

2009 Business of the Year: Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida

Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida (V.I.P.) is a nonprofit organization which provides skills, support, and opportunities to people with visual impairments.

Because Goodwill and V.I.P. both assist people with disabilities in our community, clients of the two agencies often overlap. "We discovered that all of our clients could benefit from a partnership," explains V.I.P. Executive Director Doug Fowler. So we started sharing information on ways to improve the services provided by both agencies."

Rick Evanchyk, Goodwill's Senior Vice President of Administration, nominated V.I.P. for the Business of the Year honor. He explains, "It became pretty clear that by collaborating, we could benefit both of our agencies, and more importantly, the people we serve."

In Fall 2008, this partnership grew, when Goodwill began providing Information Technology services to V.I.P. This was the genesis of Goodwill's Business Services program, which provides low-cost administrative and technical services to smaller nonprofits.

Because of V.I.P.'s spirit of collaboration, its support of Goodwill's Business Services program, and its commitment to helping people with disabilities in our community, Goodwill is pleased to honor V.I.P. as the 2009 Business of the Year.

