



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

ComputerWORKS Launched

Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island is proud to announce its newest program, **ComputerWORKS**, which presents an opportunity to give your unwanted technology a new life. Alongside our already existing Dell—Reconnect partnership, we are now able to continue with our mission of skills training and job placement while offering free and responsible recycling to our community.

Currently, computers are being refurbished and will soon be available for sale to the general public at very reasonable prices. We will be offering complete desk tops with flat screen monitors, keyboards and mice. All computer are upgraded with additional RAM and newly installed software. As Scott Darling, computer instructor, puts it, “the end result is a very capable computer that meets the majority of consumers’ computing needs. These computers come completely set up and ready to go with virus protection, Open Office Suite (Microsoft compatible) and a ninety day repair or replace warranty.”

Since the mission of Goodwill Industries of RI is to assist people with barriers to employment in their quest for work, a prime component of the **ComputerWORKS** program is teaching program participants the essential skills necessary for jobs in computer repair.

As always, we accept computer donations from the general public with the goal of making them new again. Donors can be confident about the privacy of data on their hard drives because all computers donated to Goodwill are professionally wiped clean to Department of Defense standards.

This program adds a new dimension to the old saying, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

Summer Work Program “The Best Yet!”

Over the past ten years, Goodwill has offered its annual Summer Work Preparation Program (SWPP) which affords students a first-hand experience in the workforce which enables them to learn employer expectations. This year, 67 students participated in a four week work experience in various fields, ranging from child care and retail, to hospital transportation, automotive and culinary. According to Amanda D’Alessio, Youth Services Coordinator, this was, by far, the best summer work group that she has experienced, and she attributes this at least partially to the fact that participants ranged from 17-24 years of age, thus entering the Program with an enhanced level of maturity. All participants of SWPP were referred by the Office of Rehabilitative Services. 90% of the students from this Program have enrolled in additional services or have been referred to a trade school or college prep program. The remaining 10% have returned to school.

Also, this summer, we received a grant from the Job Development Fund. According to Justine Beatini, Transitional Resource Specialist, 11 youth participated in the Dell Reconnect Program, all of whom completed it successfully. Included in this Program was an overview of the recycling industry as a whole, hands-on work experience and trainings, and certifications in OSHA and CPR/ First Aid. The youth visited various vocational schools and Green Industry jobs throughout the State, and attended workshops in learning how to complete resumes, cover letters and job applications.

Recycling is becoming one of the largest environmental growth industries. It’s one of those unique industries where you can make a profit, make a difference, and positively affect peoples’ lives.

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

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 goodwillri.org. Y Donations can be mailed to: 100 Houghton Street Providence, RI 02904

A Volunteer’s View: Meet Dan Stauffer

Next month, our volunteer program will celebrate its first full year of operation. One of the first people to join this venture is Dan Stauffer, Boston District Sales Manager for The Hershey Company. Being no stranger to volunteerism, when Dan and his wife, Ruth, moved to RI from Pennsylvania early last winter, they both sought to continue doing their share to help others in the community.

Dan’s volunteer service has taken many facets. Initially, he responded to an online ad for a volunteer to create and distribute flyers for the agency. Then, having learned we were organizing our clothing closet, Dan helped size the items held in storage. Last April, he organized a day-long cleanup of our grounds where he and ten of his co-workers spent the day painting, planting flowers and organizing the clothing closet. He also performed the menial

task of sweeping up the sand-covered parking lot after last winter. Dan volunteered with last June’s flea market and, most recently, instructed clients about proper interviewing techniques and resume building. Dan intends to continue offering his services to the agency and those we serve.

Dan willingly shares his personal satisfaction with volunteering at Goodwill. “I have built some trusting relationships and volunteering always helps me feel better about myself.”

When asked what he has learned from the hours he has given to Goodwill, Dan stated that his eyes have been opened to the difficult financial challenges that face nonprofits. Moreover, he says, “I didn’t know that Goodwill was so involved with training and education. This has taught me to reach out and not be afraid to say that I have other skills that you may be able to use. This has become a wonderful partnership.”