

What's New(s) at
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF RI

148th Annual Meeting held on November 17th

Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island's 148th Annual Meeting occurred on Thursday, November 17th. Among those present were members of the Board of Directors, the entire staff, distinguished honorees, friends of the agency, as well as award recipients and their families.

A highlight of the meeting was the Presentation of Awards. Awards were presented to the following:

- ❖ Frank Whorf – Volunteer of the Year Award
- ❖ Michael Cooley – Community Service Award
- ❖ Chili's Grill & Bar – Employer Recognition Award
- ❖ Justine Beatini – Employee of the Year Award
- ❖ Gary Lulli – Youth Services Award
- ❖ Willie Brotherton – Outstanding Youth Award
- ❖ Christopher Dulude – The Power of Work Award

Featured was a very impressive video presentation, focusing on the Transitional Services Program offered at Central Falls and Smithfield High Schools.

By the conclusion of this meeting, everyone left more convinced than ever of how necessary Goodwill's Services are to an increasing number of people in the State of Rhode Island.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

Check out Goodwill's new interactive website at:

<http://www.goodwillri.org>

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NEWS ON THE EMPLOYMENT FRONT!

Since the mission of Goodwill is to provide training, education, and other services which result in employment, the agency recently hosted a Career Fair in October, marking *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*. Over 30 of our enrollees and human resource professionals from Big Lots, T.J. Maxx, Stop & Shop, and F.M. Global participated.

At the Fair, employers were given an opportunity to promote their company, consider how our job seekers can meet their hiring needs, and learn more about our employment program. Job seekers spoke with employers, networked with human resource professionals, and participated in mock interviews and resume reviews. The end result was that positions were offered to several enrollees. Employment Services Coordinator, Denise Doktor, stated that the event "benefited the people we serve because it was a supportive setting where participants could use the interviewing skills learned here at the agency."

On a related note, Goodwill recently launched a 12-week, 216-hour Retail and Customer Skills Training Program which prepares trainees for entry level retail and sales positions, concentrating on customer service skills through both sales and service. During the formal training, participants are involved in 9 weeks of paid internship in the retail field. To date, both Stop & Shop and the T.J. Maxx Corporation have agreed to collaborate with Goodwill for this training. Upon successful completion, candidates can earn the National Professional Certification in Customer Service.

With an extensive background in retail and customer service, Donald Blais serves as instructor for the class. In his own words, he said: "We are very excited about this new program, as Goodwill is one of a few places in the State that offers it." The 148 year-old mission of Goodwill continues to expand to meet the needs of today's clientele.

PAT RICHARDSON HONORED BY R.I. REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

On Friday, October 28th, **Pat Richardson, Intake Director**, was presented with the **K. Frances Andrews Administrative Service Award by the Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association**. This award recognizes outstanding dedication and achievement on the part of support staff. In an e-mail to the Board of Directors, Jeff Machado stated: "Pat is patient and helpful with clients and everyone who comes in or calls the agency."

Members of the R.I. Rehabilitation Association shared similar sentiments. The program for this event mentioned that "Her professional attitude, combined with her superior organizational skills and positive work ethic, make her a vital member of the team and an asset to both the agencies and clients."

With true humility, Pat said that she was "stunned" when receiving the phone call informing her that she was this year's reward recipient. However, the rest of us were not at all surprised! **Congratulations, Pat! Job well done!**

Take 5 with Natalia Montoya

How long have you been at the agency and what is your role? I have been at the agency for 14 years, currently serving as the Adult Services Coordinator. I coordinate the Evaluation Department, ESL Program, and Case Managers. Originally I served as a vocational evaluator and then, in 2006, was promoted to my present position.

What do you like best about working at Goodwill? I love my job and take a lot of pride in it. Working at Goodwill gives me the opportunity to work with a wide variety of people. I enjoy the diversity of the work, the uniqueness of each client, the staff, and administration.

What is the greatest challenge with your work? The greatest challenge is also what I like best about working here – I never know what to expect when I come to work each day. Each of our clients is unique, and working with them is challenging and gratifying.

What part of your work brings you the greatest joy? I receive the greatest joy when I see a client succeed, either by getting a job or receiving services that are necessary for success.

If you were a donut, what kind would you be? I would be a French Cruller, as it is unique from all other donuts. It is tough on the outside but really soft on the inside. Not only that, but it is not as readily available as other donuts.

**Volunteers are always needed at Goodwill,
please contact us at 401-861-2080.**

**BELIEVE IN THE
POWER OF WORK!**