

The Goodwill Grapevine

Monthly Organizational Updates



WELCOME NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS TO THE GOODWILL TULSA FAMILY

By David Oliver

The last Grapevine column that I wrote in February congratulated Doug & Nancy Webster on their retirement from Goodwill Tulsa and thanked them for their many years of outstanding work in support of our mission. This month I want to introduce you to two individuals that we have recently hired to join our leadership team, as we position our organization to continue growing our mission in the future.

Ron Meijerink has been hired to serve as Goodwill Industries of Tulsa's Chief Operating Officer (COO). Under our new structure, the COO will report directly to me and will be responsible for overseeing all our programs. Ron's first day with Goodwill Tulsa was March 14th, and many of you have already had an opportunity to meet him as he has been out visiting many of our locations.

Ron is originally from the Netherlands and worked for a clothing manufacturing company in Jamaica before getting married and ultimately settling in McAllen, Texas. Ron took a position with Goodwill Industries of South Texas in Corpus Christi in their disability training programs before being promoted to oversee a large expansion into the Rio Grande Valley that involved building and opening seven new stores. Ron left Goodwill of South Texas after being recruited to become the Executive Director of the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley. After a short time away from Goodwill, Ron had an opportunity to become the COO for Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay in Oakland, California where he served for two years before the Oakland Goodwill merged with the San Francisco Goodwill.



Ron Meijerink

Newsletter Highlights

Employee Referral Program

March Retail Review

Bank On Tulsa Expanding

The Dangers of Distracted Driving

New Hires

April Paydays:

15th & 29th



Julie Rettinger has been hired to serve as Goodwill Industries of Tulsa's Chief Marketing & Development Officer. In this role, Julie will be responsible for all internal and external marketing including digital, as well as all our fundraising and development efforts. Julie's first day with Goodwill Tulsa will be on Monday, April 18th.

Julie worked in investment banking for Rothschild & Co. in London and New York before working for the Montpelier Foundation as the Director of Corporate and Foundation Giving. In 2012 Julie went to work for Rappahannock Goodwill Industries in Fredericksburg, Virginia where she most recently served as the Vice President of Branding & Chief Administrative Officer. During her time in Fredericksburg, Julie completed Goodwill Industries International's Executive Development Program.

I am extremely pleased to welcome both Ron & Julie to Tulsa, Oklahoma and to the Goodwill Tulsa family. I believe that with the addition of Ron & Julie to the leadership team members we already have in place, we are taking the steps necessary to construct a leadership team that has the ability to significantly grow our mission impact in the coming years.



Julie Rettinger

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE WITH GOODWILL TULSAWORKS

By Dustin Barton

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Goodwill TulsaWORKS Career Academy helped Trey transition into a career he loves.

The former construction worker says he enjoyed his old job, but cycles of layoffs made him wary of staying in the industry.

"I remember looking around and seeing a lot of the older folks starting over again from the ground and working back up after getting laid off," says Trey.

After losing his job himself, Trey came to Goodwill TulsaWORKS looking to get into a more stable industry. He wanted to work in the IT Industry, but lacked the GED required to enroll in IT certifications. While working in private security, Trey went through TulsaWORKS' Unarmed Private Security training. After obtaining that certification, Trey used his free time to continue taking classes at TulsaWORKS.

"I picked up a few computer-based certifications while I was studying for my GED. As soon as I received my GED, I went back to TulsaWORKS for the Google IT Support Professional training."

Trey excelled in the Google IT course, completing the seven-month training in only three months. Trey impressed the staff at Goodwill so much, that he was hired on as a system administrator at Goodwill Tulsa.

"I'm in the field I want to be in. I have more work and learning left to do, but I managed to get to where I am today thanks to all of the help I received at Goodwill."



MARCH RETAIL REVIEW

By Vanessa Pelton

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March has shown lots of ups and downs with the weather this year. It's a good thing the retail stores had a little bit of everything for our customers this month. From sweaters to shorts, people were shopping. Our March ½ price sale was a huge success and we would like to thank everyone from processing and the retail stores who put in so much hard work to make that happen.

Results from March ½ price sale: **+10.4% over goal.**

March 2022 Goal:

+2.3%

March 2022 vs March 2021:

+11.4%

Customer Count vs March 2021:

+4848

Average Sale vs March 2021:

\$21.91 vs \$21.02

Congratulations to the following teams who made their March goals:

Glenpool +9.3%

Claremore +9.0%

SW Blvd +7.6%

B.A. +7.4%

Bartlesville +5.5%

Joplin +5.0%






Stonecreek +2.8%

Garnett +1.6%

McAlester +.03%

As we move forward into spring, stores will see even more spring/summer clothing including tanks, shorts, swimsuits and sandals. In April we are having our Easter sale on Friday, April 15th - get 25% off your entire purchase. We will be having our Customer Appreciation Sale at the end of the month on Friday, April 29th!

Remember all stores are closed on Sunday, April 17th for Easter.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 	16
17 	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 	30



APRIL 2022



Senior Day
55+ receive 25 %
off total purchase



Good Friday Sale
25% off of total
purchase



Easter Sunday
All locations closed



**Customer
Appreciation Day**
25 % off total
purchase

YOUR DEDICATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

"David & Paul (truck drivers) are amazing. I just needed to tell you what incredible workers they are. Our backroom was packed, and the rain was beginning to fall when they arrived. They didn't know what was waiting for them. They picked up 32 empty z-bars, 5 full hanger trollies, 22 full return z-bars and 6 supply carts. They brought us 16 z-bars and 15 carts. They did all this in the rain and an occasional downpour. David's experience and vision orchestrated a flawless switch-out without any merchandise damaged from the rain. I was in awe. Just wanted you to know how much I appreciated them today. "

-Rochelle Cowan
2nd Assistant Manager, Glenpool

VITA & FEC UPDATE

By Modi Kwanza

mkwanza@goodwilltulsa.org

We've got a bit to catch up on, so let's get rolling.

At Goodwill VITA

We have new members on our VITA tax team.

Victoria Annesley is our new (and first) VITA Program Manager. She comes with a background in accounting and VITA experience. She will oversee the daily operations at the sites and be a point of contact for volunteers and clients. For now, her home base is at South Annex. We are very glad to have you, Victoria!

Suan Huai is our second VITA Specialist. She will work with reaching taxpayers in the Burmese (Zomi) community. She is an alum of Oral Roberts University and a former interpreter for Jenks Public Schools. Once she completes her training, she will work at the VITA sites. During the off-tax season, she will conduct outreach to make connections with local organizations for potential tax sites and/or bilingual VITA volunteers. Welcome, Suan!

Traffic patterns at the VITA sites have fluctuated just like our wacky weather. That said, we have processed 1,551 returns for \$3.4 million in refunds. We have heard that clients like that we now make appointments because it reduces the wait times on site. The numbers are down for virtual tax preparation which confirms that our clients want the in-person experience. (Our volunteers do as well.)

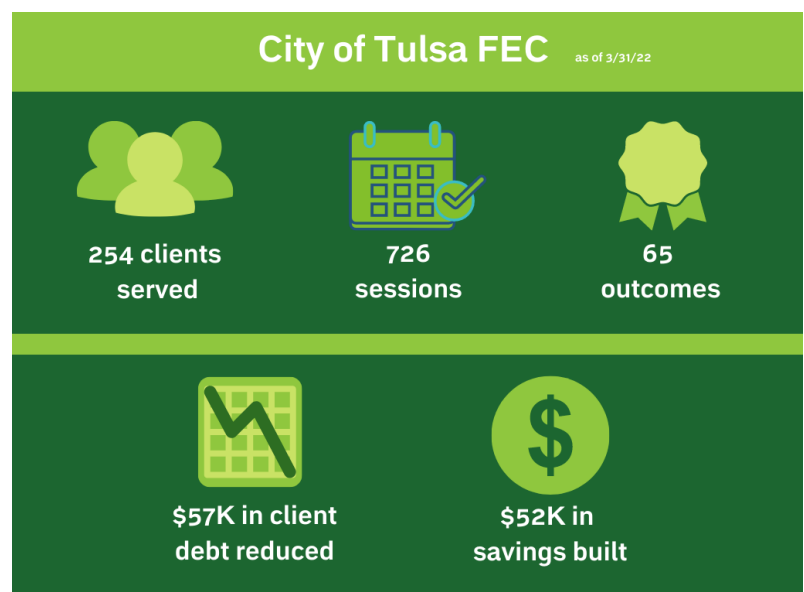
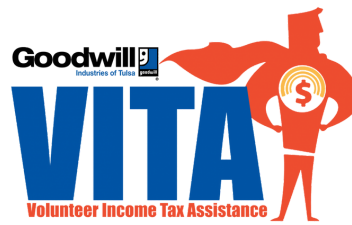
The tax deadline is approaching. The VITA sites are open through April 18th. Our summer tax session will run from June 6 through September 27, Mondays, and Tuesdays from 9 to 1 at VITA Central/Tulsa Financial Empowerment Center (Yale Avenue). Appointments for in-person tax preparation can be made at GoodwillTulsa.org/FreeTaxPrep for all sites, including Saturdays at Southwest Blvd. You can call 918-802-7279 ext. 330 for help if needed.

At the Tulsa FEC

The FEC has now served 254 clients, with 61% of clients having had two or more sessions. We gained 16 new clients in February and 35 new clients in March. Interesting tidbit: The week of March 6 had the highest number of sessions, 23. That happened the comparable week last year when we had 22 sessions. Maybe the talk of taxes puts people in a mood to look at their finances.

Our online marketing efforts are beginning to bear fruit. The Google Map has now had 1,390 views and it generated 20 direct calls last month compared with five in February. The City of Tulsa's social media posts are getting more shares and likes as well.

Facebook: Resilient Tulsa



#FECPublic



BankOn Tulsa

By Kelsey Schultz

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Bank On Tulsa had a successful coalition launch on March 22nd. We had representatives from Tulsa area financial institutions, community organizations, and federal regulators in attendance. At the launch, we announced our two newest Bank On certified accounts at Bank of Oklahoma and Commerce Bank. We are very thankful to partner with these two banks and look forward to their continued participation in our coalition.

Bank On Tulsa is also in the process of working with several other financial institutions in the Tulsa area, so we will hopefully be adding even more of these awesome accounts throughout the year.

As a reminder, these safe and affordable accounts have no overdraft fees, a maximum monthly fee of \$5, and require \$25 or less for an opening deposit. On the financial wellness page of the Goodwill website, there is a chart comparing the different features of our accounts, with links to where you can open an account online.

Bank On Tulsa is also staying busy presenting financial wellness classes and seminars. If you have a group that you would like a class presented to, contact Kelsey Schultz.

A MESSAGE FROM THE U.S. TREASURY:

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, tax credits for American families and workers are historically large for the 2021 tax year. Are you confident you're aware of all the tax credits for which you are eligible?

To be sure you get all the help and support these tax credits can provide, you must file your 2021 taxes. Even if you don't normally file your taxes and didn't earn enough income to be required to file taxes in 2021, you should still file a tax return.

The tax benefits you may potentially receive can help you invest in your future, or your family's future. These tax credits are not considered income for any family or worker, so they will not change the amount you receive from any other Federal benefits, including unemployment insurance, Medicaid, SNAP (formerly food stamps), SSI, SSDI, TANF, WIC, Section 8, or Public Housing. Claiming these tax credits will also not affect your immigration status, ability to get a green card or future eligibility for immigration benefits.

There are no limitations or restrictions on how you can spend your Child Tax Credit or Earned Income Tax Credit. You simply must file a tax return by April 18, 2022, if possible. And it doesn't have to be intimidating. Visit www.ChildTaxCredit.gov/triage for more information and free tools to file a return before the April 18, 2022 deadline. If you cannot file by the deadline, file as soon as possible.



THE DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

By Jay Castoe

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Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 3,142 lives in 2019. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America's roads safe.

What is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 MPH, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Get Involved

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving.

Teens

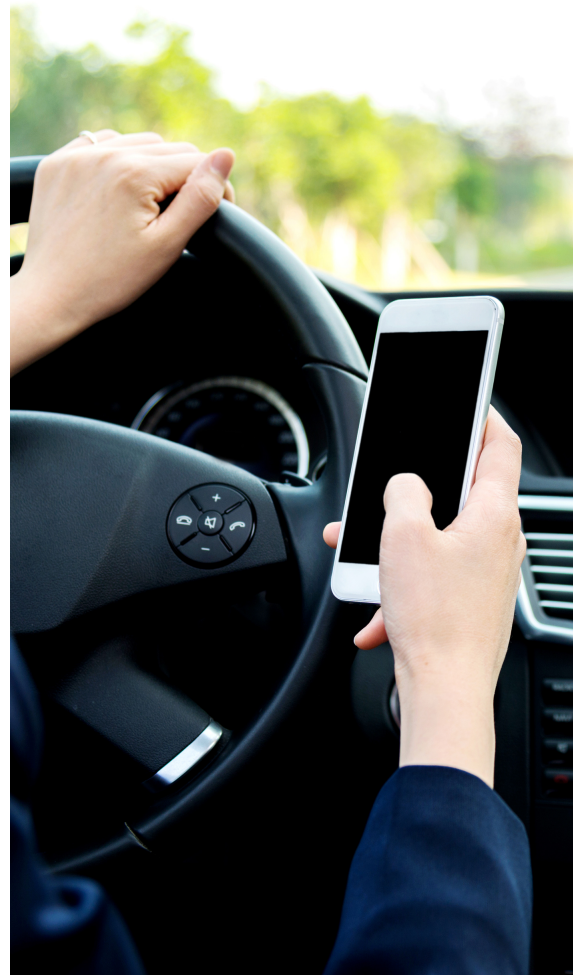
Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family, and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents

Parents first must lead by example – by never driving distracted – as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving.

Educators and Employers

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving.



EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM

Earn Up to \$150 (Less Taxes)

By Kameryn Chapman

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Who is eligible for the Referral Bonus Program?

All Goodwill Team Members except those who are responsible for candidate placement, recruiting and hiring, and the leadership team (i.e. V.P.s, Directors, Coordinators, Supervisors, Managers, Job Connection Staff and HR employees are excluded).

What you can look forward to?

The applicant you refer could begin a promising new career, and Goodwill would gain a valuable new member of our team. You will receive a \$50 bonus payment (less taxes) if the candidate you referred is hired and is employed for at least 30 days. In addition, you will receive another \$100 (less taxes) if the candidate is employed for at least 90 days.



How it works

You're invited to refer people you've worked with, your family and friends, and people you meet in your everyday life. To refer an individual, complete a Candidate Referral form and submit it to Kameryn Chapman, Human Resources. Encourage your candidate to view and apply for current open positions posted on our career site: goodwilltulsa.org/jobs. The candidate's qualifications will be reviewed for the position applied for. If there is a match, Goodwill will contact your referral to arrange an interview.

Note: You must be an active Goodwill Team Member at the time of the award to receive it. Please review the official Terms and Conditions for additional information.

Employee Referral Program Terms and Conditions

1. V.P.s, Directors, Coordinators, Supervisors, Store Managers, Job Connection Staff, and HR employees are excluded from receiving referral bonuses.
2. To be eligible for an award, the applicant must submit a completed application (online or in-person) and the Goodwill employee must submit a Candidate Referral Form (CRF) to Kameryn Chapman, Human Resources Representative. The CRF can be submitted in person at 2800 Southwest Blvd or by email to kameryn.chapman@goodwilltulsa.org.
3. Once a referral is hired and completes 30 calendar days of service in good standing, the referring employee will receive the \$50 referral bonus on their next paycheck. After the referred employee completes 90 days (approximately three months) of service in good standing, the referring employee will receive an additional \$100 referral bonus on their next paycheck. (Normal taxes will be withheld).
4. The first employee to refer a candidate will be the only referring employee eligible for payment.
5. The referral must be submitted before an applicant is extended a job offer.
6. If you are referring more than one candidate, please use an additional form and provide the required information for each candidate you refer.
7. The referring employee must agree to have HR use his/her name for contact purposes if necessary.
8. Only candidates who meet the essential functions of the position will be considered, and appropriate accommodation is provided when necessary.
9. All candidates will be evaluated for employment consistent with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa's policies and procedures, and all information regarding the hiring decision will remain strictly confidential, even to the referring Goodwill employee.
10. The referring Goodwill employee must still be employed with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa during the hired candidate's days of service to receive any of the referral bonuses.
11. Any questions and/or interpretations of the program will be handled through Human Resources.
12. Employees may refer relatives, but employees that are relatives cannot work under the same supervisor according to Goodwill policy.
13. Goodwill reserves the right to suspend or cancel the referral program at any time for any reason.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Get to Know Some of Your New Coworkers



Alexis Smith
Cashier Associate

Alexis, who goes by Lex, joined our retail team in January. Lex grew up in Carthage, Missouri, and she likes to spend her time away from work hanging out with her friends.



Carthage, Mo



Mylinda James
Textile Processor

Mylinda joined our processing team in February. Originally from Chuuk, Micronesia, Mylinda says her favorite part of working at Goodwill is learning from others. When not at work, Mylinda enjoys spending time with her children, James and Jemson.

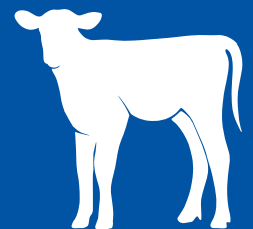


The flag of Chuuk,
Micronesia



Kelsey Choate
Customer Service Manager

Kelsey, who also goes by Kels, shopped at Goodwill for years, and that's why she decided to look online for an opportunity to join the Goodwill family. Kels says the best part of the job is speaking with our friendly regulars. When not at work, Kels likes to visit her parents and watch their newborn calf.



Samuel Agnitsch
Donations Attendant

Sam joined us in January, taking a job as a donations attendant. Sam originally comes from Oklahoma City and loves watching sports (including the OKC Thunder).



New Employees

Retail:

Somantha Boomgaard
Kelsey Choate
Diane Wood
Ingrid Coleman
Jessica Gallaway
Samantha Gonzales
Tabitha Tewell
Trenton Willard

Processing:

Isaac Van Der Van
Ryan Cichon
Kaitlin Conard
Terence Eady II
My linda James
Carlton Jesse
Sonia Marquez
Daniel Oaks

Donations:

Christina Clanton
Bettie Cryder



Current 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.

- Material Handler (Dock, Belt, Textiles)
- CDL Truck Driver
- Forklift Driver
- Utility Processor
- Sales Associate
- Donation Attendant
- Career Navigator
- Job Coach

Encourage those interested in applying to visit
GoodwillTulsa.org/Jobs

March/April Anniversaries

Ingrid Coleman
Amber Philbin
Elizabeth Davis
Barbara Lee
Kendal Vealy
Kimberly Barlow
David Dirickson
William Armstrong
David Smith
Nicholas Wagers
Rickey Whisnant
Kathy Martin
Cayce Chavous
Anne Dean
Danny Elliott
Nicole Edge
David Goff
Cathy Rosebrough
Delisa Gardner
Daylan Wortham
Nathan Wilkerson
Boyice Riley
Christopher Blunt
Walter Clary
Beverly Mann
Linda Seeton
Lois Mayo
Cathy Phillips
Bridget Jones
Richard Stubblefield
Felton Trammell
Scott Drobinko
Latoya Tart
Richard Kirkpatrick
Conny Marsh
Eric Maddox
Brandon Yates
Crystal Armstrong
Donnel Caldwell
Emma Cole
Linda Colley
Jeff Detjen
Adam Erby
Staci Folker
Roberta Fuller
Rebecca Gatlin
Kyle Hager
Grant Houston
Melinda Karns
Jael Leon
Michael Lockett
David Mathews
William Outley
Juana Rodriguez
Dawn Sparks
Malita Thomas
Rebecca Wade-Milbern

April/May Birthdays

Daren Barrett - April 3
Beverly Patterson - April 3
Jay Castoe - April 4
Trisha Davis - April 4
Leroy Denson Jr. - April 9
Michael Palmer - April 9
Shucarra Williamson - April 9
Garrett Wilson - April 10
Veronica Brandt - April 12
Julie Wilson - April 15
Richard Kirkpatrick - April 16
Parrish McDaris - April 17
Clayton Milliman - April 17
Jeffrey Holloway - April 18
Robert Jenkins - April 18
Sara Carlson - April 19
Matthew Lovett - April 19
Cathy Phillips - April 21
Randy Putnam - April 21
Paul Miller - April 22
Christina Smith - April 22
Rebecca Wade-Milbern - April 22
Kassie Joslin - April 25
Myesha Clayton - April 26
David Conley - April 27
Bettie Cryder - May 3
Ariel Eckols - May 3
Alan Adams - May 5
Makai Blades - May 5
Jacob Falleur - May 5
Robert Lawson - May 5
Linda Seeton - May 5
Mary Fidler - May 6
Trenda Rains - May 6
Sonia Marquez - May 12
Heather Conn - May 13
Daylen Harris - May 13
Lester Morris - May 13
Hannah Scott - May 14
Patricia Bullard - May 15
Ifeanyi Nwuchu - May 15
Dakota Swenson - May 16
Emily Clayton - May 17
Connie Vaughan - May 20
Chris Hockett - May 21
Michael Carroll - May 23
Shelton McClure - May 23
Stephen Morgan - May 25
Julius Watkins - May 27
Staci Folker - May 28
Barbara Lee - May 30
Conny Marsh - May 30
Preston Cathey - May 31
Joyce Heath - May 31

