

2016
Chet Perry
Breakthrough
Volunteer

Lydia Christie

Anyone who has attended a Goodwill event has most likely shaken hands with Lydia Christie. Or perhaps you bought raffle tickets from her, were seated by her, or tasted her culinary creations.

"When I first met Lydia, I thought she was an employee. She just has that kind of commitment in her voice and in her actions when she volunteers for us, and she does it all with endless energy," says Natalie Tursi, Volunteer Coordinator at Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida.

Lydia has always been that person who tackles a challenge head-on with vigor and leaves you smiling and excited to be a part of the greater event.

In 2016, Lydia was our Lead Volunteer Coordinator for the entire Festival of Trees, reaching out to more than 100 volunteers to coordinate their ever-changing schedules and to ensure we had full coverage during the 5-day event.

"It can be an overwhelming task and Lydia saw that as an opportunity to spread cheer and our mission – while also keeping everyone on track," Tursi said. "She did all that, plus she competed in the Ugly Sweater Contest and shot live Facebook video during the festival."

In May, Lydia prepared more than 100 breakfast croissant sandwiches and delivered them hot before 8 a.m. to the golfers participating in the annual Goodwill Golf Classic. This was the second year she's donated breakfast and it's now become a tradition players look forward to.

Lydia began volunteering with Goodwill in 2008 after seeing our Tux & Trees logo on a folder. Each year she has returned and taken on a different task at all of our events. Currently, with the lungs of a baseball peanut vendor, Lydia shouts to the crowds at Miracle games about an opportunity she refuses to let you miss our 50/50 ticket drawing.

When she isn't rushing to an event, Lydia and her husband Dale enjoy their two lovable Shih Tzus -- John Henry and Rose.

**Goodwill's
IMPACT**



About Volunteering at Goodwill:

Volunteers are one of Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida's most valuable assets. Volunteerism is an important form of philanthropy, and we appreciate all those that donate their time to Goodwill's mission.

While many volunteers help in our retail stores, we have openings at our main office, the Goodwill Opportunity Center, as well as our Job-Link centers, programs like Trailways Camp, and at special events like the Festival of Trees.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Goodwill, please visit www.goodwillswfl.org/volunteering

