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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.

Goodwill Honors 2024 Standouts



Goodwill Breakthrough Awards

Each year, Goodwill SWFL recognizes individuals and businesses who have advanced the Goodwill Mission throughout the prior year with an award ceremony. This year's Breakthrough Awards was held at the Caloosa Sound Convention Center in downtown Fort Myers on Friday, May 30th. The fundraiser brought in \$71,590 to support Goodwill programs and services. We even offered a sneak peek into our exciting upcoming capital campaign, "Change is Good," highlighting how we're expanding our reach to meet the evolving needs of our community!

Goodwill extends its heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors and donors whose support made the event a resounding success, including One Digital, Zaks Jewelry, Dentons, Cohen & Grigsby, Florida Blue, J Fisher Law, SuEllen's Floral Company, Joshua Tree, Lillian Dear Photography, Rig Entertainment, Encore, and The Luminary.

2024 Breakthrough Award Winners



Philanthropist
Tom Golisano &
The Golisano Foundation



Achiever
Michael Wentland



Graduate Lauren Ramnath Daharry



Business Regions Bank



Employer Allegiant Air



Employee Charissa Comerota

Mission Moments

Goodwill Proclamation Day May 20

We had a fantastic time at the Lee County Commissioners Meeting celebrating Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida Proclamation Day! Our Director of Development, Ashley Price, along with Goodwill Board Members Cathy Speer, Skip Mitchell, Dan Adams, and Dale Schneider, proudly represented Goodwill. Ashley Price and Cathy Speer spoke passionately on behalf of our agency, highlighting the incredible impact Goodwill has in our community, including serving over 24,000 people annually in our area.



Pathways to Opportunity Proclamation Day - June 17

We were once again honored during the Lee County Commissioners Meeting on June 17th to celebrate Goodwill Pathways to Opportunity Day! We are so grateful for the recognition and continued support from Lee County! Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive Southwest Florida for people with



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

SENIOR PLANET

Now Offering Free Technology Classes for Older Adults 60+

Goodwill hosts lectures and workshops, and even offers multi-week courses, for those who wish to go from beginner to more in-depth in their learning.

Our West Cape Coral's program site held their first Senior Planet session: Protecting Your Personal Information Online, on June 3rd.

"Lourdes, Caridad, and Fausto are very excited to improve their digital skills and achieve greater success in technology. They shared past experiences and concerns about topics such as creating secure passwords and protecting sensitive information," says Amalia Cruz, Senior Planet OATS Trainer







Cape Coral Senior Planet Learners

The South Cape Coral group of Senior Planet participants (pictured here exploring Google Maps) is grateful for a program like this, designed specifically for seniors. Many older adults face challenges with technology in their daily lives, and this initiative helps bridge that gap.

Vilma shared how grateful she feels to receive an education that connects directly to her everyday life, allowing her to apply her technological knowledge with confidence. "Thank you to Goodwill Southwest Florida, Ms. Iris—our wonderful trainer—and Senior Planet for thinking of us seniors!"

Bonita Springs Senior Planet Learners

Hermelinda Herrera and Caritina Govea just earned their certificate for completing the Computer Basics course at the Bonita Springs Community Resource Center (CRC).

These learners were thrilled to take the Senior Planet class with Daisy, our CRC coordinator. Each session taught them something new, boosting their confidence as they learned to navigate the internet. Before the course, they were hesitant to go online, fearing viruses or damaging their computers. Now, they feel more knowledgeable and confident about browsing safely.

Senior Planet Classes are offered every Tuesday in Spanish at 10 am, and Thursdays in English at 10 am.





Sign Up Today!
Call: 941-255-3884
Email:
sherystahnke@goodwillswfl.org

Senior Planet in Charlotte County

Senior Planet classes will be held every Thursday beginning at 10:00 am at the Charlotte County Goodwill Community Resource Center located at 24123 Peachland Blvd. in Port Charlotte.

Upcoming:

June 19: Lecture: Al and Disinformation

June 26: Workshop: Finding Information Online

Senior Planet, the principal program of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP, helps older adults harness the power of technology to thrive in the digital world. By joining the Senior Planet licensing program, Goodwill SWFL has made a commitment to help seniors in the local area learn to use technology to change their lives.

For more information about Senior Planet courses in other communities, contact Angela at angelahemstreet@goodwillswfl.org.



"If you are inspired by the services we provide our SWFL community and would like to get involved in transforming lives, contact, Ashley Price, Director of Development, at ashleyprice@goodwillswfl.org.

Yes! I want to Transform Lives Today.

Comcast Supports Goodwill's Digital Training Programs

Goodwill Southwest Florida is grateful and thrilled to have received ten laptop computers

from Comcast for our digital skills training initiatives! This support represents: ten households receiving Goodwill's Opportunity Accelerator services who will benefit from digital skills training, digital navigation regarding internet services at home, and their own device, applying new skills for employment opportunities, career advancement, and daily life.



Jeff Buzzelli of Comcast, Angela Hemstreet of Goodwill Industries SWFL and Shari Cortese of Comcast Business pose with the donated laptops.



Angela Hemstreet, Goodwill SWFL Director of Employment Services, shows the award.

Goodwill and BBBS Partnership

On May 27th, Christa Hollenbeck, Mentor Manager from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Charlotte County presented us with an award for our engagement with "Beyond School Walls."

It reads: Beyond School Walls Outstanding Community Partner. Goodwill Industries 2025.

This past school year we worked with BBBS students once a month to help with career exploration and employability skills.

Radiology Regional Partnership

Goodwill SWFL & Radiology Regional partnered for the Radiology Regional Job Fair at our Bonita Springs CRC on Tuesday, June 17th. A total of 18 individuals were interviewed for the open positions. In addition to filling openings in Bonita Springs, Radiology Regional also got good candidates for openings in Naples and Cape Coral from this event!

For more information about hosting a job fair at a Goodwill CRC, click here.





Mother's Day Celebration at Goodwill Housing

Our residents at Hatton B. Rogers Retirement Community truly enjoyed celebrating our Moms with ice cream cones on Mother's day this past May. A big thanks to the Lee County Sheriff's Office and Senior Friendship Centers who came together to make this happen. Goodwill partners with Senior Friendship Centers of Lee County to provide meals and activities for Hatton B. Rogers residents. LCSO brought their mobile ice cream truck to help celebrate.







14th Annual Goodwill Golf Classic

On May 22nd, we held the Inaugural Rick Evanchyk Memorial Golf Classic. This would have been the 14th Annual Goodwill Golf Classic, but the fundraiser has been renamed in honor of the passing of previous Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida CEO, Rick Eyanchyk, who passed last October.





Proceeds benefit programs and services offered through Goodwill SWFL that help people with disabilities and disadvantages remove barriers to their independence.

We are grateful for all of our sponosrs and would like to thank the Verandah and their staff for all of their help in making the event successful.

This year's winning team was Seagate Development Group. (From L to R in picture above: Brent Backus, Darren Ehrman, Sean Meagher, and Goodwill SWFL CEO & President John Nadeau).

MicroEnterprise

Fort Myers MicroEnterprise Classes

Individuals thinking about starting their own business, but need some mentoring, are invited to apply to the Goodwill Southwest Florida MicroEnterprise Institute. Next class is July 7, 2025 to Aug 14, 2025 in Fort Myers. Class meets Mondays & Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the SWFL Enterprise Center at 3903 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers.



Launch Your Own Business

Be Your Own Boss Classes Starting on

July 7 - August 14, 2025

Class location:

SWFL Enterprise Center 3903 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

Class meets

Monday and Thursday evenings 6:00 pm - 9:00 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: Bank of America and Fifth Third Bank

Goodwill SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute Program Funders:

Bank of America Bank United Bank OZK

Comerica Bank Fifth Third Bank City of Cape Coral Third Federal Savings & Loan Valley Bank Regions Foundation TD Bank Foundation First Citizens Zonta Foundation of SWFL

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

This six-week small business class assists aspiring entrepreneurs discover if their business idea is feasible (can make money). The students learn directly from industry experts in banking, marketing, legal matters, and more. Once students complete this course they are one step closer to launching their own small business.

These small business classes are offered to residents of Charlotte (including North Port), Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties. For more information about upcoming classes, contact Sandra Plazas at sandraplazas@goodwillswfl.org, or call (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2304.

Learn More

Pathways to Opportunity

Strides for Inclusion 5K!

We hosted our first Strides for Inclusion 5K on Saturday, June 7th at Babcock Ranch. This event supports our Pathways to Opportunity programs that promote inclusion and empower individuals

of all abilities.

We are so proud of Jordan, Matthew, and Tyler — three of our amazing PTO participants who trained hard and took on the challenge of our Strides for Inclusion 5K! A special shout out to Tyler, our 321 Adidas runner, for showing up with passion and determination!







Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we successfully raised a total of \$7,000 during our recent 5K fundraiser! We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, donated, and cheered us on. A special thank you goes out to our generous sponsors:

- Mr. Tom Golisano & the Golisano Foundation
- One Digital
- Fresh Market
- Trader Joe's
- Pepsi
- Lee Health

Your support makes a lasting impact, and we couldn't have done it without you!





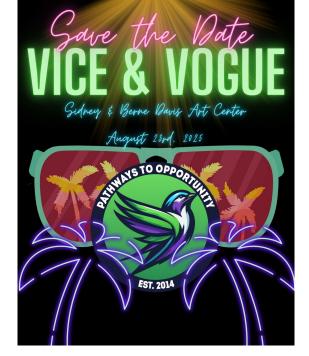




Get ready for an unforgettable evening of style, creativity, and inspiration! Our annual PTO VICE & VOGUE Fashion and Talent Show is back August 23rd at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center - and you won't want to miss it.

This exciting event supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the Pathways to Opportunity Program — a dynamic, five-day-a-week adult training program. Pathways empowers participants by teaching essential life skills, form friendships, and expereince new adventures - all while having fun!

Your attendance helps break barriers and build brighter futures. Come celebrate talent, confidence, and community with us!



Community Services

Free Ongoing Classes Offered by Goodwill

Citizenship Classes

Del Prado Goodwill CRC (3226 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral) Tuesdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm. 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.

West Cape Goodwill CRC (1499 SW Pine Island Rd., Cape Coral) Wednesdays from 1:00pm - 4:00 pm: this class aims to help applicants gain greater mastery and knowledge of USA civics, history, and government. It also allows them to practice all the information documented in Form N-400 to do a great interview. Finally, as a result obtain the citizenship certificate. Call (239) 402-7797

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 For more information contact Hilda (Fort Myers) at Office: 239-995-2106 Ext 3015 or 2312, Cell phone: 239-710-2602, or Daisy (Bonita Springs) at 239-318-4644.

ACCESS Training

ACCESS Class is offered every Friday at 9:00 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 to locate the nearest Goodwill Community Resource Center and get started today!

FREE AI Essentials Coursera Certification

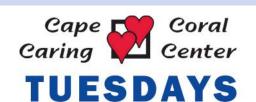
No Cost On-Line Coursera Certification Course in Al Essentials is available at Goodwill

Community Resource Centers in Southwest Florida. If you are a job seeker and want to have the cutting edge on the competition, sign up for this free on-line Professional Certification. Visit https://goodwillswfl.org/crc for a list of Goodwill CRC locations, or call (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2226 to be directed.

English Classes

Goodwill offers free English Classes Every Monday 1pm To 3pm and Every Thursday 10am to 12pm at our Fort Myers CRC, located at 5100 Tice Street. For more information Please Call Hilda at 239-995-2106 Ext 3015

Visit our Website



(Español disponible)
9 am - 12 (Noon)

Community Resource Center

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

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



Opportunity Accelerator

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 take the next step forward! Click HERE to get started.



Employment Services Employability Workshops!



- Resume Building & Digitalization
- Job Search Skills
- Online Job Applications
- Job Interview Skills
- Professional attire for interviews

4th Monday of each month

9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Noon)

Port Charlotte Community Resource Center 24123 Peachland Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

www.goodwillswfl.org/crc

Goodwill's Computer Labs are OPEN to the Public!



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.



June Notable Anniversaries

Shannon Salazar, HR BENEFITS MANAGER, 20 years on June 17th.

Amber Edrington, RETAIL BOOK SPECIALIST, 10 years on June 4th.

Karen Collupy, RETAIL BOOK SPECIALIST, 10 years on June 18th.

Mary Grosser, RETAIL PROCESSOR, 10 years on June 18th.

Shirley Reed, CUSTODIAL WORKER II, 10 years on June 18th.

Daniel Pawlick, RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATE, 10 years on June 25th.

Patricia Panek, RETAIL BOOK SPECIALIST, 5 years on June 4th.

Daisy Barreto, COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR, 5 years on June 8th.

Araceli Senteno, RETAIL SHIFT SUPERVISOR, 5 years on June 11th.

Michael Manderino, CENTRAL PROCESSING MANAGER, 5 Years on June 11th.

Maria Ramirez, RETAIL PROCESSOR, 5 years on June 16th.

James Kitchen, RETAIL PROCESSOR, 5 years on June 24th.

Kenneth Keyes, RETAIL ASSISTANT MANAGER, 5 years on June 25th.

Adriana Martinez, RECRUITER, 5 years on June 29th.

(*Goodwill SWFL recognizes Years of Service every 5 years)



Saying, "Goodbye" After 19 Years!

"We said farewell to our salvage coordinator, Gisela, on June 18th after 19 years of service. We wish her well in her retirement to Michigan. She will be missed by all who knew her."

Chris Karamalikis

Director of Donation Process





Retail News



Goodwill July VIP Perk Sale

Get our 4th of July Sale early, just for being a VIP Perk member!

Take 40% OFF - all donated goods

Saturday, June 28th

When you use your VIP Perk number at checkout.

(* Sale excludes the two blue boutiques and the Outlet on Tice).





*Sale excludes: Both blue Boutique locations, New Goods/Special Purchases, Goodwill Outlet Center. Cannot be combined with any other sales promotions. Sale valid at Goodwill Retail & Oonations Centers in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry Counties. For store listing: Www.goodwillswfl.org/locations

Want even more coupons & Savings?
Sign up for VIP Perks at GoodwillPerks.com
to receive email alerts for coupons, sales and events.

93¢ of every dollar supports Goodwill's mission





% de descuento

ARTICULOS DONADOS UNICAMENTE.

*La venta excluye: Ambas boutiques azules, productos nuevos/compras especiales Goodwill Outlet Center. No se puede combinar con ninguna otra promoción de ventas Venta válida en los centros de donaciones y venta minorista de Goodwill en los condados de Lee, Collier, Charlotte y Hendry. Para ver el listado de tiendas: www.goodwillswfl.org/locations

Regístrese para VIP PERKS ahora en GoodwillPerks.com para recibir alertas por correo electrónico sobre cupones, promociones y eventos.

 $\$0.93\phi$ de cada dólar apoya la misión de Goodwill



Goodwill 4th of July Sale!!!

Take 40% OFF all donated goods







ARTICULOS DONADOS UNICAMENTE

"La venta no incluye: las boutiques azules Downtwon y Ave Maria.

Productos nuevos/compras especiales, Goodwill Outlet Center, No se puede combinar con ninguna otra promoción de ventas. Venta válida en los centros de donaciones y venta minorista de Goodwill en los

Registrese para VIP PERKS ahora en GoodwillPerks.con para recibir alertas por correo electrónico sobre cupones, promociones y eventos

60.93¢ de cada dólar apoya la misión de Goodwill



93¢ of every dollar supports Goodwill's mission

(* Sale excludes the two blue boutiques and the Outlet on Tice).

Christmas Pop-Up Shops

We have two Christmas Pop-Up Shops stocked and ready for our holiday enthusiasts.

Towne Centre Goodwill - 3759 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples

McGregor Goodwill - 15271 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers



Goodwill Back to School Event July 18, 19, & 20th



Back to School Event July 18-19-20, 2025

We will have a variety of:

- Uniforms (Shirts, Shorts, Pants, etc.)
- Shoes
- Backpacks
- Lunch Bags
- Bag O'School Supplies

SWFL Goodwill Retail Stores participating
Excludes: Goodwill Outlet Center and both blue Boutiques
For locations scan the QR code
Or Visit:www.goodwillswfl.org





Back to School Event July 18-19-20, 2025

SWFL Goodwill Stores Participating





Enjoy Café blue!

Have you seen our new book, vinyl and media section at Cafe blue? You can buy art there too. Stop in for a new book. Check out our vinyl records and CDs, and of course delight in one of our delicious baked goods and flavorful coffees. Cafe blue is downtown Fort Myers at 2277 First









Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. I (239) 995-2106 Iemail I website







Stay Connected

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 received 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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