

The Goodwill

Grapevine



SUMMER
2023

GOODWILL CELEBRATES ITS EMPLOYEES!

The Summer 2023 edition of the Goodwill Grapevine holds a special significance, as we set out to acknowledge and honor the heart and soul of Goodwill Industries - our incredible employees. At Goodwill, we firmly believe that our organization's strength lies within the dedication and hard work of each team member.

In these pages, you will find inspiring stories and heartfelt testimonials that shine a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of our employees. From our frontline heroes to the individuals working tirelessly behind the scenes, each person plays an invaluable role in the success of Goodwill's mission.

Join us as we celebrate the achievements, triumphs, and personal journeys of the employees highlighted. Let their stories serve as a beacon of inspiration and a reminder of the collective power we possess to make a difference.

Mission
Transform lives
through lifelong
learning and
meaningful work.

TRANSFORMING LIVES: GOODWILL'S MISSION IN ACTION

At Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, our mission is a powerful force driving every aspect of our work. We believe in the potential of every person, and our commitment to transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work is evident in every action we take.

Lifelong learning lies at the core of our approach. We recognize that education is not confined to a specific age or stage in life.

That's why we provide a range of educational programs from an early childhood literacy program, financial literacy classes to job readiness training including digital skills. By fostering continuous personal development and skill enhancement, we empower individuals to seize opportunities for growth and success. Yet, the heart of our mission truly beats within our dedication to meaningful work. We understand that employment is not merely about earning a paycheck; it is about dignity, self-sufficiency, and empowerment.

Our impact is best measured by the stories of real individuals whose lives we've touched and transformed. Meet the person who overcame barriers to secure stable employment, and witness the one who discovered their passion for a new career path through our learning opportunities. Each success story reaffirms our belief in the power of Goodwill Industries of Mississippi's mission.

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David Henry **Curnis Upkins**

Laura Law

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO...

Brad Steffani



This edition of the Goodwill Grapevine celebrates our employees! Please join me in extending a heartfelt congratulations to our 2022 Employee of the Year, Achiever of the Year, Manager of the Year, GIVS Spirit Award Winner, and our Q2 2023 Employees of the Quarter. Their contributions have not only enriched the lives of those we serve but have also strengthened the fabric of our Goodwill family.

In the midst of celebrating these achievements, we must also pause to grieve the loss of a beloved member of our Goodwill family, Frank Bryant. It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of Frank, our Vice President of Operations. His dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our mission have left a lasting mark on our organization. Frank's passion for Goodwill's mission was truly unparalleled, and his legacy will forever be etched in our hearts.

As we navigate this journey of celebration and remembrance, let us draw strength from the knowledge that we stand together as a resilient and supportive Goodwill family. Our commitment to transforming lives remains unwavering, and we honor those who have left a lasting impact on our organization with every step we take towards a brighter future.

STAFF

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Michael Hudgens - *Director of Retail Operations*
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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

2022 GRAY WIGGERS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Candis Coghlan



Candis Coghlan, a shining star at Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc., is the deserving recipient of the Employee of the Year award for 2022. Since joining Goodwill in 2019 as a driver, Candis has demonstrated exceptional dedication, unwavering commitment, and a true passion for the organization's mission.

Candis's journey with Goodwill began when she was hired as a driver, responsible for collecting and delivering goods to support the organization's operations. In July of 2023, Candis achieved a well-deserved promotion to the role of Lead Driver, further highlighting her exceptional skills and dedication.

What truly sets Candis apart is her heartfelt connection to Goodwill's clients and the transformational power of the organization's mission. Having overcome addiction and found her own path forward, Candis has a deep empathy for those facing similar challenges. She relishes the opportunity to work closely with Goodwill's clients, witnessing their resilience and supporting their journeys towards personal growth.

Receiving recognition as Employee of the Year fills Candis with a profound sense of accomplishment. Candis states *"If you want better, you have to be better. It all starts with yourself, and I strive every day to improve. Always work hard, even when nobody is looking!"*

2022 DON SIMPSON ACHEIVER OF THE YEAR

Bill Walker



Bill Walker is an exceptional employee whose remarkable journey at Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc. has earned him the esteemed title of Achiever of the Year for 2022. With a decade-long commitment to our organization, Bill's dedicated service and continuous growth have made a profound impact on our team.

Starting as a truck helper in 2013, Bill quickly demonstrated his dedication and work ethic, consistently going above and beyond to fulfill his responsibilities. His commitment to excellence propelled him to progress through various roles within our organization. From his role as a keyholder to his subsequent positions as

Assistant Manager, Interim Store Manager, E-Commerce Manager, and Data Analyst, Bill consistently demonstrated his ability to excel in different capacities. Bill's journey showcases his versatility and adaptability as he embraced new challenges and responsibilities at each stage of his career. Currently serving as the POS/IT Support Specialist for our organization, Bill has established himself as a valuable resource.

When asked about winning the 2022 Achiever of the Year award, Bill humbly responded, *"I am so honored and appreciative of receiving this recognition. I do my best every day and am happy to have been recognized for my work."*



2022 DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Konica Donelson

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc. proudly honors Konica Donelson as the recipient of the 2022 Manager of the Year. Konica's exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and remarkable contributions have made a lasting impact on our organization and the communities we serve.

Konica's journey with Goodwill began in 2017 when she joined as a cashier at the Jacksonian Retail Store. Her exceptional work ethic and passion for Goodwill's mission quickly became evident, leading to her promotion to Assistant Manager in 2018. Recognizing her leadership potential, Konica was appointed as Store Manager in 2022.

What sets Konica apart is her adaptability and versatility in managing multiple retail stores within Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. Alongside her role at Jacksonian, she has demonstrated her ability to effectively lead and drive results at the Crossgates Retail Store and the 51 Place Retail Store. Her dedication and strong work ethic have shone through, regardless of the location. She understands the power of employment opportunities and the positive impact they can have on individuals and their families.

When asked about receiving recognition as Goodwill's Manager of the Year, Konica stated, *"I've been through a lot with Goodwill, and nothing feels better than winning - especially when people doubted you!"*

2022 GIVS SPIRIT AWARD WINNER

Anthony Banks

Anthony Banks, an outstanding example of determination and resilience, is the recipient of the 2022 GIVS Spirit Award at Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. Anthony's journey, from being a client through the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services to becoming a valued employee and Shift Supervisor, is an inspiring testament to his unwavering spirit and dedication.

Anthony's journey embodies the very essence of the GIVS Spirit Award, which recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional perseverance, determination, and a genuine commitment to personal growth. His story speaks to the transformative power of Goodwill's programs and services. As a recipient of support from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, he experienced firsthand the positive impact that Goodwill of Mississippi can have on individuals seeking to overcome barriers and achieve meaningful employment. In September of 2022, Anthony's perseverance and hard work led to his official employment with Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, Inc. His dedication, positive attitude, and eagerness to learn quickly made him an integral part of the Goodwill family. Anthony's exceptional performance and ability to inspire others were quickly recognized, resulting in his promotion to Shift Supervisor in March of 2023.

Anthony expressed his delight about being named the 2022 GIVS Salute Award winner, when he shared, *"I am so excited to receive this recognition. It feels good to know that my passion for helping people is being acknowledged! I have loved this job since the first day and there is nowhere else I would rather be working."*



REMEMBERING A CHERISHED GOODWILL EMPLOYEE...

Frank
Bryant



— ❖ —
1957-2023

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we bid farewell to Frank Bryant, a cherished member of the Goodwill family. After a remarkable **33 years of dedicated service**, Frank's passing leaves an irreplaceable void in our organization and in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Frank's journey with Goodwill began when JP Allen, a Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services employee, had the opportunity to meet him and recognized his potential. Impressed by Frank's character and work ethic, he referred him to our organization, **launching a career that would span over three decades**.

From his early days with Goodwill of Mississippi, Frank exhibited a passion for Goodwill's mission. His commitment to our cause became evident as he moved up through various roles within the organization. His dedication eventually led to his appointment as Vice President of Operations for Goodwill of Mississippi, a position he held for the past seven years. **He was known for being the first to arrive each morning, and the last person to leave each evening**.

Frank's legacy extends far beyond his professional accomplishments. He had a genuine interest in the well-being of others, often going the extra mile to offer support and encouragement. **He was most happy when comradery was on full display at various employee functions, where he jumped on any opportunity to grill and feed the "family" of Goodwill**. Frank's warmth and approachability made him a beloved figure within our organization, and his absence will be deeply felt.

As we mourn the loss of a remarkable employee and dear friend, we honor Frank's contributions to Goodwill Industries of Mississippi. His tireless efforts and deep commitment to our mission have left an indelible mark on our organization and the lives of countless individuals. **We extend our heartfelt condolences to Frank's family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time**. May the memories of Frank Bryant's exceptional life bring comfort and solace as we remember the impact he made on Goodwill Industries of Mississippi.

WORKFORCE HOSTS QUARTERLY LUNCHEON



Goodwill Industries of Mississippi recently had the pleasure of hosting a Quarterly Luncheon at its retail location in Greenville, MS, where counselors from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) were invited to join. The gathering provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, as well as an informative exchange about Goodwill's mission and initiatives.

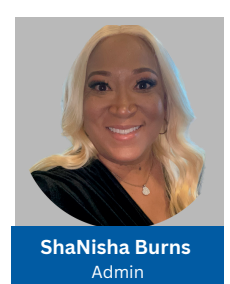
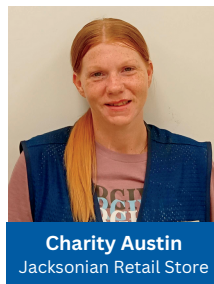
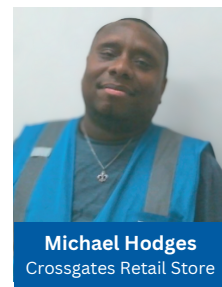
During the luncheon, Goodwill Industries of Mississippi shared valuable information about its wide range of programs and services designed to empower individuals with disabilities. MDRS counselors had the chance to learn about the various job training, education, and support programs offered by Goodwill, gaining deeper insights into how the organization works tirelessly to create inclusive work environments and provide individuals with the tools they need to succeed.

The event fostered an atmosphere of camaraderie and collaboration, as counselors and Goodwill staff engaged in meaningful discussions, sharing experiences, challenges, and success stories. This networking aspect of the luncheon helped strengthen relationships between the two organizations, further solidifying their shared commitment to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi is thankful for our partnership with MDRS, which has existed since 1957, and looks forward to many years to come!

Congratulations to these employees on being named Employee of the Quarter for Q2 2023! They exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the mission of Goodwill.

EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER



EMBRACING LIFELONG LEARNING: STAFF DEVELOPMENT AT GOODWILL



At Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, we firmly believe in the power of lifelong learning and its profound impact on personal and professional growth. As an organization committed to transforming lives, we are dedicated to providing our team members with valuable opportunities for continuous development. Over the last quarter, we participated in two staff training events, reinforcing our commitment to our mission and fostering a culture of knowledge and empowerment.

Manager's Training Event - May 25th: Our managers came together for an all-day training event, where they delved into a range of essential topics to enhance their leadership skills and management capabilities on May 25th. By investing in our managers' growth and development, we aim to foster an environment where their leadership inspires and motivates their teams to achieve greatness.

CPR Training for Employees - May 22nd and 26th: As a socially responsible organization, the safety and well-being of our employees and the communities we serve are paramount. These CPR training sessions equipped our team members with life-saving skills, instilling confidence and preparedness in the face of emergencies. By equipping our employees with essential life-saving knowledge, we extend our commitment to not only transforming lives but also protecting them.

These staff training events are not just checkboxes on our calendar; they are integral components of our mission to promote lifelong learning. By investing in the continuous growth of our team members, we foster a workplace culture that thrives on innovation, knowledge sharing, and adaptability. Our commitment to providing these opportunities underlines our belief in the potential of each individual to grow and contribute meaningfully.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- Goodwill Salutes Employee Award Recipients
- Remembering Frank Bryant
- Goodwill Hosts Quarterly Luncheon
- Embracing Lifelong Learning

