

# Mancan

2016  
Breakthrough  
Business

Seasonal employment needs in Southwest Florida are as diverse as the geography, ranging from beachfront tourism businesses to deeply rooted agricultural powerhouses in Hendry and Glades counties.

Placing workers in Hendry and Glades counties is a unique challenge because resources are limited that go hand-in-hand with employment, such as housing and transportation.

In 2014, Job-Link Coordinator Magdalena Flores met with Ortencia Ruelas, a staffing specialist at Mancan, a local staffing agency. A partnership was formed.

"I appreciate Magdalena because she's willing to help and she always sends more than one candidate," Ruelas said.

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida holds Job Fairs for Mancan, which can hire up to 200 seasonal employees.

Depending upon what crops are ripening when, the need for workers is ever-changing – and challenging.

What began in 2014 as two people working from one area has now expanded throughout Southwest Florida. Today, Goodwill refers clients from its Immokalee, Lehigh Acres, Fort Myers and Naples offices to Mancan.

In 2016, **39 Goodwill clients** referred from Goodwill were hired by Mancan; **26 individuals** were employed seasonally harvesting crops or in other agriculture-related jobs, including Syngenta and Keepsake commercial plant growers. Full-time workers have been placed at Peace River Citrus Products, a canning facility in Arcadia.

"We interview candidates to assess their skills. Some balance daytime work schedules and attend school at night," Flores said. "For the eligible seasonal placements, we help them apply for unemployment benefits when they have completed the job."

**Goodwill's  
IMPACT**



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