

## Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow!

**DAVID E. OLIVER**  
President

With so many things happening at the same time it is difficult to decide which ones to focus on as I write my Grapevine column. That said, I plan to discuss a variety of topics along with a couple of special announcements this month.

From a work perspective, all facets of our organization are seeing and feeling the effects of the pandemic on our operations. We are receiving a high volume of donations that started when people chose to clean up their homes while we were in quarantine and is continuing currently as we experienced very high donation levels in August. This has created a backlog in our donated goods processing that we are working diligently to smooth out so that carts are available each day for our donation sites. The coronavirus pandemic has also impacted the number of individuals seeking the training services and employment opportunities that we offer, and we are experiencing reduced salvage revenues and store sales slightly below last year.

I want to reassure you that I have been involved with a number of national Goodwill phone calls and these problems are not unique to Goodwill Tulsa. Goodwill's all over the country are experiencing very similar issues. The Goodwill's that will be successful going forward are going to be the ones that can best adapt to our changing circumstances and that is what we are in the process of doing. We are making changes to improve the situation, so don't be surprised if we change the way we have done things in the past. It is necessary to address the changing landscape.

On a very exciting note, I am pleased to say that we will soon be moving forward on adding a new store and donation site in Bixby. We purchased the land for this site in July of 2019, but the construction plans were put on hold when the pandemic occurred. We have completed a re-design of the site to lower the construction costs and we hope to be breaking ground in the very near future.

Last month in this column Karla Davis talked about our Financial Navigator program that started in August

and she mentioned that Goodwill Tulsa had partnered with the City of Tulsa to apply to the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE) to begin offering a new service that would make Financial Counselors available to the citizens of Tulsa at no cost. I am extremely pleased to say that the funding has been approved and Goodwill will be operating the Financial Empowerment Center in combination with our VITA services at our 17<sup>th</sup> & Yale location beginning this fall. This is an extremely exciting chance for Goodwill to show the public the wide variety of services we are capable of offering. This has the potential to be a significant game changer for our organization and the public perception of who Goodwill is and what we do.

Lastly I would like to share some thoughts with you. As many of you know we are moving our orientation materials to on-line to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings that we have and I recently reviewed the completed version of our 60 Day Check-In video. One of the key topics at the 60 Day Check-In is our organizational values. Our organizational values are as follows:

**Integrity:** We strive to meet the highest standards of ethics and accountability.

**Respect:** We treat all people with dignity and respect.

**Commitment:** We are resolved as individuals and as an organization to the fulfillment of our mission.

**Diversity:** We embrace diversity in the individuals we serve, the programs we offer and among the workforce that makes up our organization.

**Empowerment:** We provide services that help people help themselves.

In light of everything that is taking place in our country today, it is imperative that all of us at Goodwill Tulsa embrace these values. These values have allowed us to grow and prosper in prior years and they are what are going to see us through the current obstacles we face, allowing us to emerge as a stronger more vibrant organization going forward.

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### **Goodwill Pay Periods**

Friday, September 4, 2020

Friday, September 18, 2020

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2800 Southwest Blvd.  
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Editor: Nancy Webster, Community Relations Director

## Shop Goodwill Stores For Your Halloween Costumes & Accessories!!!



### Retail: August 2020

August, 2020 has continued to be another March thru July 2020; sales are down, customer count is down. With the exception; thankfully, average sale has stayed higher than trend. We are happy that the customers that are shopping; they have been spending more on each transaction. We definitely need more customers to come shop. We will continue to listen to our customer and try to provide them with the best merchandise that has been donated.

The Annual - Oklahoma Tax Free Weekend, August 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>.. DID NOT produce the sales expected. It is understandable families not knowing if kids are going back school or if they'll continue to virtual studying from home. It's a big decision spending money on school clothes, athletic and lounge wear.

#### AUGUST SALES:

MTD: Actual 2020 vs 2019 -7.6%

MTD: Actual 2020 vs Goal - 5.3%

#### OKLAHOMA TAX FREE WEEKEND SALE:

Actual 2020 vs 2019 -15.1%

Actual 2020 vs Goal - 14.8%



## Still Feeling Stressed?

As we move into September, the stresses continues to build in our everyday lives. We've just finished the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter training video, Stress Management in the Workplace and Beyond, so I thought it best to give you a visual reminder of the SBNRR technique that was covered in the video. Remember – when you're feeling stressed, make all efforts to cool off by taking a ride on the Siberian North Railroad!

## Siberian North Railroad Technique

**STOP**

Stop what you're doing before reacting.

**BREATHE**

Calm your mind and relax your nerves.

**NOTICE**

What are you feeling?

**REFLECT**

Why are you feeling this way?

**RESPOND**

Respond from a place of control.

## VITA Notes

KARLA DAVIS  
Finance & IT Director

### Payroll Tax Withholding

You may have heard recently that the President signed an Executive Order allowing deferral of payroll taxes. The IRS issued some guidance on applying this Executive Order on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Their guidance left many questions unanswered. However, at this time, it looks to be optional for employers to participate. Goodwill has opted not to defer payment of your payroll taxes.

Deferral of the permitted taxes would have left employees owing those taxes beginning in January 2021, which is a difficult time right after the holidays to begin making extra tax payments!

If additional guidance changes this decision, Goodwill will communicate that to you.



# GOODWILL CREATIVE SERVICES

## USA TODAY AMERICA RESPONDS

Goodwill Industries International secured a *donated* full-page ad in USA TODAY, America Responds edition! (right>)

The ad promotes the critical resources available for our communities at Goodwill.

**Thank you, Goodwill employees.  
You help make our mission possible!**



COVID-19 has forced everyone to take a step **back**

**Goodwill® is here to help people move forward**

As the leading workforce development nonprofit, our purpose is to help you build skills, find in-demand jobs and advance your career. If your job has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, we have resources to help you get back on your feet and on a better path.

Take the next step: [goodwill.org/forward](https://goodwill.org/forward)



## GOODWILL ACTIVITIES

If you follow us on social media, you have seen the stacks of content we are sharing of the many activities going on at Goodwill!

- Back To School + Nat'l Thrift Shop Day
- Financial Wellness with VITA (tax filing)
- New Financial Navigator program
- TulsaWORKS Virtual Courses
- Virtual Job Board
- Virtual Hiring Events
- United Way Day of Caring Food Drive
- Recruitment for open positions at Goodwill





## Well-Child Visits Are Essential

In recent months, families have been doing their part by staying at home as much as possible to help stop the spread of COVID-19. As communities open up, it is important your child goes in for their well-child visit. These **well-child visits are essential for many reasons**, including:

- Tracking growth and development including milestones, social behaviors, and learning
- Discussing any concerns about your child's health
- Getting scheduled vaccinations to prevent illnesses like measles and whooping cough (pertussis) and [12 other serious diseases](#)



Did you know that there were several outbreaks of measles and whooping cough in recent years? These diseases are extremely contagious and can be very serious, especially for babies and young children. As schools and day-cares also begin to reopen, protecting children against these and other diseases makes these vaccinations particularly important.

Call your doctor's office to see what special measures they might have in place. Many offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time, like:

- Scheduling sick visits and well-child visits during different times of the day
- Asking patients to remain outside until they are called into the facility to reduce crowding in waiting rooms
- Offering sick visits and well-child visits in different locations

If you need help paying for vaccines, ask your child's doctor or nurse about the [Vaccines for Children program](#). This program provides free vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native.

These are challenging times, but **you have the power to help keep your child healthy**. Making sure that your child sees their doctor for well-child visits and vaccines is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and community.

### What about the Flu Vaccine for Kids?

The CDC has the following recommendations:

**A yearly flu vaccine** is the best way to protect your child from flu and its potentially serious complications.

### Why should my child get a flu vaccine?

- Reduces the risk of flu illness and hospitalization among children.
- Shown to be life-saving for children.
- Can make illness less severe among people who get vaccinated but still get sick with flu.
- Reduces the risk of illness, which can keep your child from missing school or childcare and you from having to miss work.
- Reduces the high risk of developing serious flu complication especially if your child is younger than 5 years, or of any age with certain chronic conditions.
- Helps prevent spreading flu to family and friends, including babies younger than 6 months who are too young to get a flu vaccine.

### When should my child get a flu vaccine?

Doctors recommend that your child get a flu vaccine every year in the fall, starting when he or she is 6 months old. Some children 6 months through 8 years of age may need two doses for best protection.

- CDC recommends a flu vaccine by the end of October, before flu begins spreading in your community. Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later.

*(continued on next page) ....*

## (Well Child Visits ... continued from previous page)

- Children 6 months through 8 years getting a flu vaccine for the first time, and those who have only previously gotten one dose of flu vaccine, should get two doses of vaccine. The first dose should be given as soon as vaccine becomes available.
- If your child previously got two doses of flu vaccine (at any time), he only needs one dose of flu vaccine this season.

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone ages six months and older. Pregnant women should get a flu vaccine during each pregnancy. Flu vaccines given during pregnancy help protect both the mother and her baby from flu.

### What vaccines protect against flu?

- For the 2020-2021 flu season, CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older.
- **Flu shots** can be given to your child 6 months and older.

**The nasal spray vaccine** can be given to people 2 through 49 years of age. However, certain people with underlying medical conditions should not get the [nasal spray vaccine](#).

- Your child's doctor will know which vaccines are right for your child.

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## Taxes ...

MODI KWANZA  
VITA Coordinator

### VITAL News

Last month, we gave an update for VITA overall. In case you were curious, here is how our Virtual VITA process specifically performed. These statistics are from June 5, when we launched remote tax prep through GetYourRefund.org, and July 16, the morning after the tax filing deadline:

Virtual VITA Season including GYR partnership (6/5 to 7/16)	
Number of tax returns filed	170
Amount of tax refunds	\$56,543
Amount of EIC claimed	\$21,779

(Text only version, in case there is trouble converting for mobile Virtual VITA Season including GYR partnership (6/5-7/16) ... Number of tax returns filed ... 170 ... Amount of tax refunds ... \$56,543 ... Amount of EIC claimed ... \$21,779)

It felt wild, fast-moving, even uncertain. At midnight July 15, it felt fantastic to have helped those taxpayers file their returns on time.

If you know people who still need their 2019 tax returns completed or help with prior years, tell them our summer tax prep season will run until September 25. They can get help signing up in-person at Goodwill VITA Central (Yale Avenue) on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., or visiting [www.getyourrefund.org/?s=GITOK](http://www.getyourrefund.org/?s=GITOK).

Our Financial Navigators are also ready to help people who need immediate financial management support due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Register at <https://finnav.org/interest-tulsa> or call 211.

To date, our Navigators have completed 57 sessions and have made 413 referrals. We plan to continue the service through May.

**We expect to have a BIG ANNOUNCEMENT next issue. Be well.**

# Finances

KARLA DAVIS  
Finance & IT Director

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## Did You Know ...

... there are **59 partner agencies** that make up the Tulsa Area United Way,

... **5,000+ volunteer hours contributed** to assess and recommend wise investments of your dollars,

... **95 cabinet & board volunteers** assessed recommendations and determined the final campaign goal,

... **\$26+ million dollars raised in 2019** by over 1,000 companies and more than 30,000 contributors.



**Thousands of people helped every day!!!**

(in Tulsa, Creek, Rogers, Okmulgee, Osage, and Wagoner counties)

**LIVE UNITED!!!**

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

***Your Pledge Matters. Tulsa Area United Way!!!***

***... Goodwill's campaign will take place virtually this year ...***

**Watch for details coming soon.**

# ANNUAL FLU SHOT CLINIC

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020



**DOTTIE BLUE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**SHOTS ADMINISTERED  
"BY APPOINTMENT ONLY"  
SIGN-UP WILL BEGIN ON  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

- Processing—see Supervisor for sign-up sheet.
- 2800 Admin team—see Eddie at Front Desk.
- All other departments & locations management will receive sign up sheet via email for their teams.

ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED.  
VOUCHERS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR  
THOSE WITHOUT INSURANCE

**Goodwill**   
Industries of Tulsa



# Meet Your Co-Workers

**Meet  
Kima Kame**



Kima has been working for Goodwill since October 2019 as a Wares Sorter. She keeps busy with her 6 children and twelve grandchildren. Her favorite sports teams are OU, OSU and TU. She also enjoys spending time with family and hopes some day to go on a cruise.

**Meet  
Sermetirus Lawrence**



MiMi, as she likes to be called, works for Goodwill as a Textile Sorter. She has worked for Goodwill since May 2020. She says the best part of her job is learning new things and meeting new people. MiMi is a Dallas Cowboy fan as well as an OKC Thunder fan. To be able to spend more time with her 4 kids and 1 grandchild is her wish! A trip to Jamaica, she says would be ideal!!!

**Meet  
Erika Ceja**



Erika is originally from Sacramento, California. She has worked at Goodwill since November 2019. She says the best part of her job is her co-workers. She is a basketball fan of the Oakland Raiders, the Warriors and the Kings. Her idea of a fun vacation would be a trip to Italy or France.

**Meet  
Jameka Kimble**



Jameka, who likes to be called "Meka", has worked at Goodwill since December 2019. She is a Sorter in the Processing Department. Outside of work she is busy with her seven children and two grandchildren. Meka enjoys Thunder basketball and hopes someday to go to Hawaii.

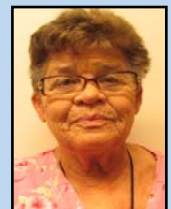
**Meet  
Katrina Couch**



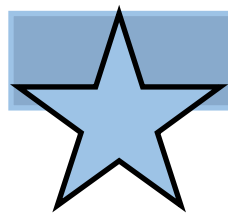
Katrina or "Kat" as she prefers to be addressed works for Goodwill as a Processing Textile Sorter. She has one child. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with family relaxing and playing games. Her ideal vacation would be a trip to Japan when the cherry blossoms are in bloom!

*Take a moment  
next time you see  
one of these  
new employees  
and welcome them  
to Goodwill!!!*

**Meet  
Anna Payne**



Anna has worked for Goodwill in the Janitorial Department since December 2019. She says she loves everything about her job! Anna has eight children & 15 grandchildren. She enjoys watching the Dallas Cowboys play football and going fishing in her spare time.



## August New Hires



Please extend a warm welcome to our  
new employees for August:

**Donation Attendants:** Christopher Guinan, Robert Jenkins, **Sales Associates:** Jenniferlee Johnson, Caden Hall, **Processing:** Joanna Lara Vaes, Casey Lindsey, Lynda Long, Caley Michaels, Daniel Owens, Socorro Patton, Brittani Stout, **Employment Specialist:** Andres Perez, **Driver:** Ralph Summers

## September Anniversaries

**Congratulations!!!**

Your commitment and dedication to Goodwill Industries of Tulsa is very much appreciated!!

**1 Year:** Myesha Clayton, Teri Kelley, Sherrie Pryor, Glenda Selsor, Madison Thomas, Isabelle Walker

**2 Years:** Carrie Standridge, Dee Allen, Mitchell Bryant, Heather Golden, Carl Stage, Diane Tolsma

**3 Years:** Jeffrey Daniel, Alan Atkinson, Kelsey Bledsoe, Aubrey Councilman, Angela Stellfox

**4 Years:** Parrish McDaris

**5 Years:** Janet Harbert, Melvin Hildebrand, Lorena Lyons

**6 Years:** Lori McKenzie, Kenneth Anthony

**7 Years:** Morgan McKenzie, Liz Kallin

**8 Years:** Anita Headrick

**9 Years:** Cornelia Korell-Clevenger

**10 Years:** Dylisia Markham, Rachele Pederson

**16 Years:** Kim Downs

**18 Years:** Gary Albright

**20 Years:** Derrick Broughton

**28 Years:** Karla Davis

## October Birthdays



Kay Behar—10/1  
Jennifer Nobile—10/1  
William Barrett—10/2  
John Taber—10/2  
Kenneth Anthony—10/6  
Careissa Deshone—10/9  
Jayme Patchett—10/9  
Alicia Younger—10/9  
Michael Nees—10/10  
Elliot Ward—10/11  
Jacob Smith—10/12  
Jeff Detjen—10/13  
Magyn Passmore—10/13  
David Keith Weaver—10/13  
Cathy Kantu—10/15  
Judy Mahoney-Freeman—10/15  
Kayla Sittton—10/15  
Steven Holmes—10/16  
Lois Mayo—10/16  
Delmond Scott—10/16  
Edwynna Castillo—10/18  
Ellen Mize—10/19  
Carleen McClung—10/20  
Renee Falkner—10/21  
Melanie Morose—10/21  
Dewayne Dotson—10/22  
Kelly Perez—10/23  
Aaron Thompson—10/23  
Ruth Lobmeyer—10/24  
Michael Belsher—10/27  
Evelyn Shoals—10/27  
Linda Smith—10/27  
Stephanie Bodman—10/28  
Erik Harbin—10/28  
Rick Langston—10/28  
Miyeccehoshebaviadyrri Robinson—10/28  
Kristielynn Paddock—10/30  
Andrea Richardson—10/30  
Tonia Turner—10/30  
Joshua Boyles—10/31  
Cierra Copeland—10/31  
Tommy Friend—10/31  
Tina Yates—10/31

## Job Openings

If you know someone who is looking for a job, Goodwill's Human Resources Department would like for you to refer that person to us.

**Openings are subject to change:**

**2800 & Warehouse**—Material Handlers, Sorters, Utility Processors, Categorizer, Bin Goods Lead, Forklift Driver

**Retail**—Sales Associates, Book Clerk, Assistant Manger & Customer Service Manager

**Offsite**—Janitor Floor Specialist, Janitor, Donation Attendants

**Vocational Services**— Program Manager

**TulsaWORKS**— Career Navigator/ Forklift

**For anyone interested in applying for an open position:** The Goodwill Job Application is available on-line at [www.goodwilltulsa.org](http://www.goodwilltulsa.org)