

*167 volunteers assisted us with events, fundraising, and more in 2011. Special thanks to all of the individuals who donated their valuable time to Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida and the Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation.*

## Janet Wilson

If you're one of the thousands of people each year who visit Goodwill's Festival of Trees, you've undoubtedly met Janet Wilson. Janet has been involved with the festival since its first year in 2008, when the Florida State University alumni decorated the event's "Seminole Style," an FSU-themed tree.

"Sometimes it's hard to get into the Christmas spirit here in Southwest Florida, with our weather being so warm," explains Janet. "When you go to the Festival of Trees, you get that Christmas spirit, because people are so giving of their time and their talents."

Since that first year, Janet has volunteered for the Festival of Trees and Tux & Trees Gala in nearly every way possible - as a decorator, a family fun night chaperone, a silent auction assistant, and a tree angel. As an assignment editor at WINK News, she's also been known to generate publicity for the event, too.

Goodwill Vice President of Communications and Development Carolyn Johnson has known Janet for two decades, and appreciates what Janet brings to the organization, both during the Festival of Trees and throughout the year.

"Lucky for us, Janet isn't shy about talking about what she believes in," says Carolyn. "In fact, it's not unusual for Janet to stand up at a Goodwill event, on her own, and talk about all the great things Goodwill is doing. She does it so well and with such passion, that our CEO once asked me, 'Who is she and does she work for us?'"

Not only is Janet a volunteer and advocate for Goodwill, but she's also a loyal shopper and donor. "I believe in Goodwill's mission," she says. "I've always donated to Goodwill, for us it's like a family tradition. I shop there, too—a lot!"

While not an official secret shopper, Janet's input as a customer has been invaluable to Goodwill. "She's helped us over the years keep a pulse on what's going on in our stores from a customer's perspective," says Carolyn. "We couldn't ask for a better person in our corner than Janet Wilson!"

## Volunteer Award

