winners. The seven were honored at Goodwill's Annual Awards Luncheon, Monday, May 5, at the Southern Hills Marriott Hotel. The event, attended by over 700 people, was emceed by KOKI – FOX 23, news anchor, Chera Kimiko. Reverend Herbert D. Edmundson, Pastor of Morningstar Baptist Church, delivered the invocation. John Shearing, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa Chairman of the Board and David E. Oliver, Goodwill President, congratulated those receiving the following awards.

Professional of the Year

Tony Rivera

Tony Rivera has made volunteering with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa a two-way street. As a member of our Business Advisory Council, he has demonstrated both dedication and business acumen, never missing a single meeting and taking an active role in mock-interview exercises with clients preparing for a real-world search. Tony has also served as an ambassador to the community, educating others in the hospitality industry about the mission of Goodwill and opening doors to employment for graduates from our Tulsa*WORKS*, supported employment and private security training programs. We're pleased to recognize a professional who clearly "walks the talk".

Graduate of the Year

David Roach

Most employers would think they'd died and gone to heaven if they found themselves with an employee who was wide awake, ready and poised to punch in at five-twenty-nine in the morning. But only one – Tulsa Promenade Mall – can lay claim to David Roach. He landed his job a little more than a year ago and, with help and encouragement from job coach Mari Stafford, he's steadily increasing his capabilities and confidence as a maintenance team member at the mall. We're pleased to acknowledge the dedication that David brings to his work...evidenced by his willingness to rise and shine at 4am – something even the sun refuses to do.

Employer of the Year

OSU Medical Center / Sodexo

It started eight years ago with five workers and a document shredder. Today, the partnership between Goodwill and OSU Medical Center/Sodexo has grown in capacity to 33 Goodwill-supervised jobs encompassing a variety of tasks – keeping the medical center's public restrooms clean, making sure the facility's parking garage and grounds stay tidy and trash-free and, still, confidential-document shredding. Goodwill salutes a Tulsa employer who recognizes the difference that can be made in our community simply by setting aside a few dozen jobs and a little workspace for individuals who otherwise might never experience the satisfaction of productive employment.

Community Partner
Day Center for the Homeless

Every day, nearly 450 men, women and families in distress seek refuge and care at Tulsa's only daytime shelter for the homeless. Here, they find help for pressing needs, as well as referrals that put many on the path to community resources, permanent housing and self-sufficiency. For years, the Tulsa Day Center and Goodwill's TulsaWORKS program have coordinated to provide services and programs to those needing jobs – many of whom face workplace barriers of mental illness or developmental or physical disabilities. We're proud to recognize a valued partnership that has made a positive difference in the lives of Tulsa's homeless population.

Achiever of the Year
Nellie Jefferson

After 38 years with one employer, the prospect of starting all over – and in challenging economic times, at that – is more than a little scary. Following an earlier-than-planned retirement, Nellie Jefferson took a deep breath, worked up her courage, and did the hardest thing a proud, hard-working woman could do. She asked for help. And she found it in a Goodwill call center training program that equipped her with computer and telecommunications skills, put her through her paces in mock interviews, and helped her network her way to a job she loves at Capital One. We applaud her determination to learn new skills and return to self-sufficiency.

Employee of the Year
Scott Drobinko

It's hard to tell which is bigger, Scott Drobinko's smile or his heart. One or the other – or maybe both – generally makes a big, positive impression on donors who come to the Goodwill Donation Center at 81st Street and Yale Avenue. For just over six years, Scott has served as a donation attendant there, through Goodwill's supported employment program. He takes great pride in his job; so much that has agreed to help promote Goodwill as a media ambassador. When he's not at work, chances are he's doing one of his other favorite things – vacationing with his family. And being missed by regular donors at 81st & Yale.

A very special thank you to our luncheon sponsors.

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And ... a special thanks to Ronny and Judy Altman for sponsoring a gift of \$500 each for our Graduate, Achiever and Employee of the Year award winners.

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa provides employment opportunities and career development services for people with barriers to employment. It accepts donations of usable clothing and household items and sells these items in its eight retail stores. Revenue from the sale of donated goods helps to fund Goodwill's job training and employment programs. The public can contribute clothing and household items at conveniently located Attended Donation Centers. For the location of a nearby donation center, call 581-1200 or visit our website at www.goodwilltulsa.org

NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

For more information contact – Nancy Webster, Community Relations Director, (918) 584-7291.