

## 2014 Breakthrough Volunteer Amanda Lynch

When Amanda Lynch attended Trailways Camp as a camper in May 2013, she didn't know she would soon become a valuable member of the Trailways team.

"When Amanda attended camp, she was very upbeat, enthusiastic, and willing to do anything," says Jesi Cason, Goodwill's Trailways Camp coordinator. "She was very friendly and welcoming to all the campers as they came in. I didn't ask her to do that, she was just like that."



Trailways Camp is a residential camp for adults with disabilities, offered in partnership with The Robert V. & Benjamin G. Miller Fund. The camp, which is run by a small and dedicated staff, relies heavily on volunteer assistance for the four-day experience.

"I knew Jesi needed help," Amanda says. "She can't do it alone!"

Since attending Trailways, the 29-year-old has now volunteered at four camp sessions.

"She reacts very quickly, which is good because I work quick," says Jesi. "Things come up fast and every time I need something she hops up fast, no questions asked."

Amanda's duties range from getting campers acclimated to their new surroundings, and helping with arts and crafts, to assisting campers in the talent show.

"I can help sing if someone is nervous," Amanda smiles. "I'll go up [on stage] with them. I can tell if someone is nervous."

Amanda's volunteer service to Goodwill doesn't stop there. She also has volunteered at Goodwill's annual fundraiser, the Festival of Trees, for two years. Held at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in the Fort Myers River District, the festival features a showcase of lavishly decorated Christmas trees, a children's workshop, a black-tie gala and more.

"Having Amanda as a volunteer has been great," says Goodwill's volunteer coordinator Natalie Tursi. "She's reliable, and fun to work with."

When not volunteering, Amanda works one day a week at Winn-Dixie and is part of several social groups.

"I volunteer because it's fun, and I can meet friends, and do anything I want," laughs Amanda. "I like getting out of the house- I don't have to be bored. I like helping people."