Thank you!

BREAKTHROUGH AWARDS

Our Mission: Committed to serving people with disabilities and disadvantages by offering life-changing opportunities to achieve independence.

Meet one of our Breakthrough Award Winners

Breakthrough Acheiver of the Year

Wilson Waldrop

Wilson Waldrop started his journey with Goodwill as a student at High School High Tech. After graduating, he began volunteering at the Goodwill in Port Charlotte, working on developing job skills with his coach Maryjane Nickerson, a Goodwill “Pathways to Work” Employment Consultant.

Shanie Thames, who was the Assistant Manager at the time at Port Charlotte, watched Wil’s hard work and dedication and was impressed by his effort. So, when she was promoted to manager at the Kings Highway store, she thought of Wil when a position opened up and offered him his first job.

MaryJane shared something Shanie said, “She said, ‘I will hire Wil. I have been over at that store and I have watched him work, and how dedicated he is. How he calls in even as a volunteer when he is not coming, and how he comes in and gets right to work. He doesn’t sit. He doesn’t take breaks. He just works and, she said, I will hire him. I want him.’”

Shanie explained, “A position became available, so he got a job, and that is one of the nice things about the programs that we offer. It gave him an opportunity.”

“Everyone loves Wil. It’s hard not to love him,” Shanie says.

“Wil is very polite and gets along very well with his other associates, and is very good with the customers,” says Wil’s current store manager, John Monahan.

Will has been with Goodwill for 3 years now, and loves every minute of it.

“I love working here at Goodwill,” says Wil.

He went on to say his favorite thing about his job is helping the customers and stocking the shelves.

Mission Moments

Festival of Trees wins Best Nonprofit Charity Event
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida and The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center's Festival of Trees event won **Best Overall Charity Event** at The Community Foundation Charity Event Award ceremony on Tuesday, April 5th.

Now, in its 16th year running, Festival of Trees has become a family holiday tradition in downtown Fort Myers bringing thousands of visitors of all ages together to see beautifully decorated trees from local businesses.

"We are so grateful for the people who worked hard to get this event off the ground 15 years ago and the individuals and organizations that make it the holiday tradition it is today!" - Ashley Price Swick, Director of Development.

For more information about the 16th Annual Festival of Trees, Nov 30 - Dec 4, 2022, contact Rachel Stanborough at rachelstanborough@goodwillswfl.org.

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**Annual Breakthrough Award Ceremony**

**The 2021 Breakthrough Award recipients are:**

Wilson Waldrop, Goodwill employee, Chet Perry Achiever of the Year

Walter Barb, Goodwill employee, Employee of the Year

Barbara Zirilli-Lonergan, owner of Zirilli’s Chilly Treats in Cape Coral, William J. Barrett Graduate of the Year

Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, Employer of the Year

Soy Williams, Volunteer of the Year

Pelican Marsh Golf Club, Philanthropist of the Year

We hosted our annual Breakthrough Award ceremony at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Thursday, April 7th. The event recognizes individuals and businesses who have advanced the Goodwill Mission throughout the prior year.

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**Celebrating Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month**
Our Pathways to Opportunity participants celebrating Autism Acceptance Month with a "Light it up Blue" poster.

MicroEnterprise Graduation

The 105th MicroEnterprise class graduated in Port Charlotte on Thursday, April 7th. This 6-week small business class helps those wanting to start a business, learn how to create a feasible plan so that they are able to launch successfully. MicroEnterprise is just one of the mission services that Goodwill SWFL offers.

For more information about the MicroEnterprise program, contact Sandra Plazas at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2215 or email sandraplazas@goodwillswfl.org.
Easter Bunny Visits Goodwill

The Easter Bunny visited several Goodwill stores on Sunday, April 17th greeting customers, and posing for pictures.

There were lots of smiles and photos taken by surprised customers throughout the day.

If you missed him, you can catch him next year at a Goodwill SWFL store.

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Naples Community Appreciation Day

50% off all donated, 25% off new mattresses

**Saturday, April 23rd**
Doors open 8am - 8pm
Heritage Bay Goodwill
(8915 Sage Ave., Naples)

First 100 shoppers get a $10 gift card!
Events

The 11th Annual Goodwill Golf Classic Fundraiser

Register today for our 11th Annual Goodwill Golf Classic. It's a great way to raise funds for our community supports and services while having an amazing day with friends. Lots of raffle prizes and you may win a hole-in-one all-expense-paid Pebble Beach golfing trip. Register
Classes

Upcoming Small Business Classes in Cape Coral

Goodwill's MicroEnterprise has helped nearly 500 local small businesses start, or strengthen. If you are looking to launch your small business, this is the key to success!

Save your seat
Pathways to Opportunity

Do you know an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability who could use life skills training? Goodwill’s Pathways to Opportunity program has an interactive summer series scheduled. For more information, contact Jessica Tursi at 239-995-2106 Ext 2301.

Digital Navigator

Need a computer? Internet? Want to learn how to navigate online or use a
computer? Attend our Digital Navigator information session and sign up at our
Charlotte County Community Resource Center on Friday, May 6th. #GoodwillSWFL

Digital Navigator Program
Let’s Get Connected!
Are you interested in computer training,
free or low cost Internet, or devices?
Goodwill Community Resource Centers provide individual
assistance to those in need of fundamental computer training,
average home Internet services, or reasonably priced devices
to make the most of the Internet and its opportunities.

Sign Up
Friday, May 6th
Palm Beach Community Resource Center
4162 Palm Beach Blvd
Fort Myers, FL 33905

- Affordable internet service through the Federal
Communication Commission’s Affordable
Connectivity Plan
- Applications for computers or tablets at a low cost
- Sign-up for basic internet skills and basic
computer skills classes sponsored by Goodwill
Southwest Florida

A session with a Digital Navigator is entirely FREE!
We understand the importance of helping people connect with education,
health, employment, and other vital services over the internet.

Stay Connected

Don't forget to leave a review on Facebook or Google if you've visited
one of our locations recently.