

ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR



Deborah Olson

■ SALES ASSOCIATE AT SOUTH CAPE GOODWILL STORE

Deborah Olson is not unlike many other Northerners who migrated to Florida to escape the cold weather and the snow. She moved here from Connecticut with her brother and his wife in May of 2004. She wanted to stay close with family and figured that Florida wasn't such a bad place to be.

Before moving to Florida, Deborah had a steady job working at a grocery store as a bagger and doing various jobs in the bakery. She didn't think that it would be difficult to find the same type of job once she moved, but with her limited skills and abilities and a very small frame, Deborah encountered many barriers to employment. She put in applications at several grocery stores, but never got a call back.

Deborah was referred to Goodwill from her case manager at the Department of Children and Families and through the assistance of her brother, contacted Wava Brickmann, Goodwill's Employment Specialist Manager. In just two weeks after meeting with Wava and going through evaluations and job coaching, Deborah was given the opportunity to work at Goodwill's South Cape Coral Retail and Donation store as a sales associate. She began working September 1, 2004. A dedicated and very hard worker, Deborah found her niche.

"I love it here. I love my boss and all my co-workers. Everyone here is so pleasant! Wava was fantastic. She did so much for me and I really appreciate it!" says, Deborah.

"If it wasn't for Goodwill, I wouldn't have a job right now. I really like what they are doing to help people".