



NATIONAL
HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS

**Goodwill has Supplies
to help you prepare!**



The Goodwill Effect

A publication for friends of Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.

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

Mission Moments

Each month we are pleased to share with you transformative mission moments!

As you learn more about the different ways we uplift our community, we hope you are inspired and will join us in helping people enhance their quality of life by eliminating barriers to work, opportunity, and independence.



For more information on how you can help transform lives, please contact me, Ashley Price, Director of Development at ashleyprice@goodwillswfl.org

Yes! I want to Transform Lives Today.

Meet our Employer of the Year: Keepsake Plants

Keepsake Plants hires about 80 employees every year to help with their growing season. However, finding that many new employees is always a daunting task. Keepsake Human Resource Manager, Nichole Mateo found that Goodwill was a great partner to help recruit.

Not only was Goodwill able to help connect job seekers with their jobs, but also provided Keepsake employees with free digital skills and ESL training to help meet their needs.



Keepsake Plants, 2023 Breakthrough Employer



Jr. League of Southwest Florida Awards Pathways to Opportunity (PTO) Director and Service Manager

We are thrilled to share that our Disability Services Manager, Pauline, and our Director, Jessica, were honored at the May Annual Dinner for the Junior League of Southwest Florida. Their dedication and hard work is making a significant impact on our community.



Golisano FOUNDATION

Imagine the possibilities!

The Golisano Foundation awarded Goodwill SWFL a \$45,000 grant to formalize the Disability Navigation Program. Goodwill looks for gaps in available services and meets those needs to help people in Southwest Florida move forward. Disability Navigation grew out of a realized gap in services while helping young adults with disabilities as they aged out of the school system.

Jessica Tursi, Director of Disability Services, has assisted 158 families with Disability Navigation this year so far.



Lehigh ESL Graduation



Several of our Community Resource Centers offer free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to help people in the community open doors for a better future. We hosted a graduation ceremony on Friday, May 31st, at our Lehigh CRC to celebrate the achievements of those who completed the course in Lehigh Acres.

Assisting the community with VITA

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which included 234 volunteers, completed more than 8,100 tax returns this tax season, resulting in \$8.4 million in refunds for Southwest Florida residents.

The collaborative effort of certified VITA volunteers, who assist households earning \$66,000 or less by preparing and e-filing their federal tax returns free of charge, and community partners enabled the operation of 23 traditional tax sites and 15 special events across a five-county area in Southwest Florida. Volunteers provided 18,000 hours of service, valued at an estimated \$572,400, with VITA's total community impact reaching \$11.5 million.



Giancarlos Castano, Goodwill's Mobile Community Resource Coordinator and VITA volunteer, assisted 282 individuals this tax season with their tax return, and Lourdes Forste, Goodwill's GIVE coordinator, reviewed them.



Visit from Humana

Cyrena Baugh and Sharmaine Lopez of Humana visited the Goodwill Opportunity Center on May 23rd. They toured our operations center and also saw first-hand our digital skills class for seniors and our PTO program in action. We are very grateful for Humana Healthy Horizon Florida's support as so much of our programs and services align with Humana's mission and vision for a healthy community!



Having fun with our community partners!

Director of Development Ashley Price and Pathways to Opportunity Program Manager Pauline Browning had the honor of being Local Celebrity Judges for the Texas Roadhouse, Hansen Market line dancing competition.

Breakfast with the President



We hosted our quarterly Breakfast with the President behind-the-scenes tour of the Goodwill Opportunity Center on May 30th. This is a chance for us to showcase our Mission Services and show how we support Southwest Florida. Guests got to visit our Pathways to Opportunity program and one of our Community Resource Centers in action hosting digital literacy skills for seniors.



Hurricane Preparedness

Gov. Ron DeSantis held a press conference at the Home Depot in Fort Myers on June 4th. The Governor stressed the importance of being prepared for hurricane season as we start the season, and the Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday which is currently underway in Florida.

Goodwill carries several disaster preparedness supplies. We have about 28 generators out in the larger stores, batteries, lighters, candles, and mini flashlights that are 2 for \$3.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY JUNE 1 - JUNE 14

Purchase qualifying disaster preparedness supplies tax-free

\$10 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cans or pouches of wet pet food	\$25 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cat litter	\$60 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nonelectric food storage coolersPortable power banks	\$3,000 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage (Never use a generator indoors.)
\$15 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Manual can openersCollapsible or travel-size food and water bowls for petsCat litter pansPet waste disposal bagsHamster or rabbit substrate	\$40 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Portable self-powered light sourcesPet Beds	\$70 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Smoke detectors or smoke alarmsFire extinguishersCarbon monoxide detectors	
\$20 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reusable iceLeashes, collars and muzzles for petsPet pads	\$50 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios or weather-band radiosGas or diesel fuel tanksBatteries, including rechargeable batteries:<ul style="list-style-type: none">AA-cellAAA-cellC-cellD-cell6-volt9-volt	\$100 or less <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheetingGround anchor systemsPortable pet kennelsOver the counter pet medicationsBags of dry dog or cat food	

Find a full list of tax-free items at FloridaRevenue.com/DisasterPrep and a complete disaster supply kit checklist at FloridaDisaster.org/Kit

Professional Upskilling

Congratulations to Amalia Cruz (our Lehigh Community Resource Coordinator) and Tim Goodman (our Employer Relations Specialist), who just completed training for The Certified Business Engagement Professional (CBEP) program.

Completing this seven-week, facilitator-led business engagement virtual course enables them to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully engage business and community partners. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication to the team!



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Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.



Text 596196141 to (888) 432 – 6659
and follow the instructions sent to you via SMS.

Notice: Your privacy is protected. Your answers are anonymous and your number is never shown publicly.

The **No. 1 Review Site** for Nonprofits



GreatNonprofits
REVIEWS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Tell Your Story

If you love our work then tell the world! You have an opportunity to help us make even more of a difference in our community. GreatNonprofits-a review site like TripAdvisor-is honoring highly reviewed nonprofits with their 2024 Top-Rated Awards. Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a review of your experience with us? All reviews will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes!

Go to
<https://greatnonprofits.org/org/goodwill-industries-of-southwest-florida> to get started!



Celebrating 10 Years

Giancarlos Castano celebrated his 10th anniversary with Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida on June 5th. Giancarlos is our mobile Community Resource Center Coordinator, who has helped hundreds of people in SWFL through SNAP, ACCESS, healthcare navigation, job applications, VITA, and much more. For many, he has been the lifeline to help them overcome barriers and what has pulled them out of hopelessness. Thank you Giancarlos for all you do to support people in SWFL.

Invest in yourself! Goodwill offers employability skills, digital skills, and other free workshops at all Community Resource Centers throughout SWFL. It just takes a commitment from you to take advantage of these free classes that are aimed at helping you get further! Click [HERE](#) to get started.

Opportunity Accelerator™ The Next Step Forward



Free Career Services Available

Goodwill Community Resource Centers offer free Employability and Digital skills training.

Our Service :

- ✓ Resume Preparation
- ✓ ACCESS Florida assistance
- ✓ Healthcare Navigation
- ✓ Basic Computer Skills



Call to find out more
239-995-2106

Ext. 2226

goodwillswfl.org



Are you looking for training, employability skills, or career advancement opportunities toward financial stability? For more information about the **Opportunity Accelerator** program click [here!](#)



Calling all Opportunity Makers!

Join us in creating a brighter future for someone. Become an Opportunity Maker! To sponsor one of our Community Resource Centers and/or employability workshops, please get in touch with Ashley Price at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2213 or email AshleyPrice@goodwillswfl.org.

Free Ongoing Classes

Citizenship Classes

Join us every Tuesday from 10 am to Noon at the Goodwill Community Resource Center in Cape Coral for free citizenship classes. We assist with your citizenship application and test preparation. Students must reserve a spot with Keith Edison in advance (**text: 508-662-2121**). Bring a copy of your application, a notebook, and a pen.

Supportive friends are welcome to come along.

Nutrition Classes

Free Nutrition classes are offered at Goodwill Community Resource Centers in Fort Myers and Bonita Springs. Participants can eat the foods prepared in the class. For more information contact Hilda (Fort Myers) at 239-995-2106 Ext 2228, or Daisy (Bonita Springs) at 239-318-4644.

ACCESS Training

ACCESS Class is offered every Friday at 9 am at the Bonita Springs CRC. Goodwill CRC coordinators are teaching the community how to create *a new account in the MyACCESS Portal* and do a renewal (or a new application). This is a free service offered by Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida. Contact Daisy or Linda at (239) 318-4644, or stop by the Bonita CRC at 11601 Bonita Beach Road, SE.

Digital Skills Classes

If you want to improve your computer skills, [Goodwill provides FREE courses, online and in person](#), covering basic topics such as typing, using a mouse, email, internet navigation, and more. We also offer advanced software classes, including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Office 365. Call (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2226 or Ext. 2228 to locate the nearest Goodwill Community Resource Center and get started today!

Visit our Website



Looking to gain computer and software skills?

Digital Navigators will be on site.

Lehigh Community Resource Center
2825 Lee Blvd. Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month
9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Noon)



Essential Computer Software and Typing Skills

No fees.

Printed certificates.

Digital Badges.



Cape Coral Caring Center

Every Tuesday from 9 am to noon,
Goodwill Community Resource Center
staff assists with Medicaid, SNAP, and
other wrap-around services at the Cape
Coral Caring Center.

Se Habla Espanol.

The Cape Coral Caring Center is located
at 1420 SE 47th St, Cape Coral, FL
33904.

TUESDAYS

(Español disponible)

9 am - 12 (Noon)

Assistance with:

ACCESS Florida application assistance

- Medicaid
- Food Assistance (SNAP)
- Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

Wrap-Around Services:

- Healthcare Navigation
- Housing Resources
- Linkage & Referral
- Job Applications

**Community
Resource Center**



Cape Coral Community Resource Center
www.goodwillswfl.org/crc



Pathways to Opportunity

Visit to Tiburon Golf Club

Huge thank you to Tiburón Golf Club for the amazing hospitality and tour! Special shoutout to Jessica, John, and Brandon for making it such a memorable experience for our Pathways to Opportunity participants.



Outings provide PTO participants with opportunities to practice life skills like safety, communication, patience, building relationships, and more. To support community engagement events for our participants, click the donate button.

[Donate](#)

The Pathways Casters Club

The Pathways Casters had such a great time during their end-of-quarter event! They were able to put into practice everything they learned this quarter. A HUGE thank you to Natures Cove for helping us put this together.



Summer Life Skills Series

This week-long summer camp is for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who want a fun, community experience to learn new skills and practice life skills.

Join us starting 07/22/24 - 07/26/24 for a series of interactive workshops designed to equip you with essential life skills for success. From financial literacy to communication strategies, we've got you covered!

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to level up your skills and boost your confidence for the future. To Register please call (239) 823-1625

PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS

LIFE SKILLS SERIES

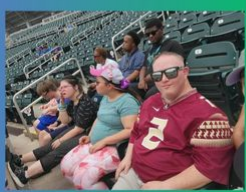

PER WEEK \$100

5100 TICE STREET SUITE D, FORT MYERS 33905

ADL-COMMUNICATION-SAFETY-COMMUNITY

JULY 22 - JULY 26
10 AM - 2PM DAILY

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
PLEASE CALL 239-823-1625 FOR MORE INFORMATION



WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM



Save the Date: PTO Garden Reveal July 3rd

Join us for the official unveiling of our "Rays to Grow Garden" at Pathways to Opportunity! We're thrilled to showcase the hard work and dedication of our gardening group, the Green Thumbs, who have poured their passion and effort into bringing this beautiful garden to life.

This special event will highlight their achievements and celebrate the growth and learning that has blossomed through this project. Come and be a part of this joyous occasion as we reveal the fruits of their labor and enjoy the beauty of our new garden space.

Upcoming Small Business Classes

Looking to take your small business to the next level? Goodwill SWFL's MicroEnterprise program is the perfect opportunity to develop your skills and gain the knowledge you need to succeed. With a comprehensive 6-week course tailored specifically to small business owners, you'll learn everything you need to know to grow your business and achieve your goals. Don't miss out on this chance to take your business to new heights - sign up for MicroEnterprise today!

For more information, contact **Sandra** at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2304, or email sandraplazas@goodwillswfl.org.



Launch Your Own Business

Be Your Own Boss

Classes Starting

June 24 - August 1, 2024

Class location:
Peachland Promenade Shopping Center
King's Highway CRC
24123 Peachland Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL 33954

Class meets
Monday and Thursday evenings
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm



For more information and to register go to:
www.goodwillswfl.org/microenterprise

or click on the QR code
or call (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2304

- **Develop a solid plan** to guide your start-up with the assistance of an experienced business coaching team who serves as your coach.
- **Hear from subject matter experts** in areas of accounting, legal, marketing, insurance and funding.
- An easy to use workbook, used by organizations across America, assists you in **transforming your vision into your plan** for a successful business launch.

Major Funding Provided:
Richard M. Schulze Foundation

Goodwill SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute Program Funders:

Bank of America	City of Fort Myers	FineMark National Bank & Trust	TD Bank Foundation
Bank United	City of North Port	Rotary Club of Punta Gorda	Wells Fargo Bank
Bank OZK	Coca-Cola Foundation	Regions Bank	Zonta Foundation of SWFL
Charlotte State Bank	Comerica Bank	Synovus	
City of Cape Coral	Fifth Third Bank	Truist	

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida is committed to serving people with disabilities and disadvantages by offering life-changing opportunities to achieve independence.

Events

Vice & Vogue: Pathways to Talent & Style

Saturday, August 24th at 5pm at The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Get ready for an electrifying night of Fashion & Creativity that's not just an event – it's an experience! Join us for our second annual fashion show and talent showcase, igniting the stage with passion and purpose, all in support of Pathways to Opportunity.

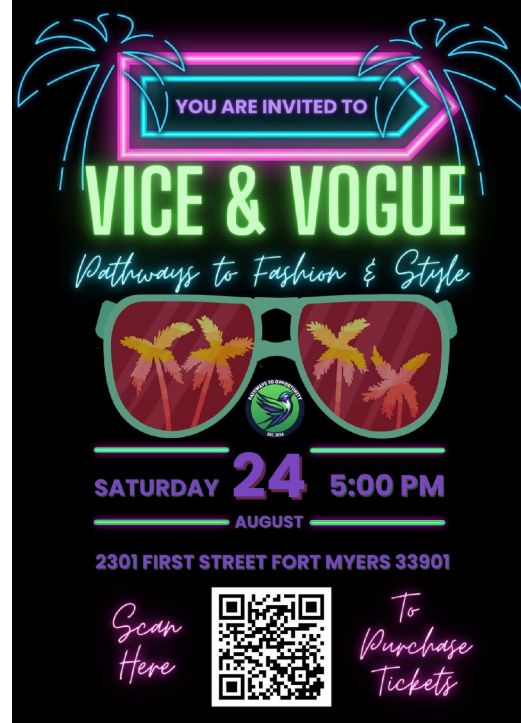
Pathways to Opportunity isn't just a program; it's a transformative journey of life skill

development. Our group classes, tailored to participant needs and interests, are not your average workshops – they're vibrant hubs of learning led by skilled professionals and community rockstars.

This showcase is more than a spotlight; it's a celebration of the incredible talents, arts, and skills our participants have mastered, thanks to the opportunities fueled by your unwavering support! Every step down the runway, every note played, and every stroke of creativity is a testament to the impact we've collectively made.

Get ready to be part of something bigger, as all proceeds from this exhilarating event directly fuel Pathways, propelling our classes to new heights, funding adventurous trips, welcoming fresh faces into our community, and so much more! Mark your calendars for a night of dynamic energy and meaningful impact.

Let's light up the night and amplify the possibilities together!



[Get Tickets](#)

Retail News

Community Appreciation Day Sale 40% off donated goods Saturday, June 15th at 3 stores ONLY!

Get 40% off all donated on Saturday, June 15th, when you shop at one of these three stores:
Challenger (4950 Challenger Blvd., Fort Myers)
McGregor (15271 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers)
Punta Gorda (3415 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda)

Goodwill
Community Appreciation Day!
Saturday, June 15th
40% off Donated Goods*

At Three SWFL Goodwill Locations

Challenger Goodwill Store
4950 Challenger Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33966

McGregor Goodwill Store
15271 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33908

Punta Gorda Goodwill Store
3415 Tamiami Trail Punta Gorda, FL 33950

VIP Perk Sale 40% off donated goods

Saturday, June 29th!

Goodwill SWFL VIP Perk shoppers can get our 4th of July Sale early. Take 40% off all donated goods at Goodwill retail stores, and 25% off donated at the blue boutiques on Saturday, June 29th. Make sure to give the cashier your VIP Perk number at checkout to receive the discount.



Pre-Sale!
HAPPY Fourth of July
INDEPENDENCE DAY

-VIP Perk-
Saturday,
June 29th

40% OFF DONATED GOODS*

Also Save 25% off DONATED GOODS at
Downtown blue & Ave Maria blue Boutiques (Excludes: Fine Art, Special Purchases)
*Sale excludes: Special Purchases, Goodwill Outlet Center, Cannot be combined with any other sales promotions.
Sale valid at Goodwill Retail & Donations Centers in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry Counties. For store listing: www.goodwillswfl.org/locations

Freedom Summer Savings

During the month of July, the Freedom Month Sales Tax Holiday will remove the sales tax on items families use during the summer.

This includes boating, fishing and camping supplies -- like pool toys, tents, and even kayaks. Outdoor supplies such as grills and bicycles will also be tax-free. Click [here](#) for items.



Freedom Month

Sales Tax Holiday ★ July 1-31, 2024

Fishing Supplies	Boating & Water Activity Supplies	General Outdoor Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$5 or less: Bait or fishing tackle if sold individually or \$10 or less if multiple items are sold together (Does not include commercial fishing supplies)• \$30 or less: Tackle boxes or bags• \$75 or less: Rods and reels if sold individually or \$150 or less if sold as a set	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$25 or less: Snorkels Goggles Swimming masks• \$35 or less: Recreational pool tubes Pool floats Inflatable chairs Pool toys• \$50 or less: Safety flares• \$75 or less: Life jackets Coolers Paddles Oars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$15 or less: Sunscreen Insect repellent• \$30 or less: Water bottles• \$50 or less: Hydration packs Bicycle helmets• \$100 or less: Sunglasses

Camping Supplies	Pool Supplies	Admissions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$30 or less: Camping lanterns Flashlights• \$50 or less: Sleeping bags Portable hammocks Camping stoves Collapsible camping chairs• \$200 or less: Tents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100 or less: Individual residential pool & spa replacement parts, jets, filters, lights, covers• \$150 or less: All residential and large chemicals purchased by an individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live music events* ‡• Live sporting events*• Movies*• Museum entry‡• State park entry‡• Ballets* ‡• Plays* ‡• Musical theatre performances* ‡

General Outdoor Supplies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200 or less: Binoculars• \$250 or less: Outdoor gas or charcoal grills• \$500 or less: Bicycles Electric scooters weighing less than 75 pounds



July 1-31, 2024
Visit floridarevenue.com/FreedomMonth

*To be held on any date(s) from July 1, 2024 through Dec 31, 2024
‡Including season tickets or annual passes

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. | (239) 995-2106 | [email](#) | [website](#)



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

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. has recieved a Platinum rating by Candid (formerly GuideStar). <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/59-6196141>. Our charitable contributions/solicitation registration # is CH1930. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OF FL. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. PLEASE VISIT www.800helpfla.com FOR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida | 5100 Tice Street | Fort Myers, FL 33905 US

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