



Goodwill 
Southwest Florida

First Driver Training Program Graduate! Curtis Hicks

Curtis Hicks' Goodwill career began in May of 2009, when he was hired to take donations at the door of our Bonita Springs store.

"I enjoyed the position. Working the door, you get to meet different people every day," says Curtis. "But it was part time. I've got five kids, from three to eleven, so I was hoping for a little bit more."

When he didn't get enough hours in Bonita Springs, Curtis offered to pick up some more shifts at the Island Park store in Fort Myers and the Towne Centre store in Naples to make up the difference. Along the way, he worked alongside several members of Goodwill's transportation crew, loading and unloading trucks.

"One of them finally asked me, why I didn't try to get my CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and be a driver," says Curtis. That's when he applied for his CDL learner's permit, a decision that paid off quickly when a transportation position came open at Goodwill.

"Curtis approached us and told us he had just gotten his CDL learning permit on his own," explains Jody Jacoby, Goodwill Operations Manager. "I interviewed him, and we put him in our Driver Training Program right away."

Goodwill's new Driver Training Program helps Goodwill employees expand their skills into a full-time position as a truck driver. The program is part of Goodwill's family strengthening efforts, and our commitment to help our employees both on the job and at home.

To help Curtis develop his skills as a driver, Jody paired Curtis with Bert Miller, Goodwill's Driver Trainer. Bert prepared Curtis to take the CDL Class A exam, and after a little more than 20 hours of road training, Curtis passed the test to become the first-ever graduate of Goodwill's Driver Training Program. Today, Curtis works full time as a truck driver at Goodwill's operations center in North Fort Myers.

"He's versatile and capable of pretty much everything in our department," says Jody. "Curtis runs store routes, trash routes, and home pickups, and he helps out in the warehouse if we need it. He's an easygoing friendly guy, and he's happy to do any task."

Jody continues, "Curtis can do anything he sets his mind to. He set a goal to become a driver and persisted until he achieved it. It's been a pleasure to watch him develop and grow."



ACHIEVING IS BELIEVING!