

GOOD NEWS GOOD PEOPLE

Goodwill 
Industries of East Texas, Inc.



Our Mission

Goodwill Industries of East Texas is a tax exempt 501©3 organization whose mission is to provide skills training and vocational opportunities for people with barriers to employment.

Did you miss our Annual Meeting? Visit our website to learn more about

The Five Characteristics of Goodwill and view the report.

<https://goodwilleasttexas.org/about/financials/>

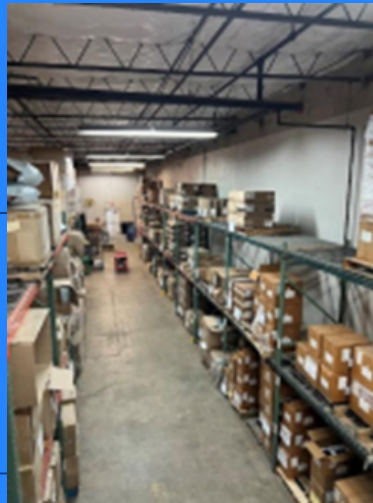
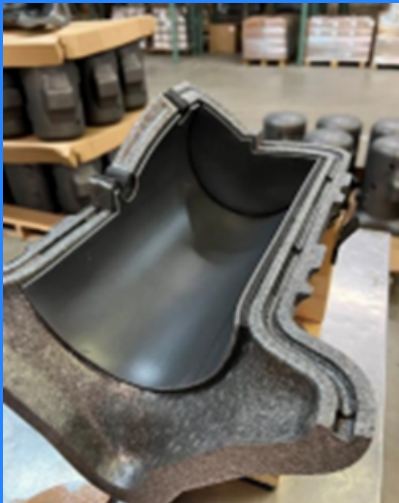
What's Good With Goodwill?

Commercial Services - What is that? What do you do there?

Those are just a couple of questions the community has when they hear about Goodwill Commercial Services for the first time. With a brief explanation or better yet, a tour of the facility, faces light up, eyes brighten with the realization of the possibilities Commercial Services presents our community.

Working with business partners such as WorkQuest, TXDOT, Trane, and more, Commercial Services employs approximately 30 consumers and 20 employees with varying barriers to employment that might keep them from maintaining successful employment elsewhere. We provide simple assemblies, secure document destruction and pick pack services to our community partners from across the country.

Simply put, Commercial Services is **OUR MISSION AT WORK.**



Annie's® Craft Store

**Community
Partner**

From the Desk of the SHE-EO

MEET PRESIDENT & CEO OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF EAST TEXAS,
KIMBERLY LEWIS



LOOK BACK AND REACH FORWARD

In the month of March, we celebrated some of our success stories and community partners at our Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, which we held at our Commercial Services facility. The Annual Meeting event is a time to pause and recognize the accomplishments of our students, consumers, partners and supporters.

During this time, we reflect on the successes of the past year and we had so much to celebrate. We applauded those who refused to allow their disabilities to stop them from reaching their goals. We recognized strong business partnerships that keep our program participants employed, and we honored the unwavering commitment of a long-term Board member, Dr. Larry Kraus and past Board member, the late Paul Josephson.

I really look forward to the whole reflection and recognition process because it forces me to really think about all of the people we served, the dreams that came true, and the goals that were met through the work that so many people did collectively.

There's an African Proverb that reminds me of how we accomplished so much together. It is:

"If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together."

Last year, we served 2,332 people and it took all of us to do it. Every employee, every volunteer, every community partner, and every Board member put forth effort to make it happen.

As we each do our part this year, don't forget to take a pause and celebrate every single win. When someone gets a job here at Goodwill or with one of our local East Texas partners, that's a win! When a program participant learns a new skill in their computer, Youth Works, ReEntry, Veteran's or Work Adjustment Training program, that's a win!

When a dream is achieved in our Dream Manager Program for employees that's a win! When financial goals are met as part of our financial literacy efforts or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, that's a win! When we reach our sales goals in our 15 retail stores and ecommerce department, that's a major win that supports the operations overall!

Guess what, I'm ready to start celebrating all over again! I invite you to take a look back and reflect on your efforts, and celebrate the wins. Then, reach forward to see who we serve collectively and how we can grow. The more we grow, the bigger the celebration.

I feel a really big celebration coming on in the future. Who's with me?

Kimberly B. Lewis

Goodwill Calendar of Events

Tyler Area Builders Association Parade of Homes

June 1-9, 2024

Visit the Pyramid Homes location staged with items found at our Goodwill stores.

7924 Crooked Trail, Tyler, TS. 75703

For more information about the parade visit

[www.http://www.tylerareabuilders.com/parade.html](http://www.tylerareabuilders.com/parade.html)

The REAL Goodwill Tour – A Peek Behind THE CURTAIN & MISSION at WORK

June 20, 2024, 10 am

Join us for a tour of Mission Services and Commercial Services to learn more about our mission and see how donated goods and community support changes lives.

For more information contact La'Keidra Lincoln at 903.593.8438 or at

lakeidra.lincoln@goodwilletx.com

Love Thy City

Saturday, July 20, 2024, 1-6pm

W.T. Brookshire Conference Center

2000 W Front St, Tyler, TX 75702

Visit Goodwill along with other local social organizations, businesses, and churches as they show tangible love to the city of Tyler and surrounding areas. For more information, visit www.LoveThyCity.org

COLOR of the Week

25% off clothing purchases

Check your local store for details

First Mondays

TAX FREE DAY

Sponsored by United HealthCare

Every Monday

SENIOR DAY

10 % discount

Every Tuesday

VETERANS DAY

10% discount

For more news and information about Goodwill Industries of East Texas, Inc. visit our website at www.GoodwillEastTexas.org or find us on all social media platforms.

Brent Thrasher

I'm Fine, Right Where I Am...

Brent was a happy, healthy, and extremely bright 10-year-old boy when an unfortunate hunting accident turned his world upside down. A bullet entered his skull, pierced his brain, and severed his optic nerve, robbing him of his left eye and 75% of the vision in his right eye. Brent was left with a disorder that mimics Parkinson's disease, cognitive delays, and is legally blind.

Determined to succeed, Brent completed high school and was partnered with a job coach. That coach brought him to Goodwill, where he has been employed for 27 years. During his employment with Goodwill, Brent has held various positions, from sorting to stocking. He even tried his hand at cashiering. He didn't like that so much but he really enjoyed interacting with the customers. His favorite job, however, has been hanging, which he currently does. Over the years, Brent has seen staff come and go, but he has been a stable fixture at the Henderson store.

Although Brent continues to face medical issues, his greatest challenge has been the loss of his short-term memory. He shares that his greatest accomplishment has been the ability to get and keep a job.

Buck and Cami Thrasher, Brent's parents, play a very active role in his life. They shared how happy they have been with Goodwill. Management has worked with them and made life less complicated by giving him a set schedule. They've saved 27 years of Goodwill uniforms which Cami used to make a beautiful quilt. 'Goodwill has been a blessing. It's given purpose to Brent,' said Cami. Brent's father shared that, "it feels easy leaving him here. We don't have to worry."

Brent proudly shares that most of his Goodwill earnings go into the bank. Some he has used on his travels to places like Turkey and Greece. Unfortunately, one of his favorite pastimes, bike riding, has become difficult due to some health decline. However, he still enjoys reading and playing Nintendo's "The Thousand Year Door".

Brent's social life centers around family and church, but his friends are his Goodwill co-workers. When asked if given the chance to change anything about his life what would he change, he said, "I wouldn't. I'm fine, right where I am."



Meet the Newest Members of the Goodwill 2024 Board of Directors



Derrith Bondurant is a native of Gulfport, Mississippi and graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where she was a Delta Gamma. Her passion is creative marketing, being a “connector” in the community and volunteer service. Derrith’s career highlights include Vice President of Kinder Institute in Dallas, Marketing Director for the Osmond Family Theater and Bobby Vinton Theater in Branson, MO., Executive Director for Opera East Texas, and Alumni Director and also Development Officer at UT Tyler. She retired as Vice President of Advancement for UT Health Northeast.

Derrith has served on numerous boards and presently is on the Board of The Park of East Texas and volunteers for Hospice East Texas. She and her husband, Bob, have lived in Tyler eight years and prior to that lived in Longview for 33 years. Bob is president and CEO for Martin Midstream Partners. Their only child is a 16-year old miniature schnauzer named Murray.

Kenya London (photo unavailable) is from Winona, Texas. She is an alumna of Gladewater High School. Her academic journey led her through Navarro Junior College and Texas A&M Commerce. Two years ago, she made her home in Tyler. Her most cherished achievements are her two children and the joy of being a grandparent to three wonderful grandchildren. With thirteen years as a foster parent, her commitment to service is a cornerstone of her life. Kenya’s leisure time is often spent indulging in designing t-shirts and thrifting. Recently, she has been navigating the challenges of breast cancer recovery. Professionally, Kenya has dedicated 16 years to Mineola Community Bank, which is now Broadstreet Bank. She currently has the privilege of serving as the Assistant Vice President at the Tyler location.

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Chris Luciono is originally from Charleston, South Carolina. He's married with a daughter, Roxie. His wife Mallory is the Children's Ministry Director at Dayspring Methodist Church. Chris and his family moved to Tyler, Texas 5 years ago and previously lived in Oregon and Washington. Chris is a Product Specialist at Trane Technologies. He provides technical support to their field service representatives and focuses on new product development. Besides work, Chris enjoys volunteering, coaching his daughter's soccer team, hanging out with friends and he LOVES the Clemson Tigers



Pastor Demarcus Pierson is the lead pastor of the Reveal Church Tyler and President & CEO of Love Thy City. He was born and raised in Tyler. He graduated from what was Robert E. Lee High School and Texas College. He is a former educator for Tyler Independent School District. He is married to the love of his life and best friend, LaChia Pierson. They have three boys, Micah, Nicholas, and Karlin. Pastor Pierson enjoys watching Marvel and DC movies. He also loves vacationing in Jamaica, baking, and the Dallas Cowboys.

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Sorani Robinson is the Director of Strategy and Development at Lending Avenue®, a non-profit organization committed to assisting underserved small businesses. She has a financial and leadership background enriched by several years at Wells Fargo. In addition to her corporate experience, Sorani previously served as a leader in a non-profit residential home in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. The organization focused on providing support to women facing the most challenging periods of their lives, guiding them to become resilient and responsible contributors to the community. She has 12 years of experience as a Licensed Midwife, helping over 450 women in their childbearing experience.

Sorani is very active in the community and her church. She loves being a wife and a bonus mother to two teenagers. She loves to travel with her husband and enjoys exotic cuisine. Originally from Curaçao, a small Caribbean Island off the coast of Venezuela, Sorani is fluent in four languages. Her diverse linguistic abilities, paired with her unique skills and knowledge to help others grow and excel to achieve their full potential, empower her to effectively support individuals during their moments of need.



Caryl Whittington is the co-owner of Menchie's Frozen Yogurt Tyler where her responsibilities include daily operations, establishing business goals and marketing strategies. Prior to becoming a partner in the franchise, she held several executive positions with technology companies like Siemens and General Electric. She embraces innovative thinking and mentoring individuals to see their limitless potential.

Active in the community, Caryl worked with a Women's & Children's Day Shelter, Atlanta Police Foundation and church events in Atlanta, GA. Since moving to Texas, she has been involved with the Tyler Public Library Summer Reading Program, For The Silent East, and is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Caryl enjoys cooking new dishes, especially Cuban, traveling all over the world to experience different cultures, and spending time at home with her honeybuns, Melvin and dog Shamus.