

SEPTEMBER 2024

# The Goodwill Grapevine

Monthly Organizational Updates



## ANNOUNCING MY RETIREMENT

David Oliver

Recently I made one of the hardest decisions I have ever made in my life and decided to notify Goodwill's Board of Directors of my plans to retire. Below is the wording from the letter I submitted to them, and I wanted to share it with all of you.

*"On July 16, 1991, I began working for Goodwill Industries of Tulsa as the Director of Finance. I had no idea at that time that it would lead to a more than 33-year career with Goodwill and change my life in profound ways. I have been fortunate to work with so many talented Goodwill team members and board members during that time, and together we have significantly expanded the reach of Goodwill's mission. However, my greatest hope is that my time at Goodwill has created opportunities for others to change their lives in ways that were meaningful to them and their families.*

*In many ways it is hard for me to imagine, not working for Goodwill because it has been such a large part of my life. I believe the organization is well positioned to move forward and expand the impact of our mission, and now is the right time for me to step aside and allow someone else to take this outstanding organization to even greater heights.*

*Thank you for all the opportunities that Goodwill has provided for me to learn and grow during my tenure here."*

I submitted my retirement date as January 31, 2025, but committed that if a new President is in place and ready to go before January 31, I am willing to move that date up. I don't really have the words to properly express what an honor and a privilege it has been for me to work with so many great people during my time at Goodwill Tulsa. I know that I will miss not seeing all of you, but I am confident that you will continue to change people's lives and achieve great things.

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## Department Spotlight

# Vocational Services: Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

By John Clowers

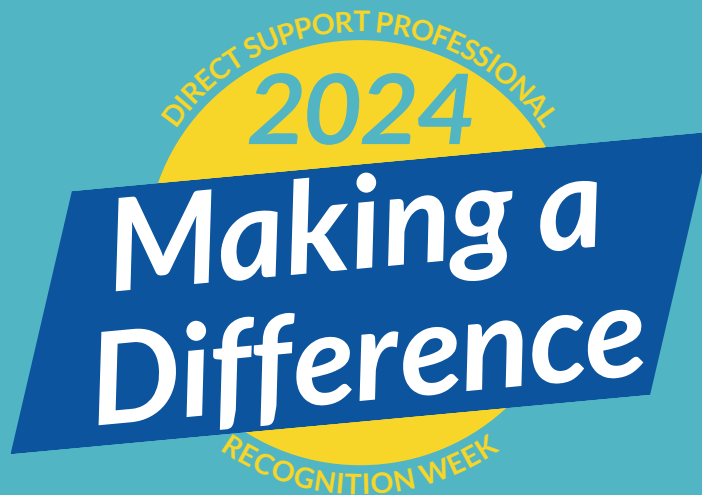
National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is September 8-14! The week is set aside to celebrate those who support individuals with disabilities.

Goodwill is an organization on a mission, and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play a vital role in accomplishing that mission. Goodwill has the honor of serving over a hundred individuals with disabilities. Each of those individuals receives support from our dedicated Direct Support Professionals. The success of Goodwill's mission is largely due to this work.

At times, this work can be unsung and underappreciated. It often happens behind the scenes, but the work is essential to helping individuals with disabilities achieve a life with greater independence. The job duties of a DSP are numerous, but here are a few of the qualities essential to the position:

- Caring
- Patience
- Empathy
- Communication
- Kindness

Daily, Goodwill's DSPs demonstrate these qualities in their work. Our community is a better place to live thanks in no small part to their efforts. From Goodwill Industries of Tulsa to all the DSPs making a difference in the lives of the individuals you support we say, "THANK YOU!"



# Learn About YOUR Pension Plan

By Melinda Johnston

Did you know that you may already have a pension plan funded by Goodwill? If you're a full-time employee (or a part-time employee who works at least 1,000 hours per year), and you're 21 years of age with at least one year of service, Goodwill Tulsa funds a pension plan for you.

To help you understand and make the most of your benefit, we're hosting an onsite session with a representative from Mutual of America.

**When: Friday, October 4**

**Where: 2800 Southwest Boulevard**

This is your chance to receive personalized guidance tailored to your needs. Don't miss out on learning how this benefit can work for you!

Please take advantage of this opportunity by scheduling a meeting with our Mutual of America representative. Meetings are available in person or over the phone. To reserve your slot, simply scan the QR code or click on the following link to select a convenient time slot:

<https://calendly.com/mutualofamerica-vladimir/15min>.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to Celia Armstrong at [celia.armstrong@goodwilltulsa.org](mailto:celia.armstrong@goodwilltulsa.org).

## Accessing Your Account

If you meet the qualifications and have never accessed your account, do the following:

- visit [MutualofAmerica.com](https://MutualofAmerica.com)
- click LOG IN / REGISTER
- click Log In/ Set Up Online Account
- click Setup Online Account

If you need further assistance accessing your account, contact Human Resources.



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## Paydays

September  
13 & 27



## Free Tax Help

June 1 -  
September 30



[GoodwillTulsa.org/FreeTaxPrep](https://GoodwillTulsa.org/FreeTaxPrep)

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15 -  
Oct. 15



## 918 Day

September  
18



# September Anniversaries

Jeffrey Daniel - 9/01/2017  
Teresa Hammons - 9/01/2022  
Rachele Pedersen - 9/01/2010  
CalvinRay Sledge - 9/02/2021  
Morgan McKenzie - 9/03/2013  
Myesha Clayton - 9/04/2019  
Lily Richardson - 9/05/2023  
Kimberly Downs - 9/09/2004  
Patricia Mullin - 9/11/2023

Letitia Parker - 9/12/2011  
Dylisia Markham - 9/14/2010  
Leonard Phifer - 9/14/2015  
Risako Mutuk - 9/16/2022  
Katlin Walters - 9/16/2022  
Sheila Farrara - 9/16/2022  
Callie Franklin - 9/18/2023  
Parrish McDaris - 9/19/2016  
Kathryn Horath - 9/20/2022

Lorena Lyons - 9/21/2015  
Jessica Stephenson - 9/21/2023  
Christopher Kendall - 9/22/2021  
Kenneth Anthony - 9/23/2014  
Janet Harbert - 9/23/2015  
Penny Smith - 9/23/2020  
Eloise Coleman - 9/23/2022  
Sherrie Pryor - 9/24/2019  
Mitchell Bryant - 9/27/2018

Cornelia Korell-Clevenger - 9/27/2011  
Abby Teregeyo - 9/28/2023  
Lucila Bejar - 9/28/2022  
Hannah Scott - 9/28/2022  
Russell Owens - 9/28/2023  
Amber Turner - 9/28/2023  
Laura Martinez - 9/30/2021  
Aryonna Thomas - 9/30/2021



# October Birthdays

1 - Emily Berg  
1 - Amie Lamb  
1 - Miguel Gorriñ  
1 - Rex Biggs  
2 - John Taber  
2 - William Barrett  
3 - Carter O'Neill  
3 - Thomas Wright  
4 - LaRonda Phillips  
4 - Nitae Kachinori  
5 - Merrick Holmes  
6 - Diane Wood  
6 - Kenneth Anthony  
6 - Gary Crone  
7 - Ana Castillo-Reyes  
7 - Carly Wamego

8 - Kelsey Schultz  
8 - Isaac Stewart  
10 - Michael Nees  
10 - David Majors  
11 - Roxie Rowe  
11 - Elliot Ward  
12 - Karen Frair  
12 - Samona Speer  
13 - Magyn Passmore  
13 - Jeff Detjen  
13 - Delores Richardson  
14 - Sarah Dudley  
15 - Shirley Cantu  
15 - Tommy Joseph  
16 - Bonnie Fugate  
16 - Tina Chewek

16 - Lois Mayo  
17 - Carol Clark  
17 - Letitia Parker  
18 - Addison Powell  
18 - Marsha Blair  
19 - Morgan Pittman  
21 - Allen Borum  
21 - Christy Watashe  
21 - Melanie Morose  
21 - Sara Thirkill  
22 - Michael Atkinson  
23 - Walter Ellsworth  
23 - Johnny Hundley  
23 - Melissa Abbott  
23 - Kayla Foster  
24 - Amber Harrison

24 - Sheryl Conley  
25 - Gina Powell  
25 - Debria Laughlin  
26 - Mikki Cragg  
27 - Steven Hahn  
28 - Erik Harbin  
28 - Kelley Humphries  
29 - Daniel Walsh  
30 - Cynthia Wilson  
30 - Kristielynn Paddock  
31 - Tommy Friend  
31 - John Widlund  
31 - Kyle Hager  
31 - Tina Yates  
31 - Antonio Goree



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Tulsa Salvation Army Angel Tree Program:** Provides holiday gifts to children in need. Applications open on September 11 for specific Tulsa County zip codes. Check eligibility and register at [SalArmyTulsa.org](https://SalArmyTulsa.org)

**Oklahoma & Missouri WIC Program:** Offers nutrition education, supplemental foods, and breastfeeding support to eligible women and children up to age five.  
Oklahoma information: [Oklahoma.Gov/Health](https://Oklahoma.Gov/Health)  
Missouri information: [Health.Mo.Gov](https://Health.Mo.Gov)

**PCs for People:** Provides affordable computers and internet services to eligible individuals and families. Learn more at [PCsForPeople.org](https://PCsForPeople.org).

**Start Your Recovery:** Offers resources for individuals dealing with substance use issues. Find stories of recovery, learn about addiction, and explore treatment options. More at [StartYourRecovery.org](https://StartYourRecovery.org)

