

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2007

GOODWILL HONORS ACHIEVERS

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa is proud to recognize its award winners. The seven were honored at Goodwill's Annual Awards Luncheon, Tuesday, May 8, at the Southern Hills Marriott Hotel. The event, attended by over 580 people, was emceed by KTUL – Ch. 8, news reporter, Kristen Dickerson. Reverend Tim Dreier, Pastor, Lutheran Church of our Savior, delivered the invocation. Brian Hunt, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa Chairman of the Board and David E. Oliver, Goodwill President, congratulated those receiving the following awards.

Professional of the Year

Bobbi Dobbs

With more than 20 years of experience in sales and human resources, Bobbi knows a few things about getting people motivated ... and keeping them that way. During her career, Bobbi has worked to bring out the best in more than 25,000 people whom she has led in training classes. Last year, she served as program presenter for our quarterly Business Advisory Council. In this role, she developed and led classes on subjects that included conflict resolution, Generation X, priority planning and time management. In true management fashion, she even found a source willing to donate FranklinCovey planners to time management class participants.

Graduate of the Year

Jeff Fulton

What a difference a year can make. Jeff was jobless, homeless and feeling pretty low. But within months of contacting Goodwill, he began to acquire the skills and self-assurance to change his situation. Life Skills and Tulsa*WORKS* classes, combined with assistance from a dedicated job coach, prepared Jeff to make his successful re-entry into the work force. Today Jeff has both a home and a fulltime job with benefits as an employee of Tulsa Public Schools. But that's not all. He also has a car, a girlfriend ... and the coaching and encouragement of his friends at Goodwill to count on.

Employer of the Year

Alorica, Inc.

With more than 5,000 employees in seven American cities and a total of four countries, Alorica thinks globally. But as demonstrated by the hands-on help their Tulsa office provides to Goodwill clients, this California-based customer service provider also acts locally. As a member of our Business Advisory Council, Alorica has provided assistance in the development of our call center training program. The company helps, too, by providing tours of its Tulsa facilities and conducting mock interviews with students in our Tulsa*WORKS* and Supported Employment programs.

Community Partner
QuikTrip Corporation

QuikTrip employees are familiar with Goodwill donation carts. For more than 10 years, their employer has encouraged support of Goodwill by providing permanent donation sites at headquarters. The company has also donated time and expertise to help a fellow retailer continuously improve. Inspired by QuikTrip's outstanding customer service, Goodwill sought advice on ways to better serve our donors and retail customers. This conversation led to the introduction of customer service comment cards at stores and donation centers. QuikTrip also presented a workshop for Goodwill's Business Advisory Council to provide additional insights on excellence in customer service.

Community Partner
Tulsa City-County Health Department

The health department has collaborated with Goodwill to offer client assistance on a number of fronts: In monthly TulsaWORKS orientation meetings, the department introduces available health services that can help at-risk clients avoid or control medical conditions that might hinder their ability to work. Additionally, the department provides outreach through health assessments, screenings, immunizations, medical services and even supplies of diapers for the dependents of our clients in need. Finally, the department offers work opportunities through temporary jobs and internships. In fact, one of our clients found permanent employment with the health department following the successful completion of an internship.

Achiever of the Year
LaTricia Debose

LaTricia's story over the last 18 years has been one of steady, patient progress. Since her referral to Goodwill by a caring special education instructor, LaTricia has participated in a variety of Goodwill programs. These classes, along with job experience gained at Goodwill, have helped her face the challenges of raising twin girls as a single working mom. LaTricia took another big step toward self-sufficiency last year, moving her family from subsidized housing to an apartment of their own. Now in her fourth year as a dietary aide at Saint Frances Health Center, LaTricia looks forward to further milestones as she continues to make the most of coaching and training programs at Goodwill.

Employee of the Year
Carol Hart

In more than 30 years with Goodwill, Carol has worked in a variety of capacities at our processing facility. During that time she has become a loved and admired friend to all her coworkers. Carol's coworkers will tell you she's dedicated – always on time and rarely absent. And they'll tell you that Carol is the most caring and compassionate person you'll ever meet – she and her husband have spent untold hours of comforting the sick and lonely at area nursing homes. Carol's work at Goodwill and her services to others made her a Spirit Award winner in 1993 and 2006 ... and now our employee of the Year as well.

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.