

the chet perry achiever of the year

AMY OFENBECK

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, INC. TITLE: PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Amy Ofenbeck is a survivor and a fighter! At the age of 26 in 1997, she suffered an aneurysm which almost took her life. She had to endure seven brain surgeries and vocal cord surgery to regain her voice. She has gone through extensive rehabilitation and therapy to regain her motor skills. An extremely motivated individual, Amy battles with fatigue, memory loss, lack of organizational skills, medication side effects and difficulty in learning new tasks.

In 2004, Amy was ready to get on with her life. Through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, she was referred to Goodwill for employment assistance. Given her job experience as a local weekend anchor and reporter for ABC News, Amy was looking for a job in public relations. With encouragement from her employment consultant, Amy began volunteering part-time in Goodwill's Public Relations and Marketing Department. After six weeks, Amy was doing such a great job that Goodwill offered her a permanent position as their Public Relations Coordinator.

"With all my challenges, Goodwill has been very supportive in helping me deal with my disabilities by giving me extra time to learn things. They have been very instrumental in my workplace success, and I thank everyone at Goodwill for giving me a chance!"



"I knew once I left television news, I wanted to work in public relations. My job counselor had me volunteer in the PR department at Goodwill for a few weeks, I was so excited when I found out they were hiring me, because I knew I could do the job."