

APRIL 2024

The Goodwill Grapevine

Monthly Organizational Updates



EXCITING MISSION EXPANSION NEWS

By David Oliver

It is great to be back at work after being out since mid-February to have a knee replacement. A lot has happened during the first quarter of 2024, and I am excited to share with you several updates on initiatives that I believe will allow us to significantly expand our mission impact in the coming years.

To provide some perspective for my column this month, Goodwill's Board of Directors held a mission visioning session in mid-2023 to discuss new ways that we could expand our mission impact going forward. The clear message was that as an organization it was imperative that we utilize our resources to serve more people and that is exactly what we have been doing in 2024.

In early 2024, we learned that the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) was expanding the Work Ready Oklahoma (WRO) program to 15 additional counties in Oklahoma, and Tulsa was one of them. In January, OKDHS issued a Request for Proposals for the additional counties and Goodwill Tulsa applied for Tulsa County. OKDHS spent several years developing the curriculum and operational processes for WRO in Oklahoma City and three rural counties and now they were ready to expand the concept state-wide. WRO is a program specifically designed for individuals who are ready to go to work but need some assistance for that to become a reality. The program involves four weeks of intensive career readiness training based on a curriculum that is utilized state-wide, and then upon completion of that, being placed in a job in the community or a virtual job. For individuals who do not have the ability to work virtually from home, they can work virtually at the WRO site.

It is with great excitement that I can tell you in late March Goodwill Tulsa was awarded the WRO site in Tulsa County and we executed a contract with OKDHS. This contract has the potential to run for five years, and it is one of the largest training/placement contracts that we have ever entered into. The requirements for WRO are very specific, and it will require Goodwill to develop a location that operates under the WRO name. To maximize the utilization of the space that we already have, and based on discussions with WRO representatives, we believe that Goodwill's South Annex is the perfect place to house this program. Our contract provides Goodwill six months to prepare the WRO location and be ready to begin providing services. We believe the WRO program provides Goodwill with an excellent opportunity to expand our mission impact significantly.

We realize that this will require us to relocate our services that are currently being provided from the South Annex, and I can assure you that we are in the process of working on that right now, but no final decisions have been made. Our plan is to make certain that any programs that are relocated have adequate space and configuration for them to continue to run smoothly and accommodate all staff appropriately.

APRIL 2024

For those of you located at 2800 Southwest Boulevard, you know that we have been working on a new entry to our auction space. This entry is to accommodate a future outlet store that we plan to open. The concept is that we will have auction in the morning and then in the afternoon we will be open to the public to sell clothing and other items by the pound. We still have additional work to do in the processing area at 2800 to accommodate the outlet store, so it is targeted to open in late summer. Not only will this allow us to increase our donated goods revenue, but we also plan to expand our mission impact by providing transitional employment opportunities for justice-involved individuals re-entering the workforce. Expanding Goodwill's re-entry services was one of the top ideas that was generated in the board visioning session in 2023.

I have written previously about expanding to Muskogee and I wanted to provide an update on those efforts also. On April 1st we began the process of building out the space that we leased and our target date to open in Muskogee is August 1st. For starters, this location will provide roughly twenty new jobs in Muskogee, but we also will be opening a Career Center, and we have been working with OKDHS and will be operating an enclave in the store that will provide jobs for individuals with disabilities in Muskogee who need the assistance of a job coach.

Last, but certainly not least, we are moving forward with another idea generated from the board visioning session, and that was to operate a Mobile Mission Services Unit that would allow us to provide services at other locations. I am excited to let you know that we have secured about half of the cost of the Mobile Mission Services Unit and are working to raise the balance with the hope of ordering it by this summer so that it can be in operation before the end of 2024. I will keep you updated on our progress toward raising the balance of funds needed.

I apologize for the length of my article this month, but we have so many exciting opportunities in the works, and I wanted to be able to share some of them with you.



Health & Wellness Program

Goodwill's voluntary Health and Wellness Program is open to all employees. The program offers reimbursements for a portion of an employee's gym membership fees.

How it works:

Employees must turn in receipts to Dana Jordan in HR within 30 days. Reimbursements will appear on the second check each month.

Amounts:

- Reimbursement of up to \$30 for gym joining fees
- Reimbursement of up to \$20 per month in monthly gym membership fees

If you have any questions about the program, contact Dana at (918) 584-7291.



Paydays

**April 12
& 26**



Earth Day

April 22



QUARTERLY STAR AWARD WINNERS

Goodwill
Industries of Tulsa



Essence:
Kelsey Parks



Team Player:
Melinda Johnston



Extra Mile:
Carol Jackson

April Anniversaries

Bridget Jones - 4/01/2004	Myranda Freeman - 4/03/2023	Tracie Gotcher - 4/10/2023	Julie Rettinger - 4/18/2022
Bryson Gough - 4/02/2024	Brandon Cook - 4/03/2023	Josiah Stephens - 4/12/2023	Christopher Blunt - 4/19/2010
Thomas Cook - 4/02/2024	Alvin Davidson - 4/04/2022	Nathan Thompson - 4/12/2004	Ryan Erickson - 4/19/2023
Toma Ford - 4/02/2024	Nashawn murphy - 4/04/2024	Nathan Wilkerson - 4/13/2012	Nicholas Wagers - 4/20/2018
Cory Ennis - 4/02/2024	David Majors - 4/04/2022	Danny Elliott - 4/14/2015	Jeffry Inty - 4/21/2023
Tomasena Dominguez - 4/02/2024	Brian Dalen - 4/04/2022	Scott Drobinko - 4/15/2002	Aaron Bass - 4/21/2023
Joshua Ramirez - 4/02/2024	Victoria Mackey - 4/04/2022	Rickey Whisnant - 4/16/2018	Felton Trammell - 4/24/2003
Jessica Kalstad - 4/02/2024	Daylan Wortham - 4/04/2013	Elena Kintin - 4/17/2023	Bailey Musick - 4/24/2023
Shawn Cowles - 4/02/2024	Edmund Hanson - 4/05/2023	Adamma McGrew - 4/17/2023	Braylea Kuykendall - 4/25/2023
Lois Mayo - 4/02/2007	Martha Chavez - 4/07/2023	Michelle Williamson - 4/17/2023	Darrell Foster - 4/26/2023
William Armstrong - 4/02/2018	Walter Clary - 4/09/2009	David Smith - 4/18/2018	Debra Tharp - 4/26/2023
Teresa Zandstra - 4/03/2023	Allison Parker - 4/10/2023	Kristina Schultz - 4/18/2023	Cayce Chavous - 4/26/2016
Patrick Piklapp - 4/03/2023	Lawrence DeMaio - 4/10/2023	Duane Stokes - 4/18/2023	Anya Marshall - 4/27/2022



May Birthdays

1 - Martha Chavez	9 - Rachel Lee	14 - Taylor Harris	19 - Angelica Hurst	26 - Bonnie Lockett
3 - Ariel Eckols	11 - Makayla Williamson	14 - Joseph Young	20 - Denise Cantrell	26 - Zachary Lair
5 - Robert Lawson	11 - Michelle Williamson	14 - Hannah Scott	20 - Daniel Stringfellow	26 - Jessica Todd
5 - Alan Adams	11 - Abby Teregeyo	14 - Adriana Bowen	21 - Chris Hockett	27 - Robert Patton
5 - Shirley Richards	12 - Hannah Dean	15 - Ifeanyi Nwuchu	22 - John Torossian	27 - Julius Watkins
6 - Mary Fidler	12 - Amanda Milholland	15 - Patricia Bullard	23 - Shelton McClure	28 - Jonathan Sweatman
7 - Christopher Davis	12 - Sonia Marquez	15 - Lance Crowe	23 - Otilia Iowanes	28 - Charles Norfleet
8 - Hope Westhoff	12 - Benjamin Colley	16 - Dakota Swenson	23 - Michael Carroll	28 - Teresa Evans
8 - Jennifer Cook	13 - Lester Morris	17 - Aaron Smith	24 - Cortney Wells	29 - Amber Turner
8 - Darrell Foster	13 - Heather Conn	17 - Zane Cutshaw	24 - Brooklynn Tiffany	30 - John Griffin
8 - Edmond Fuerst	13 - Natasha Mossburg	18 - Kesleen Martin	25 - Stephen Morgan	30 - Conny Marsh
9 - Corey Hinson	13 - Jeffry Inty	19 - Tanya Stice	26 - Penny Brummett	31 - Joyce Heath



**GROW WITH
GOODWILL**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Tulsa Transit: For free trip planning, call the Customer Service Center at 918-982-6882. They can assist with route information, schedules, and other transit inquiries. Use the GoPass app for real-time bus tracking. Text **MTTAINFO** to 888-714-3384 for route updates.

KI BOIS Area Transit System (KATS): KATS offers low-cost transportation to services like Senior Citizen centers, grocery stores, and medical facilities in Southeastern Oklahoma counties. Call 800-299-4479 for details.

SoonerRide assists Oklahomans in getting to and from their SoonerCare appointments. It is a non-emergency transportation service for both the SoonerCare Traditional and SoonerCare Choice programs. Call 877-404-4500 for information.

Legal Aid of Western Missouri provides free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to individuals who need it most and can afford it least. To contact their Joplin office, call 417-782-1650.

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma provides free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to low-income individuals and senior citizens throughout Oklahoma. Contact their Tulsa office at 918-584-3338 or their McAlester office at 918-423-2030.

