

DECEMBER 2023

The Goodwill Grapevine

Monthly Organizational Updates



GOODWILL CONNECTING NEW EMPLOYEES TO ORGANIZATION

By David Oliver

As hard as it may be to believe, we are about to bring the year 2023 to a close! On December 22, we will gather at our annual Holiday Luncheon at Chandler Park to honor our Service and STAR Award winners with a great holiday meal, good fellowship, and festivities. We will also take time to reflect on the tremendous strides that we have made as an organization in 2023 that have allowed us to increase the impact of our mission.

In my column this month, I would like to focus on the revitalization of an old tradition at Goodwill Industries of Tulsa. For many years prior to COVID, we had a tradition of gathering all our new employees at the end of their benefit period for what was originally a 90-day update but is now a 60-day update due to changes in the waiting period for health benefits. The first thing we did was to change the name to “Goodwill Connect.” The reason for this change is that the purpose behind having all new employees come to 2800 Southwest Boulevard is much larger than just full-time employees signing up for benefits.

Our first Goodwill Connect meeting was in September, and we have modified the agenda over the past two months to arrive at an agenda that provides a well-rounded experience for all employees attending. All employees have an opportunity to meet with the leadership team at Goodwill, including myself. During that time, we learn more about each other and discuss Goodwill's mission and vision, accompanied by a deeper dive into Goodwill's values and how they impact our organization's culture. We also discuss Goodwill Industries International and Goodwill Tulsa's history, along with a preview of future projects/programs. After that, a Goodwill executive team member leads attendees through several topics designed to enhance your experience as a member of the Goodwill Team.

I am thrilled that we are bringing this back and expanding it under Goodwill Connect. We chose to call this Goodwill Connect because of the number of ways it allows us to connect with all new team members, allowing you to learn from us and for us to learn from you.

I would like to close by thanking all Goodwill team members for your hard work to make 2023 an outstanding year for Goodwill Tulsa. We have aggressive plans in place to increase our mission impact in the coming years, and I look forward to discussing them in a future Grapevine article. I hope to see many of you at the Holiday Luncheon on December 22.

Department Spotlight

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

By Karla Davis

Goodwill's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has big plans for 2024!

To begin, the household income limit has been raised to \$64,000, which will allow many more taxpayers to take advantage of Goodwill's free income tax preparation and filing services. With more people eligible for VITA and an increased award from the IRS, our goal is 5,700 tax returns in 2024, an increase of 14% over 2023.

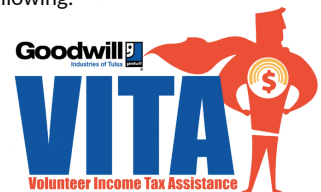
There are three ways you can help with this goal. The first way is to let us do your taxes in February and save the fee you would otherwise pay to a tax preparer. Second, share our VITA information with your family and friends. Finally, we are looking for volunteers for the upcoming season; training is free, and we need both tax preparers and helpers who do not prepare taxes.

VITA is not just an in-person opportunity but is available throughout Goodwill Tulsa's territory, including Missouri. For individuals living in the Tulsa area, there are both in-person and drop-off options by appointment. Remote tax prep is available for taxpayers who live outside the Tulsa area or taxpayers for whom transportation is an issue. Links and appointments will open in January 2024.

As always, we encourage you to have your tax refund direct deposited to your bank account. Direct deposit is the fastest, safest way to get your refund. This year, we will be offering an incentive for savers. If you save at least \$50 of your federal tax refund in a savings account, we will give you a \$20 QT gift card. Splitting your refund is easy!

As a taxpayer, you can take advantage of free tax preparation if you have one of the following:

- Household income of \$64,000 or less
- Household member with a disability
- Difficulty understanding English



You will need to bring (or upload):

- Social Security Cards for all individuals on the tax return
- Government-issued photo ID for yourself and your spouse (if you have a spouse)
- Birthdates for yourself and all others on your tax return
- All of your tax documents, including your W-2(s), Form(s) 1099, and Form 1095-A if you had marketplace insurance at any time during the year
- Banking information (ideally a check or a letter from the bank so we can clearly read the numbers)

We can even do your tax return if it includes income from small jobs or gig work (paid childcare, Door Dash, Lyft, etc.) if you have no inventory, and you will not report a loss on your work. Bring with you summaries of your income and all expenses, including mileage if the work involves driving.

Paydays

December
8 & 22

Holiday Luncheon

DECEMBER 22 | 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

CHANDLER PARK

FOOD, AWARDS,
DOOR PRIZES, STOCKINGS,
FESTIVE SWEATER CONTEST, AND
MERRIMENT

December Holiday

All locations will close at 4 p.m. on
Sunday, December 24.

All locations will be closed Monday,
December 25.



NYE Hours

All locations will close at 5 p.m. on
Sunday, December 31.

Admin, Goodwill Career Center,
Goodwill TulsaWORKS, and the Tulsa
Financial Empowerment Center will
be closed on Monday, January 1.

2024

Be sure to visit our newest
donation center at 101st & Mingo!

December Anniversaries

Billy Perkins - 12/12/2018
Kenneth Harrison - 12/27/2022
Doris Markham - 12/30/2022
Daniel Matzkvech - 12/30/2022
Josephine Elieisar - 12/14/2022
Joshua Lackey - 12/14/2022
Rebecca Chesser - 12/08/2021
Indira Artigas - 12/14/2020
Sarah Saltzberg - 12/21/2021

Elizabeth Campbell - 12/20/2004
Holly Harris - 12/14/2022
Steven Thelander - 12/14/2022
Joshlyn Finch - 12/28/2022
Stacy McCage - 12/23/2019
Naesion Douglas - 12/08/2021
Anthony Schroeder - 12/05/2022
Laura Kerr-Marrs - 12/29/2022
Jonathan Shacklett - 12/12/2005

Maceo Lucas - 12/04/1995
Kyle Lindemann - 12/11/2012
Debbie Hoffman - 12/28/2015
Clark Drummond - 12/06/2012
Claudia Zuaznabar - 12/14/2021
Xee Moua - 12/30/2022
Anna Payne - 12/09/2019
Dustin Barton - 12/16/2019
Dana Jordan - 12/26/2017



January Birthdays

2 - Joshua Lackey
3 - Morgan McKenzie
4 - Spencer Smith
4 - Kirstie Martin
4 - Janta Burnley
5 - Caitlin Carlson
6 - Gina Breedlove
6 - Josiah Stephens
6 - Katlin Walters
6 - Anya Marshall
7 - Jessica Stephenson
7 - Morgan Hance
7 - Lameka Miller
8 - Libby Lyon
8 - Lenny Romero

8 - Adamma McGrew
9 - Rylee Featherston
9 - Brittany Scott
10 - Roksina Sikichi
11 - Jesus Jaramillo
12 - Brook Losornio
12 - McKenzie Qualls
12 - Tina Maali
13 - Cynthia Simmons
13 - Kener Kesner
13 - Greg Andon
14 - Mattie Jordan
14 - Bridget Jones
15 - Alford Montgomery
15 - Jonathan Shacklett

15 - Jenna Fogg
15 - Jennifer Love
16 - Frank Dailey
16 - Christopher Kendall
16 - Ita Troglin
17 - Samantha McCarthy
17 - Shelli English
18 - Arthur Matzkvech
18 - Sherrie Pryor
21 - Taffine Price
21 - Felton Trammell
22 - Modisane Kwanza
22 - Anna Payne
23 - Angel Scott
24 - Anthony Schroeder

24 - Pernela Leon
25 - Myranda Freeman
25 - Hayden Hollander
26 - Scott Drobinko
26 - Lisa Uhl
26 - Sharon Ross
27 - Rebecca Lay
29 - Tracie Gotcher
30 - Kyle Campbell
30 - Brent Mitchell
30 - Rosanna Lee
31 - Felipe Caballero



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Emergency Infant Services is an emergency provider of items like formula, diapers, food, clothing, and more, focusing on the needs of children five and under and pregnant women. For more information, visit EISTulsa.org.

Salvation Army of Carthage provides Christmas toys and food to low-income families with children birth through 15 in Jasper and Newton counties in Missouri. Food is also provided to those 60 or older. Call 417-358-2262 for details.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 988. Trained staff answer calls from individuals at risk for suicide as well as those experiencing other mental health and substance use-related emergencies. Specialized services are offered to veterans, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other groups.

Christian Ministers Alliance offers Tulsa County residents Christmas food baskets and toys. Families can register by contacting their child's school counselor, school-based social worker, CAP, or Family & Children's Services. Call 918-587-9471 for details.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a no-cost program that helps lower-income Oklahoma households reduce their utility bills and increase energy efficiency. Contact your local Community Action Agency to apply. Find your local agency by calling 405-949-1495.

