



2015

## Breakthrough Volunteer Jacob Dudoit

If you've ever shopped at the Port Charlotte Goodwill Retail & Donation Center, you've likely met Jacob Dudoit, and left with a smile on your face.

"Customers come in specifically looking for him," says Goodwill District Director Chris Karamalakis. "They want to hug him, say hello to him, and he makes their shopping experience fantastic."

Though he spends most of his volunteer time at the Port Charlotte location, Jacob has volunteered at three of Goodwill's Charlotte County stores, and he's not just a big hit with customers—he's also popular with management and staff.

"Jacob is always happy," says Shanie Sworab, a retail processor at Port Charlotte. "He always has a smile on his face, always has a positive attitude. He's so eager to help, you know. It's good that he has the positive energy, because you feed off of it."

When Jacob came to Goodwill, he'd attempted to volunteer at other nonprofits, but hadn't found the right match. His eager attitude and can-do attitude were a perfect fit at Goodwill.

"They needed my help," says Jacob. "I do everything. I answer the phones, I sort, I tag. I do everything because I like to help people out that are in need."

Even when he's not volunteering, Jacob is determined to help others. He recently attended Goodwill's Trailways Camp as a participant, but insisted on assisting staff and volunteers during the four-day experience.

"People love him, and he loves people," says Chris. "Jacob is just a ball of energy. He has no limits to what he can do. I've never met anybody who's so positive. His main goal in life is to help people."

### About Volunteering at Goodwill:

Volunteers are one of Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida's most valuable assets. Volunteerism is an important form of philanthropy, and we appreciate all those that donate their time to Goodwill's mission.

While many volunteers help in our retail stores, we have openings at our main office, the Goodwill Opportunity Center, as well as our Job-Link centers, programs like Trailways Camp, and at special events like the Festival of Trees. For more information about volunteer opportunities at Goodwill, please visit [www.goodwillswfl.org/volunteering](http://www.goodwillswfl.org/volunteering)