

THE NEWS LETTER

FALL 2020



Our mission is to provide work opportunities, job training and support services for people with disabilities or other employment barriers.

ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

After serving in the Marine Corps for four years, Kyle Meyer left the service in 2011. He'd gained experience in IT during his military career. So, it was logical for Kyle to accept an IT job when entering civilian life. But when the company made changes that led to cuts in 2016, Kyle was laid off.

Friends suggested Kyle take a job in security while he looked for his next IT opportunity. They told him Goodwill TulsaWORKS Career Academy (TWCA) was the most cost-effective way to become CLEET certified, a requirement for most security positions.

He connected with Securitas while at TWCA and accepted a position with them providing security at a refinery in Tulsa. He quickly moved up the ranks, earning three total promotions, most recently as the district manager for the company's mobile guarding division.

"I felt like I was making a difference in my Security role."

"Kyle is a genuine good person," Securitas Human Resources Manager Christie says. "He has worked hard and has helped people along the way," she says. "He is an achiever."

This year Goodwill recognizes Kyle Meyer as its Achiever of the Year. "Not only does he embody what TWCA is all about," Goodwill Career Coach Adam says, "but he plays an active role in our current Private Security training classes."

Kyle returns to TWCA as a guest speaker. "Each class Kyle spends time informing current students about possible career paths," Adam says. "He's a great resource for those who are looking for a career in security."

"It's an honor to receive this award," Kyle says. "But it is Goodwill who lays the groundwork. I hope my example helps others see what's possible and achieve their own success."



GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

As a toddler Shawn woke up with a 110-degree fever and began to seizure. This single episode resulted in permanent brain damage causing short-term memory loss.

With the help of family, Shawn relearned walking and talking and began his education at home. Shawn transitioned to Public Schools in 11th and 12th grade then began the long struggle of finding and keeping a job.

"It was very hard for me to get a job," Shawn says. "My disability made it hard to learn and apply the things a job needs me to do."

That didn't stop Shawn from pursuing the life he wanted. But when his wife of 18 years tragically passed away, Shawn knew he needed help securing a solid career path.

His mother connected Shawn to Goodwill, knowing he needed a job coach. "Out of all the clients I have worked with, Shawn had one of the hardest backgrounds," Goodwill Job Coach Scott says. "He had the hardest time getting a job. And when he did, it wasn't a good job match. All Shawn needed was guidance. We wrote out his skills and found him a good match!"

Shawn began work at Lowe's in 2018, part-time and seasonal. But he quickly moved up the ranks as his supervisor saw his work ethic and dedication to the job.

"Shawn has excelled," Scott says. "He is now an assistant manager who oversees a team in the warehouse."

Shawn has remarried, bought a home and spends time with his five grandchildren. "I would not have this awesome job if it wasn't for Goodwill," Shawn says. "They took the time to sit and help me understand myself and what's out there for me."



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Allen joined the Goodwill Tulsa team in 2007. He reports to work at the OSU Medical Center under Goodwill's Group Worksites program for persons with disabilities. Here Allen spends most of his shift completing his assigned janitorial duties under the supervision of his job coach Malita. "I've worked directly with Allen for the past 10 years," Malita says. "I am so proud of him for earning the Goodwill Employee of the Year award."

She is not the only one to notice Allen's great work ethic. He has gained a reputation around the building as hardworking, dedicated, friendly and helpful.

"Allen serves as a daily reminder to be joyful," Jennifer Calvert the Director of Operations at OSU Medical Center says. "He is a great example of a star employee."

When Allen isn't impressing people at work, he is staying active. He enjoys playing basketball, bowling, fishing and winning against his friends in pool. Allen is proud of the paycheck he earns and that it not only allows him to live independently, but also funds his hobbies on the weekends. Allen is always quick to tell you about his important work. "I love my job," Allen says, "because I get to work with a lot of people, doctors, nurses and my coworkers."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Have you ever sat around thinking of ways to improve your community? Then actually teamed up with like-minded people to see those ideas through? Well that's exactly what Dynamic Solutions, Workforce Tulsa, AAON, Webster High School and Goodwill TulsaWORKS Career Academy did!

After a single meeting at a local coffee shop, these organizations teamed up to show juniors and seniors at Webster High School what it means to do work.

Workforce Tulsa/Dynamic Solutions sponsored 19 students to attain credentials in both OSHA 10 and Forklift Operator. Tulsa Community College taught the OSHA 10 portion of the course while Goodwill TulsaWORKS taught the operation portion on three different types of forklifts. Following the students technical training graduation, Webster students attended an internship with AAON.

"Through this partnership the students gained transferable

employability skills and participated in real-world work experience," Stephanie Cameron, the Community Relations Administrator at AAON said. "This collaboration provided connections for the students beyond their school walls, and some of them have transitioned into full-time roles at an essential business during these unprecedented times."

Program graduate Mya now works for XPO Logistics as a Dock Worker. "The program made me aware of all the opportunities out there for me in the manufacturing industry," Mya says. "I most enjoyed the OSHA 10 training we received because that is useful everywhere when it comes to the jobs I want to apply for. This program has opened up jobs and training that I never knew about before."

In addition to the training, all students had the opportunity to open their own checking accounts with the help of Central Bank of Oklahoma. This was a crucial step toward

employment for these students since most employers pay direct deposit.

Over 84% of program participants graduated the two courses, earning credentials in both OSHA 10 and Forklift Operator. "The team approach between partners is the purest form of collaboration," Sabrina Ware the Director of Goodwill TulsaWORKS Career Academy says. "Because of this, the results are tangible."

Goodwill and Workforce Tulsa/Dynamic Solutions have always been strong advocates for each other's programs. But this program gave the two organizations a chance to combine their services. This is why Workforce Tulsa/Dynamic Solutions are Goodwill's Community Partners of the Year. "We were honored to be a part of such a great collaborative program," Rachel Hutchings the Executive Director of Workforce Tulsa says. "This program exemplified our common mission to improve lives with a path to employment."



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Customer Appreciation Day

25% off total purchase



- October 30
- December 30

Half Price Clothing

50% off all men's, women's and children's clothing

HALF

- October 17
- December 5

Senior Day

55+ receive 25% off total purchase



- October 6 & 20
- November 3 & 17
- December 1 & 15

Holiday Sales



- November 11 - Veteran's Day 25% off total purchase
- November 27 - Black Friday 25% off total purchase
- December 26 - Half-Price Christmas clothing & wares



SHOP HALLOWEEN





ENSURE YOUR PEACE OF MIND

People from all walks of life have started to create bucket lists – things they hope to do before the end of the year. There are many

excuses made when it comes to completing an estate plan. However, ensuring peace of mind for you and your loved ones should always be a priority.

Take the steps today to negate stress for you and those you love –

knowing they will be cared for according to your wishes if the unexpected were to happen. Contact our Legacy Giving Office to take advantage of these complimentary services. Call 918.491.0079 to schedule your appointment today.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

The Free Tax Preparation Service, VITA, operated at 5 locations until mid-March, when all of our sites closed due to COVID-19. In June, we launched our remote tax preparation service by joining Get Your Refund's national Virtual VITA pilot with 50 other VITA programs and partnered with Tulsa Responds to provide online and telephone-based intake, tax prep, return review and filing. This allowed us to continue to serve clients online through May.

In early June we reopened one location as an intake-only site where our team assisted those who did not have access to reliable internet or those who simply needed help uploading their tax documents. All other aspects of the service were handled remotely. Goodwill's volunteers completed nearly 1,500 tax returns, 170 through GetYourRefund.org, through July 15th, the COVID-extended regular tax filing deadline. While our volunteers missed the in-person interaction with our taxpayers, we are pleased to be able to finish out the regular tax season safely.

Our Summer Tax site located at VITA Central operates through September 25, and will continue to provide virtual tax preparation. If you or someone you know still needs to file a tax return for 2017, 2018 or 2019, get started at www.goodwilltulsa.org/freetaxprep.

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128 W. George Phelps, **Carthage, MO**

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1210 E. 41st St (41st and Peoria)

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Joplin

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