

The Goodwill Grapevine

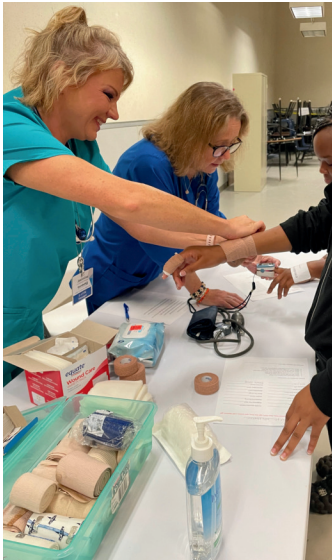


A SEASON OF FIRSTS AT GOODWILL



This season has been nothing short of extraordinary, marked by a series of 'firsts' that showcase our commitment to innovation and community impact. From the inaugural Ghoullwill Bash that brought spooky fun for a good cause, to the launch of our groundbreaking BookWorks program, and the resounding success of the first-ever Goodwill Job

Extravaganza – these milestones reflect our dedication to pioneering initiatives that make a lasting difference. Join us on this exciting journey as we celebrate progress, empowerment, and community engagement in our latest updates!



GOODWILL HOSTS FIRST JOB EXTRAVAGANZA!

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi is excited to share the success of our recent Job Extravaganza, hosted by our dedicated Workforce Development Department. In partnership with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and Madison County Schools, we've taken a significant step toward empowering individuals of diverse learning needs for the workforce of tomorrow.

At the Job Extravaganza, over 85 students with diverse learning needs had the unique opportunity to gain hands-on job training from 18 businesses in our community. The Job Extravaganza was more than just a career fair; it was a transformative experience, equipping these young individuals with essential skills and real-world insights. We believe in the potential of every person, and this initiative reflects our commitment to creating inclusive and empowering opportunities for all members of our community.

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi is proud to be a part of this collaboration, and we look forward to many more Job Extravaganza events, each one contributing to building a more inclusive and prosperous Mississippi for all. Stay tuned for more updates on our journey to empower, educate, and transform lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work!



For information about future Job Extravaganzas, reach out to Vicki Burton at vburton@goodwillms.org!

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO...



Brad Steffani

As we welcome Fall, I'm thrilled to highlight some recent accomplishments at Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. Our inaugural Job Extravaganza, hosted by our Workforce Development Department, was a remarkable success, reinforcing our commitment to creating opportunities for all.

We also launched the BookWorks program, promoting our dedication to early childhood literacy. I had the privilege of reading to two eager classes during the program's debut, which will undoubtedly ignite young minds and foster a love for reading.

Additionally, our first-ever Ghoull Bash was a fantastic Halloween-themed celebration. Ambassadors and community members gathered to learn more about the mission of Goodwill and to showcase some of their favorite Goodwill finds - which they had creatively turned into Halloween costumes!

These achievements speak to our team's dedication and the incredible support from our community. Our mission of transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work remains unwavering. With your continued support, we'll keep making a difference, one life at a time.

Goodwill of Mississippi Locations

Byram Retail Store
5764 Terry Road
Byram, MS 39272
(601) 882-5152

Hattiesburg Retail Store
5916 HWY 49
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
(601) 605-0948

Centre Steet Outlet Store
863 Centre St
Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601) 991-9299

Hwy 51 Retail Store
637C HWY 51 N
Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601) 605-0948

Clinton Retail Store & E-Commerce
941 HWY 80 E
Clinton, MS 39056
(601) 708-1797

Jacksonian Retail Store
4950 I55 N
Jackson, MS 39211
(601) 982-4324

Crossgates Retail Store
5708 HWY 80 E
Pearl, MS 39208
(601) 664-3424

Reservoir Attended Donation Center
1923 Spillway Rd
Brandon, MS 39047
(601) 853-8110

Greenville Retail Store
1662 Martin Luther Kind Jr Blvd S
Greenville, MS 38703
(662) 634-4343

Goodwill Administration Office
104 East State Street
Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601) 853-8110



TURNING PAGES, CHANGING LIVES: GOODWILL LAUNCHES BOOKWORKS PROGRAM



Goodwill Industries of Mississippi is thrilled to announce the launch of our BookWorks program, and the excitement is contagious! This initiative is aimed at nurturing a love for reading among preschoolers. With a mission to inspire a lifelong passion for learning and reading, the BookWorks program is designed to engage, educate, and empower young readers. By introducing the magic of storytelling, we aim to foster not only literacy skills but also a sense of wonder and curiosity that will last a lifetime. At the end of each reading, each child is given a book to start their very own library at home.

At the heart of this program is a commitment to community engagement. We understand the pivotal role that early literacy plays in shaping a child's future, and we are excited to partner with local schools to make a difference. Our first BookWorks reading featured our very own CEO, Brad Steffani, who had the honor of reading to two enthusiastic classes. The joy of sharing stories, exploring new worlds, and igniting imaginations was apparent in the room.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Head Start school that opened its doors to our BookWorks staff, allowing us to embark on this literary adventure with their students. It's through partnerships like these that we can make a lasting impact on the lives of children in our community. As we move forward with the BookWorks program, we look forward to witnessing the growth, excitement, and love for reading that it will undoubtedly inspire. Together, we're turning pages, sparking imaginations, and building a brighter future, one book at a time.

For more information about BookWorks, please contact Tammy Louvier at tlouvier@goodwillms.org.



EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to the following employees who were named Employee of the Quarter for Q3 2023! They exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the mission of Goodwill.



Anthony Banks
Byram Retail Store



Linda Ephriam
Centre St Outlet Store



Jabarius Johnson
Clinton Retail Store



Amy Alexander
Crossgates Retail Store



Kailey Irion
Greenville Retail Store



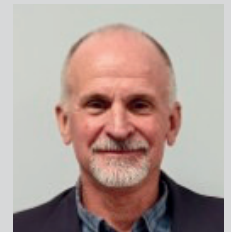
Vivian Simms
Hattiesburg Retail Store



Jennifer Eason
Jacksonian Retail Store



Daphne Handford
51 Place Retail Store



Bob Odom
Admin

THRIVING AT WORK: SUPPORTING A HEALTHY, HAPPY WORKFORCE



At Goodwill of Mississippi, we believe in not only providing jobs but also promoting an environment where our employees can thrive personally and professionally. Our commitment to the well-being of our team members goes beyond the workplace, with initiatives designed to enhance their lives holistically.

A cornerstone of Goodwill's employee benefit's program is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offering confidential counseling and resources to help navigate life's challenges. We understand that personal well-being directly influences professional success, and our EAP is here to provide this necessary level of support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

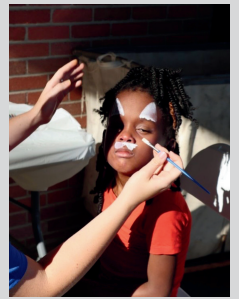
Recognizing the importance of physical health, we take pride in offering a comprehensive health benefits package to our employees. Good health is a foundation for a fulfilling life, and we strive to ensure our team members have access to the care they need to lead healthy and balanced lives. Telehealth will be introduced in 2024, allowing employees to access medical care from the comfort of their homes.

Moreover, we understand the power of education in transforming lives. Our Tuition Assistance program is designed to empower employees to pursue further education, providing financial support to help them reach their academic and career goals. This assistance is available to all employees after 30 days of employment.

At Goodwill of Mississippi, our commitment to improving lives extends beyond the workplace, reflecting our belief that a supportive and empowered team creates a thriving workforce and community. Together, we are fostering a culture of well-being and growth.

To learn more about Goodwill's employee benefits, please contact a Goodwill HR Representative at hr@goodwillms.org.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF MISSISSIPPI HOSTS 2023 FAMILY FUN DAY!



We understand that fostering a strong sense of community and camaraderie among our team is just as important as our mission of transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work. That's why we recently hosted our much-anticipated "Family Fun Day" and invited all our dedicated employees and their families to join in the festivities.

Our Goodwill family gathered for a day fun, with the event featuring an array of exciting activities that catered to both the young and young-at-heart. There was colorful face painting, a lively DJ who got everyone dancing, an inflatable bounce house, outdoor games that sparked friendly competition, BINGO, a cakewalk for delightful treats, and our CEO, Brad Steffani, showcased his grilling talents. And to beat the Mississippi heat, a snow cone truck arrived on the scene with cool and colorful flavors for all to enjoy.

The Goodwill Family Fun Day was more than just a day of leisure; it was a chance for our team to bond, unwind, and strengthen the bonds that make our Goodwill community so special. It's moments like these that remind us that our mission isn't just about the work we do; it's about the people we serve and the connections we build. As we look back on this wonderful day, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all that helped to plan the event and everyone who joined us and made it a day to remember. Your presence, laughter, and enthusiasm brought the spirit of Goodwill to life, reminding us all that we're part of something truly remarkable. At Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc., we're not just coworkers; we're a family united by a shared purpose.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF MISSISSIPPI ATTENDS 70TH ANNUAL MMA CONFERENCE

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi had the privilege of attending the 70th Annual Mississippi Manufacturers Association (MMA) Conference, held in Point Clear, Alabama from June 14th to 16th, 2023. This event provided an exceptional platform for the organization’s Workforce Development team to network with industry leaders, exchange ideas, and showcase the impactful work Goodwill does in the communities we serve.

As an organization committed to empowering individuals and strengthening communities, participating in the MMA Annual Conference was a valuable opportunity for Goodwill of Mississippi. The conference brought together a diverse range of professionals, decision-makers, and influencers from the manufacturing sector—an industry that plays a vital role in driving economic growth and job creation.

At Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, we firmly believe in the power of collaboration and partnership. Engaging with the manufacturing industry opens doors to new possibilities, such as job training programs, employment placements, and strategic alliances. By fostering these relationships, we can create a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of the individuals we serve.



2023 GIVS SALUTE DINNER HONORS 17 DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEERS



John W. Beck, III
(Johnny)



Carolyn Boteler



Robyn Shideler
Farber



Davis and Martha
Frye



Jimmy
Hollingsworth



J. William Manuel



Lori Hill Marshall



Cathy Northington



David Pharr



Jamie Rasberry



Regina Todd



Kaleb Bullock
Youth Honoree



Austin Craft
Youth Honoree



Katie Farthing
Youth Honoree



Nataleigh Nix
Youth Honoree



Ava Wilson
Youth Honoree

The GIVS Goodwill Salute Dinner, graciously hosted by the Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services (GIVS) auxiliary group, was a night of inspiration and recognition. It celebrated the remarkable contributions of these individuals who have generously devoted their time and expertise to making a positive impact in various capacities within our community, extending far beyond the walls of Goodwill.

Each honoree has played a pivotal role in enriching our state and the world through their volunteer work. Their efforts have included serving in diverse roles, from community leadership to international humanitarian endeavors. Their collective contributions have not only uplifted countless lives but have also fortified our community's resilience and interconnectedness.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the GIVS auxiliary for their remarkable dedication in organizing this memorable community event. The GIVS auxiliary is a vital part of our organization, comprised of selfless volunteers who wholeheartedly support our mission. Their commitment to celebrating these extraordinary volunteers underscores the culture of gratitude and solidarity that defines Goodwill!

GOODWILL OF MISSISSIPPI HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL GHOULWILL BASH!



It's official—Goodwill of Mississippi's 1st Annual Ghoullwill Bash was a frightfully fantastic evening of ghoulish fun! Hosted by Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, this event was a bewitching celebration that brought our incredible supporters, staff, and community together for a spellbinding Halloween-themed extravaganza.

The event featured a Goodwill Halloween Costume Contest. What made this contest special? Contestants needed to provide a receipt demonstrating that a part of their costume was purchased from Goodwill to be able to enter, highlighting the remarkable finds in our stores. Each contestant was judged by a panel of judges and trophies were given out for first, second, and third place for those that showed true creativity and skill in their costume designs! What set this year's Ghoullwill Bash truly special was the pinning of five remarkable individuals as Goodwill Ambassadors. Our Ambassadors are individuals who embody the spirit of Goodwill, championing our cause and contributing to the betterment of our community. These dedicated individuals serve as advocates, volunteers, and beacons of goodwill, spreading the message of lifelong learning and meaningful work.

The 1st Annual Ghoullwill Bash was a hauntingly successful event, and it couldn't have happened without our loyal supporters and the incredible Goodwill team that brought it to life. We're already brewing up ideas to make next year's event even more mysteriously memorable!

For more information about Goodwill of Mississippi's Ambassador Program, reach out to Roy Johns at rjohns@goodwillms.org.

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The Goodwill

Optimistic



FALL
2023
NEWSLETTER