



2ND ANNUAL RIDE FOR INDEPENDENCE A GREAT SUCCESS!

Sunday, July 24th, featured a fairly overcast day with the threat of showers. Well, someone was watching over us, because the showers didn't begin in earnest till the Motorcycles returned from the ride through Bristol, Portsmouth and Tiverton. 54 bikers joined us for the event hosted by Bristol County Elks Lodge #1860, and a full house of people shared a delicious meatball and pasta dinner, generously prepared by the Elks. Under the direction of Willy Beatini, spirited music was presented by *Take 3* and everybody who attended left with a smile on their face. In all, we raised just under \$4000 which will directly fund programs and services for those in need. Thanks to all who participated and, we are happy to say, this event grew significantly this year and we anticipate even greater results in 2012. See you in Bristol next July for our 3rd Annual Ride for Independence.

TAKE 5 for 5 - Five Questions with Ed Balasco

What is your role at Goodwill and how long have you been here?

I am the instructor of the E-Waste Recycling Operations and Training Program and have been here almost two years.

What, in your work, brings you the greatest joy?

Working as a team member here and having the opportunity to help someone help themselves find a better quality of life. "One day, a client who had not spoken in three weeks of training, tapped me on the shoulder while I was at my computer and said, 'Thank you! Good night, boss.'" That goes a long way!

Tell us about some of the recent changes in your department.

One of the most exciting is our partnership with Dell Computer; they have a buy-back program of all residential electronic waste that we collect. Also, there is the new program for refurbishing and selling E waste that has not reached its EOL (end of life).

What do you see as future innovations?

The whole key to E waste recycling is education. This is a difficult question to answer as we are already ahead of our time. It is very exciting!

If you were a donut, what kind would you be?

A maple cruller because it's crusty on the outside but sweet and syrupy on the inside.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island, please contact us at 401-861-2080.

Monetary donations can be made online by visiting our website at www.goodwillri.org and using the Paypal option or send your donation by mail to:

100 Houghton Street
Providence, RI 02904

Volunteer opportunities are always available at the agency and we greatly value the donation of time and talent as well!

Check us
out on...



BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF WORK!

Pedro is a native of Puerto Rico who arrived in the United States in 1996 at the age of 27, and lives here with his wife and family. While working around his home, he fell off a ladder and seriously injured his arm. Pedro suddenly found he had limited possibilities for employment. Entering *Goodwill* services in January of 2011, Pedro sought employment and United States Citizenship. He was keenly aware that his challenges with speaking English fluently were affecting his quality of life.

When beginning classes for ESL (English as a Second Language), Pedro worked at a very basic level, yet was determined and made rapid progress. The goal of achieving American Citizenship was the driving force behind his diligent efforts. Using the process of citizenship as a vehicle to teach him English, the *Goodwill* staff coached him in sentence structuring and subsequently Pedro was able to improve his listening, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Aware that Pedro was seeking employment as a cook, his ESL teacher focused on the vocabulary and skills needed to work in a restaurant.

Shortly thereafter, Pedro became employed at a local restaurant. Pedro continued to attend class at *Goodwill* every morning so he could receive his citizenship and improve his English-speaking skills needed to sustain his job as a cook.

In June 2011 Pedro received his American Citizenship thanks to his determination and effort and the quality instruction afforded him by *Goodwill* staff. He successfully overcame his linguistic barrier and, to this day, is a respected employer and, even more importantly, a proud resident of the United States.