



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

We Earned Platinum Transparency For 2024

We've earned our Platinum Seal of Transparency with @Candid.org! Get updates on our impact through our #NonprofitProfile
<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/59-6196141>

Search: Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida
@Candid.org

[Click Here](#)

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Annual Breakthrough Award Ceremony

You are cordially invited to the most anticipated event of the year – Goodwill SWFL annual Breakthrough Awards! Get ready to shine and walk the red carpet with us as we celebrate the shining stars of Goodwill who have truly made our mission possible. This night is all about honoring those who have not only embraced our mission but have thrived through it, significantly impacting our community. It's a can't-miss extravaganza filled with glitz, glamour, and heartfelt moments. Click the image below to register and learn about sponsorship opportunities!

*You are Cordially
Invited to our*

**2023 Breakthrough Awards
Shining Stars of Goodwill**

April 11, 2024 at 6 pm

Cocktails & Networking 6:00 pm

Dinner & Awards 7:00 pm

\$150/per person \$1000/table of 8

**Glam it up and walk the red carpet
as we honor our Shining Stars**

**Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center
2301 First Street | Fort Myers, Florida 33901**

**To register for the event visit:
www.eventcreate.com/e/2023breakthrough**

Thank you to our Superstar Sponsor:



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

Building Your Resources for a Better Life

Go from surviving to thriving! Take the first step towards a brighter future. Classes are held every Thursday from 9 am to noon until June 6th at the Goodwill Community Resource Center at 5100 Tice Street in Fort Myers. Breakfast and snacks are provided.

Getting AHEAD

in a
Just-Gettin'-By
World

Begin Your Journey Today

Commit to making a change. YOU can be the difference in your life! Go from surviving to thriving. Take the first step towards a brighter future. We want to help you:

- ☐ Identify your strengths
- ☐ Share your experiences
- ☐ Learn from others
- ☐ Take responsibility
- ☐ "Get Ahead" in today's world



Sign Up Today!



(585)899-9455



bcm@homelesscoalition.net



Classes:

Thursdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon) ☐

February 22, 2024 - June 6, 2024 ☐

Breakfast and snacks provided ☐

Location:

Goodwill Community Resource Center

5100 Tice Street

Fort Myers, FL 33905



Celebrating 10 Years

Congratulations to Jessica Tursi, Director of Disability Services and Disability Navigation, who is celebrating 10 years with Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida.

Jessica is the Director of the Pathways to Opportunity program serving 98 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and helps families navigate disability services.



Goodwill Helps Host Career, Trades, and Community Fair

Goodwill helped host a Career, Trades &



Community Fair at SWFL Enterprise Center, 3903 Dr. M.L. King Jr. Blvd, Suite 5, Fort Myers. Thank you to all who participated. It was a great collaborative effort serving the community!



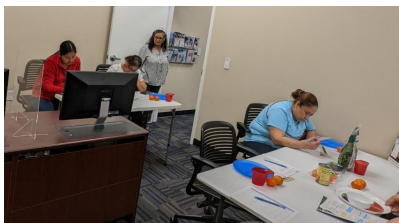
Free Access Training

Our Bonita Springs Community Resource Center (CRC) offers Access Class every Friday at 9 am. Goodwill CRC coordinators are teaching the community how to create a new ACCESS 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.



Bonita Springs Nutrition Class

Our Goodwill Community Resource Center (CRC) in Bonita Springs offers free Nutrition Classes every Wednesday at noon. Stop in and get connected with valuable resources to help.



Goodwill's Opportunity Accelerator

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

Opportunity Accelerator™

The Next Step Forward

Success Story | Marlen Gonzalez

Marlene lived near a Goodwill store and noticed there was a Community Resource Center inside.

She had been unemployed for a while, so she came into the CRC to see what it was about.

Marlene received an overview of Opportunity Accelerator services and said she was impressed by the agency, so she made an appointment for employment services on the spot.

Her first steps forward were signing up for digital skills training, resume guidance, secure online job search, creating an email username and password, & ESL class.

Marlene's greatest accomplishments so far include getting started on up-skilling in technology and English and landing a job at one of the Goodwill retail stores.

It has been a good experience for her to get connected to her community after a year in the US with very few English skills and in relative isolation.

Her computer skills and English language have continued to improve which opens up greater opportunities.

"I appreciate everything that this Goodwill location has done for me in such a short time" says Marlene.



Make 2024 the best year ever! 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.

**A Year
From
Now
You'll
Wish
You
Started
Sooner!**

**Opportunity Accelerator™
The Next Step Forward**



Grow Your Skills For Today's Jobs

Learn at Your Own Pace

Essential Computer Software and Typing Skills

- Microsoft and Google Basic Office
- Social Media Navigation and Safety Tips
- Email and Internet Basics

Work One on One with Career Navigators

(by Appointment)

- Resume Creation
- Job Search Assistance
- Interview Basics and Tips

Let's Get Started!

Scan QR Code for
Locations and Schedules
www.goodwillswfl.org/crc



**Community
Resource Center**



Be a part of someone's brighter future. Become an **Opportunity Maker!** To sponsor one of our Community Resource Centers and/or employability workshops, contact Ashley Price at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2213, or email [**AshleyPrice@goodwillswfl.org**](mailto:AshleyPrice@goodwillswfl.org)

Visit our Website

Free Ongoing Classes

Citizenship Classes at Del Prado CRC

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 at Goodwill CRCs

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 Access 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 at All Goodwill CRCs

If you want to improve your computer skills, Goodwill provides FREE online courses 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

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to noon, Goodwill Community Resource Center staff will be at the Cape Coral Caring Center to provide assistance with Medicaid, SNAP, and more. Se Habla Español. The Cape Coral Caring Center is located at 1420 SE 47th St, Cape Coral, FL 33904.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS **Cape Coral Caring Center**

(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



United Way Publix Appreciation Week

Publix Stores raised more than \$1.1 million for United Way in Lee County for the 2023-2024 Campaign! As a United Way community partner, Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida was invited to be a part of the United Way Publix Appreciation Day. We are celebrating 44 Years of Publix serving this community!



We are grateful for our sponsors and donors

Pathways to Opportunity received a \$25,000 financial gift from the Karpus Family Foundation to support furthering charitable endeavors.



Pathways to Opportunity

Gouverneur Signature Event

Advocacy Update - We're thrilled to share that Senate Bill 1758, aimed at improving care navigation services, has passed! Pathways to Opportunity had the incredible opportunity to have representatives present during this pivotal moment, advocating for the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities and their families.

This groundbreaking legislation will:
Require the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide care navigation services.

Align care plans with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities.

Introduce online APD service applications for better access.
Create a comprehensive transition waiver for clients entering adulthood.

Reduce crisis response time from 45 to 15 days. Lower the aging caregiver threshold from 70 to 60.

This is a significant step toward a more inclusive, supportive environment. Thanks to Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and all involved! □



Florida State Gov. Ron DeSantis signing Senate Bill 1758.

World Down Syndrome Day

We celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st with a crazy sock parade at the Goodwill Opportunity Center.

Let's shine a light on the abilities, accomplishments, and incredible spirit of individuals with Down syndrome. Together, we embrace diversity, promote inclusion, and celebrate the beauty of every



individual. Join us in spreading love and acceptance today and every day!



Visit to FOX 4

Our Pathways to Opportunity group received an exclusive Fox 4 TV station tour, diving deep into the world of broadcasting and learning the ins and outs of bringing the news to our community.

A massive THANK YOU to the entire team at Fox 4, especially Anchor & Reporter Shari Armstrong, for welcoming us with open arms and for such an educational and fun tour. The knowledge and insights gained from this visit have left a lasting impression on all of us.



We're grateful for community partners like Fox 4 who open their doors and hearts to our participants, helping us to broaden their horizons and explore new interests.



A Tip of the Hat to Felton Hat Co.!

PTO had an unforgettable Hat Bar experience with the Felton Hat Co. Our Women's Club had a blast customizing their own hats, adding a touch of personal flair to each unique piece.

A massive THANK YOU to the team at Felton Hat Co. for making this experience so special and for helping us express our individual styles in such a fun and creative way.

Join Pathways to Opportunity's Best Buddies Friendship Walk Team!

We're excited to announce that PTO is forming a team for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk happening on April 27th at Estero Community Park! This is a fantastic opportunity to support an amazing cause, enjoy a beautiful day out, and make unforgettable memories with the Pathways community.

Do you want to be part of something special? Let us know if you're interested in joining our team! Contact Jessica Tursi at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2301, or email jessicaavalos@goodwillswfl.org

Together, we can make a huge impact. Let's walk for friendship, inclusion, and a world of unlimited possibilities. See you at the park!



Register Today!

SATURDAY APRIL 27th, 2024
ESTERO COMMUNITY PARK
9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.
Estero, FL
Join Our Team!



[BESTBUDDIESFRIENDSHIPWALK.ORG/SOUTHWESTFLORIDA](https://bestbuddiesfriendshipwalk.org/southwestflorida)



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

Pet Therapy Comes to the Rescue

Today was a bit ruff, but thanks to our furry friends from Pet Therapy, the day got a whole lot brighter! Their unconditional love worked wonders, providing the comfort and joy we all needed.



Fort Myers Fire Station Visit

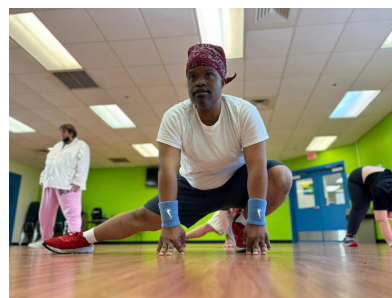
Chief Tracy McMillion, from the Fort Myers Fire Department, and his staff provided a full tour of the fire station, fire trucks, engines, and equipment for our Pathways to Opportunity participants. They discussed with the Fire Chief how important values and goals are for his staff. Participants operated the Jaws of Life, used the fire hose, and much more!



PTO Recreation at the Park



Pathways to Opportunity was invited to conduct recreation sessions for our participants at the Harold Avenue Recreation Center in Port Charlotte. Their staff is learning to host similar community programs for individuals with disabilities in Charlotte County.



Events

Goodwill
 Southwest Florida




Golf Classic

Held at:

Verandah
 Golf Club, Fort Myers

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Verandah Country Club
 12201 River Village Way
 Fort Myers, FL 33905

\$225 per player / \$750 per foursome
 Includes 18 holes, cart and lunch
 shotgun start four person scramble: 8:30 am

All proceeds go towards Goodwill impactful mission services for Southwest Florida

To register for sponsorships or event:
www.eventcreate.com/e/goodwill2024golfclassic

Big Dog Sponsor


ONEDIGITAL

Goodwill is gearing up for our 13th Annual Golf Classic Fundraiser. This fun golf tournament will be held on May 2nd at the Verandah Country Club. Register now to reserve a spot for your foursome, or register as a single player and meet some fellow golfers. The shotgun scramble begins at 8:30 am.

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

April 29 - June 6, 2024

Class location:

SWFL Enterprise Center
3903 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33916

Class meets

Monday and Thursday evenings
6 pm - 9 pm



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

or scan the QR code
or call (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2215

- **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
Bank United
Bank OZK
Charlotte State Bank
City of Cape Coral

City of Fort Myers
City of North Port
Comerica Bank
Fifth Third Bank

FineMark National Bank & Trust
First Citizens Bank
Regions Bank
Synovus

Truist
TD Bank Foundation
Wells Fargo Bank
Zonta Foundation of SWFL

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Retail News

Community Appreciation Day Sale

**40% off donated at three retail stores on
Saturday, April 20th!**

Goodwill SWFL shoppers get 40% off their purchases of donated goods at these three Goodwill retail stores: North Fort Myers, LaBelle, and Pine Ridge in Naples on Saturday, April 20th.

Goodwill 
Community Appreciation Day!
Saturday, April 20th
40% off Donated Goods*

At Three SWFL Goodwill Locations

LaBelle Goodwill Store
91 South Street LaBelle, FL 33935

North Fort Myers Goodwill Store
1919 N. Tamiami Trail North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Pine Ridge Goodwill Store
1687 Pine Ridge Rd Naples, FL 34109

Bonita Commons Grand Opening



Our new Bonita Commons Goodwill had its official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, March 7th. Come in and check it out. The new Goodwill is located at 25987 South Tamiami Trail in Bonita Springs.



Winner of the TV at the Bonita Commons Grand Opening

We have a winner!!! Angel Mendieta won the new 65" flat-screen TV raffled off during the Grand Opening of our new Bonita Commons Goodwill. If you haven't seen this Goodwill yet, you should check it out! It's beautiful! It's located at 25987 S. Tamiami Trail in Bonita Springs.



Open Easter Sunday

Goodwill stores will be open on Sunday, March 31st. Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny will be making an appearance at select Goodwill stores. You are welcome to take pictures and Bunny has treats.



Goodwill

Open Regular Business Hours Easter Sunday March 31



Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. | (239) 995-2106 | [email](#) | [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 recieved a Platinum rating by GuideStar Charity Navigator <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

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