



Goodwill

Southwest Florida



Community Support Services Success Story Missy Brown

"I'm not done making a name for myself at Goodwill."

Single mother and daughter find opportunity in Charlotte County

Missy Brown was searching for a place where her daughter, 15, could do community service to satisfy requirements of her probation. At age 15, A.J. was still too young to volunteer at Goodwill, but after learning about the Southwest Florida non-profit, Missy put in her application and was hired as a part-time cashier at the Port Charlotte Goodwill.

Missy's positive attitude and strong work ethic played a large part in her achievements at Goodwill and she quickly climbed the retail ladder.

A.J., now 16, again needed community service hours, so she turned to Goodwill too. She enjoyed the supportive environment.

Mother and daughter agree: They owe their success to learning more about Goodwill and how the non-profit enables people with disadvantages to create a better life for themselves.

"I love my job," says Missy, who quickly advanced to full-time, then was promoted to shift manager at the Punta Gorda Goodwill Retail and Donation Center. By June 2018, she was promoted again to Assistant Manager and assigned to the Kings Highway store location.

"I'm not done making a name for myself at Goodwill," says the single mother of two who previously worked as a home health aide. "That didn't pay the bills," she said. She also worked in the fast food industry for 12 years before applying at Goodwill.

Problems at home resulted in the mother and daughter starting over. They moved into efficiency housing with almost nothing. Again, they turned to Goodwill for help. Community Support Services gave A.J. a \$25 clothing voucher.

"We have our ups and downs like any other family. You can't run away from your problems. Goodwill has been very understanding and flexible," says Missy, who occasionally needs time off to attend appointments with A.J., who is pregnant.

Missy says they're grateful for their newly adopted family—their Goodwill family, who are invited to a baby shower for A.J.'s son, and Missy's first grandchild.

