

The Goodwill Grapevine

CHANGING LIVES EVERY DAY.



SUMMER 2025
NEWSLETTER

MISSION IN MOTION

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Goodwill Grapevine! This season, our mission—transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work—is in motion across Central Mississippi. From new workforce achievements to staff development and strategic community partnerships, we've been on the move, both figuratively and literally. With the opening of our Richland Donation and Career Center, impactful advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., and meaningful training opportunities for our team, this summer has been a time of momentum and meaningful progress. Thank you for being a part of it.

GOODWILL CAREER CENTERS: A RESOURCE FOR JOB SEEKERS ACROSS CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

Goodwill's Career Centers serve as a hub for skill development and career success. Across Central Mississippi, these centers offer job search support, resume building, interview coaching, computer access, career readiness training, and industry-recognized certifications. Our team works closely with community partners and employers to connect job seekers with real opportunities and help them navigate the path toward employment and personal growth.



GOODWILL OF MISSISSIPPI



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO...



BRAD STEFFANI

At Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, we continue to focus on our mission: transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work. Every step we take—whether it's through team development, community partnerships,

or innovation in workforce services—strengthens our connection to the people we serve and deepens the impact we strive to make in communities across Central Mississippi.

This summer has brought inspiring moments and meaningful progress. From expanding our footprint with the opening of the Richland Donation and Career Center to celebrating the growth and achievements of our team and program participants, we are seeing our mission in motion every day. Our participation in statewide conferences, national advocacy efforts, and continued investment in employee training demonstrate our commitment to building opportunity at every level of our organization.

I'm proud of the momentum we've created together and energized by what lies ahead. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey—and for continuing to champion the work and values that define Goodwill of Mississippi.

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Goodwill of Mississippi Locations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Richland Donation & Career Center
190 Marketplace Drive
Richland, MS 39218
(601) 853-8110

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

NEW DONATION & CAREER CENTER BRINGS OPPORTUNITY TO RICHLAND

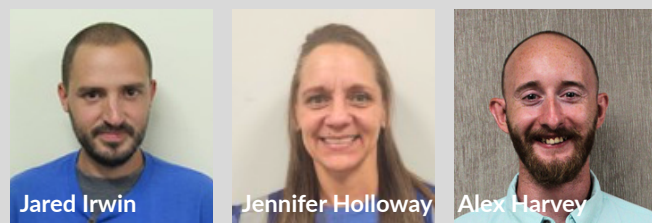
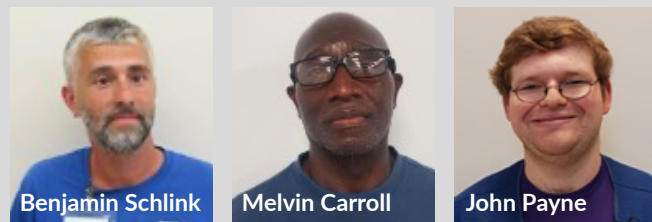
In June, we celebrated the grand opening of the Richland Donation and Career Center, marking an exciting milestone in our continued growth. This new site expands our footprint in Central Mississippi and offers a welcoming, multi-purpose space where donors and job seekers can connect with the mission of Goodwill. The facility features a convenient donation center alongside a fully equipped Career Center that provides job search assistance, resume support, and career development services to the community.

The grand opening event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, community tours, and remarks from city leaders and local partners who share our vision of creating brighter futures through opportunity. The energy and support from those in attendance reflected the importance of this new location—not just as a building, but as a hub for transformation. We're excited to bring more resources and services to the Richland area and look forward to the many lives that will be impacted through this new chapter.

Goodwill Richland Donation & Career Center
190 Marketplace Dr. | Richland, MS 39218



JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH SPOTLIGHTS



This June, as part of our Employee of the Month recognition, we proudly celebrate outstanding team members from across multiple locations and departments at Goodwill of Mississippi. These individuals were selected by their peers and leadership for consistently demonstrating teamwork, professionalism, and service in all that they do. Whether working in retail, donation operations, workforce development, or support services, each honoree plays an important role in advancing our mission and creating a positive experience for those we serve.

Byram Retail Store: Jessica Harrell

Centre Street Outlet Store: Keshia Kersh

Clinton Retail Store & E-Commerce: Willie Reginal

Crossgates Retail Store: Benjamin Schlink

Greenville Retail Store: Melvin Carroll

Hattiesburg Retail Store: John Payne

Hwy 51 Retail Store: Jared Irwin

Jacksonian Retail Store: Jennifer Holloway

Operations/Admin/Workforce: Alex Harvey

2024 EMPLOYEE AWARDS:

JEANNINE JOHNSTON EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

This award honors an employee who consistently delivers high-quality work, models our values, and positively impacts their team and Goodwill's mission.



Jeannine Johnston joined Goodwill of Mississippi in March 2020 as our E-Commerce Manager. From day one, she brought more than just skill—she brought heart. Her strong work ethic and passion for helping others, have left a lasting mark on every person and program she's touched.

Over the years, Jeannine has supported individuals facing barriers to employment with patience, encouragement, and genuine support. Her commitment to seeing others grow has always guided her work.

In 2024, she stepped into a new chapter—transitioning to our Workforce Development team, where she now leads Goodwill's Career Centers across Central Mississippi. In this role, she connects people to resources, training, and support that can truly change lives.

It's because of her growth, generosity, and service that we are proud to recognize Jeannine Johnston as Goodwill of Mississippi's 2024 Employee of the Year.

ALEX HARVEY ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

This award honors an employee who demonstrates exceptional growth by overcoming challenges and embracing new opportunities, reflecting Goodwill's mission.



Alex Harvey's journey with Goodwill of Mississippi is a powerful example of transformation through opportunity. Brought to Goodwill more than seven years ago by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS), Alex started as a client with a yearning to better his life.

Through hard work, support, and training, he earned his Class D driver's license and advanced into a truck driver role—one of the most trusted and visible positions at Goodwill.

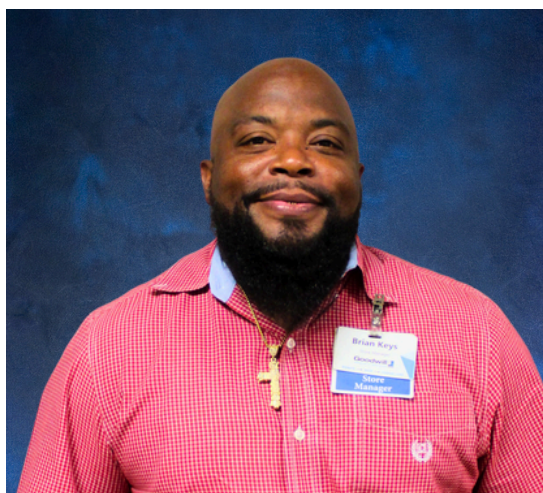
Alex briefly left the organization in 2024 but quickly realized that Goodwill was where he belonged. His return showed his dedication not only to his work but also to the mission that helped shape his path. Today, Alex is more than a driver—he's a symbol of what's possible when someone is given the tools to succeed and chooses to rise.

For his resilience, growth, and continued impact, we are proud to name Alex Harvey our 2024 Achiever of the Year.

CELEBRATING GOODWILL OF MISSISSIPPI'S STANDOUT EMPLOYEES!

BRIAN KEYS GIVS SPIRIT AWARD

This award honors a team member who lives out the GIVS values with passion, positivity, and a servant's heart, inspiring those they serve and work alongside.



Brian's story with Goodwill began in March 2020, when he joined us as a client referred by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). Since then, he has inspired everyone around him—rising through dedication and determination to become the Store Manager of our Hattiesburg Retail Store.

Brian leads with compassion and quiet strength. He shows up every day for his team, supporting employees and clients who are overcoming their own challenges. His store is a place where people feel welcome, encouraged, and empowered.

What makes Brian truly special is how openly and proudly he shares his journey. He reminds others that growth is possible—and that every step forward matters. He lives our mission each day: transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work.

For all of these reasons and more, we are honored to name Brian Keys as the recipient of the 2024 GIVS Spirit Award.

TAMMY BUTLER MANAGER OF THE YEAR

This award honors a manager who leads by example, supports their team's success, and consistently upholds Goodwill's mission through strong leadership, accountability, and integrity.



Tammy Butler joined Goodwill of Mississippi in November 2023 as an Assistant Manager in our Clinton Retail Store. In a short time, she has distinguished herself through her drive, determination, and a clear commitment to results.

Now serving as Store Manager, Tammy consistently leads by example. She not only shows up—she shows up ready to work. Whether she's setting the tone for her team, stepping in to help where needed, or identifying ways to improve operations, Tammy brings energy, focus, and consistent follow-through.

Her leadership has already made a measurable impact at the Clinton location, contributing to improved store performance, enhanced appearance, and increased donor and customer satisfaction. She sets the pace not only for her store, but for Goodwill of Mississippi's broader retail leadership team.

It's because of her performance, consistency, and leadership that we are proud to recognize Tammy Butler as Goodwill of Mississippi's 2024 Manager of the Year.

SAFETY FIRST: RECOGNIZING OUR JUNE SUPERSTARS

June was Safety Awareness Month at Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, and our team embraced the opportunity to promote safer work environments throughout Central Mississippi. From wearing red and green to promote safety awareness to reviewing best practices and reinforcing safety procedures across stores and donation centers, every team played a part in keeping Goodwill safe and strong.

As part of this initiative, we're proud to recognize a Safety Superstar from each location—team members who go above and beyond to support safety efforts, model smart practices, and encourage a culture of care:

- **Byram Retail Store:** Mary Sullivan
- **Centre Street Outlet Store:** Quincy Williams
- **Clinton Retail Store & E-Commerce:** Robyn Ervin
- **Crossgates Retail Store:** Valerie Mosley
- **Greenville Retail Store:** Clifford Courtney
- **Hattiesburg Retail Store:** Gregory Carter
- **Hwy 51 Retail Store:** Daphne Handford
- **Jacksonian Retail Store:** Malik Johnson
- **Operations/Admin/Workforce:** Nathan Cummins

These individuals set an outstanding example for what it means to put safety first—and we're grateful for their leadership.



EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT: LEARNING & LEADING FROM WITHIN

Investing in our team continues to be a priority, and this summer brought exciting opportunities for growth and development across the organization:

- **Transformational Leadership:** Team members explored key leadership concepts, including communication, mindset, and motivation.
- **Realville – Round 2:** Employees returned to this engaging session to continue learning about workplace realities and the power of accountability.
- **Forklift Re-Certifications:** Operational team members refreshed their certifications, reinforcing safety and confidence on the job.
- **Professional Credentials Earned:** Several employees earned their Certified Business Engagement Professional Credentials, expanding their expertise in workforce and employer engagement. Additionally, one employee achieved both their OSHA 30 Certification and American Heart Association Heart Saver Certification, further strengthening our commitment to workplace safety and emergency readiness.

These trainings and certifications reflect our commitment to lifelong learning—not just for the people we serve, but for the people who make our mission possible every day.

WORKFORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: WORKFORCE READINESS STARTS AT GOODWILL OF MISSISSIPPI

This summer, we proudly recognized youth participants who completed two impactful Goodwill workforce development programs:

Customer Service Training

In partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Mississippi, Goodwill hosted a Customer Service Certification program focused on preparing youth for success in today's workforce. Through interactive training sessions, participants developed essential skills such as communication, professionalism, and problem-solving—all of which are key to thriving in customer-facing roles. At the end of the program, students earned a nationally recognized credential to carry with them into future job opportunities.

Summer Work-Based Learning

Goodwill's Clinton Retail Store welcomed a group of Summer Work-Based Learning students who gained valuable hands-on experience in a professional retail setting. These participants rotated through various roles—sorting donations, assisting customers, working the sales floor, and supporting team operations—while building confidence, responsibility, and practical job skills. With guidance from store leadership, they learned firsthand what it means to be part of a mission-driven team.

These programs reflect the heart of Goodwill's mission: transforming lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work. We're proud to support young people as they prepare for what's next—and excited to see where their paths will lead.

MAY 2024 CUSTOMER SERVICE GRADUATES



JUNE 2024 WORKBASED LEARNING GRADUATES



LET'S GET SOCIAL: STAY CONNECTED WITH GOODWILL OF MISSISSIPPI



Want to see the impact of your donations, meet the people behind the mission, and catch the latest updates on events, job openings, and community stories? Be sure to like, follow, and share our pages on Facebook and Instagram! Your support on social media helps us spread the word and transform even more lives through lifelong learning and meaningful work.

Follow us today and help us keep the mission moving! **#GoodwillMS #LookGoodFeelGoodDoGood**

Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn: GoodwillMS | YouTube: GoodwillofMS

SUMMER CONFERENCES & TRAVEL: REPRESENTING GOODWILL NEAR AND FAR

This summer took our team on the road to build connections, share knowledge, and bring back fresh ideas:

- At the Mississippi Manufacturers Association Conference, we explored workforce trends and local partnership opportunities.
- The Mississippi Early Childhood Education Conference provided a platform to engage with educators and promote family-focused resources.
- A visit to Goodwill-Suncoast in Florida offered insight into successful practices in donation and retail operations.
- In Washington, D.C., we met with congressional representatives to advocate for employment programs and raise awareness about the value of Goodwill's mission-driven work.
- In addition, our Workforce Development team participated in several local career expos and community fairs, sharing information about our Career Centers and the resources available to job seekers across Central Mississippi. These events allowed us to connect directly with the community and expand awareness of our mission and services.

Whether across the country or right here at home, our presence continues to reflect our commitment to purpose, partnership, and progress.



BOOKWORKS LUNCHEON: CELEBRATING THE HEART OF BOOKWORKS



In May, we proudly hosted our BookWorks Spring Luncheon—a meaningful gathering to celebrate the incredible volunteers who bring the joy of reading to children across Central Mississippi.

Volunteers shared touching stories about the impact BookWorks has had on both their lives and the lives of the children they serve. Their passion is the heart of this program.

We were honored to welcome Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Executive Director of the Mississippi Head Start Association, and Dr. Eileen K. Beasley, Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Director, as special guests. Their presence underscored the strength of partnerships in promoting early childhood literacy.

A heartfelt thank you to Tammy Louvier, BookWorks Program Manager, for her outstanding leadership and continued dedication to this mission.

To every volunteer, partner, and supporter—thank you. Together, we're planting the seeds for a lifetime of learning.

GOODWILL OF MISSISSIPPI PRESENTS

GHOULWILL BASH

A FUNKY FRIGHT NIGHT
FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

- COSTUME CONTEST
- DJ & DANCE FLOOR
- SILENT AUCTION
- HORS D'OEUVRES

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 2025

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

DULING HALL | 21 & OVER
JACKSON, MS | EVENT

TICKETS GO ON SALE SEPTEMBER 1ST | WWW.GOODWILLMS.ORG
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE: RJOHNS@GOODWILLMS.ORG





104 East State Street
Ridgeland, MS 39157
www.goodwillms.org

WHAT'S INSIDE...

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- Richland Grand Opening
- June Employees of the Month
- 2024 Employee Award Recipients
- June - Safety Awareness Month
- Learning & Leading from Within
- Workforce Development Accomplishments
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