

Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, Inc.

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Improving People's Lives Through the Power of Work!

Goodwill Employment Solutions' Programs are supported in part by:



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On the Right Track

Jessie Mitchell never thought getting help for his nephew would lead to help for him. But in early 2007, Jessie brought his nephew to Goodwill to enroll in the Youth Program for training and counseling at the suggestion of his nephew's probation officer. His nephew had been having trouble in school and needed some direction in his life, so Jessie drove his nephew to Goodwill, as he did whenever his nephew needed to go somewhere. Once at Goodwill, Jessie got his nephew enrolled and decided that maybe this was the place for him also. He had been unemployed for a year, his bills were piling up and he was starting to worry. He decided to sign up for a Goodwill Gear Up class. Little did he know, Goodwill would be the thing to put him back "on the right track."

Jessie had been a custodian for the school system in the past and enjoyed the opportunity to do a little bit of everything: clean, carpentry, electrical and mechanical work. When he lost his job he was overcome with stress. He didn't know where his next paycheck would come from and had relatives who depended on him financially. Jessie needed help.

On May 1, 2007, Jessie attended the Goodwill Gear Up class. He was excited and very hopeful, believing that this was the thing he needed to turn his life around. He attended the class and learned a lot, especially how to dress. "Never wear jeans", he says. "The first impression is very important."

Jessie also remembers how he felt when he walked through the doors of the Goodwill Placement Center for his second appointment. "I felt wonderful, because I knew that Goodwill was going to look for something in my field." Jessie's placement specialist worked with him and found jobs that

would fit him. He left with a number of places to interview at and obtained a job as a groundskeeper from one of those job referrals a few days later. Jessie was excited to have finally found a job. However after a few weeks, he was let go.

Jessie came back to Goodwill discouraged. He believed he had worked hard at the groundskeeper job. He and his placement specialist began the job search again. His hope returned. He knew that his placement specialist would continue looking for job that would fit his skills. He kept in touch with his placement specialist, checking to see if that right job had come in. Later that month, Jessie was given three potential job referrals. The first one he went to would turn out to be the perfect fit.

Jessie now works as a night janitor at the airport. He likes his new job and co-workers and the ability to pay his bills on time. If there is one thing Jessie dislikes, it's being late with his bills. And thanks to his new job, Jessie's next goal is to get a new car.

When asked what he thought about Goodwill, Jessie replied, "I loved working with Goodwill. They opened my eyes to see that there was a way and that there was someone there eager to help me". And Goodwill stands ready to help the next person who wants to get "back on the right track"!



Finding His Place



Jeremy was desperate. He felt he really needed some help.

Jeremy was working as a pizza delivery man in Vivian, happy to have a steady job. However, because of severe speech impairment, many of the customers complained that they could not understand him and the company let him go. His whole working life, Jeremy had obtained odd and short term jobs; enough to afford a car, but not really enough to live on, and this was just another job that didn't work out. Jeremy was desperate. He felt he really needed some help. Then, he found Goodwill.

Jeremy attended a Gear Up class, learned about work readiness and then, because he lived in Vivian, saw an Outreach Placement Specialist. During his appointment, the Outreach Placement Specialist discussed job interests and goals with Jeremy, as well as what he felt were his barriers to employment. Both the Outreach Placement

Specialist and Jeremy felt that employers would perceive his speech was his biggest barrier, so Jeremy was referred for a vocational assistance evaluation from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS).

While being evaluated for services at LRS, Jeremy met with Jackie Veillion, Goodwill's Production Manager. Ms. Veillion was very impressed with Jeremy's attitude but felt that he was very quiet because of his communication issues. She offered to "find a place for him" if he was interested. Jeremy was and he began working for Goodwill as a production assistant.

Even though Ms. Veillion understood that Jeremy had a speech problem, communication was still important in his position. A Goodwill Supported Employment Job Coach supported Jeremy while he adapted to his new

work environment and his peers adapted to his speech. Goodwill also accommodated Jeremy by arranging a work schedule around his speech therapy sessions.

Jeremy couldn't be happier in his position. He no longer requires a Job Coach but still visits his Job Coach and the Outreach Placement Specialist to talk about his job and how things are going. According to his supervisor, Johnny Smith, Jeremy is doing extremely well and has a lot of potential. Johnny feels Jeremy is very knowledgeable of the warehouse area and states he has learned the job duties associated with several different areas of his work environment.

Jeremy says he "thanks Goodwill for not only giving him a chance, but an opportunity."

Outcomes Corner

	March	Year to Date
Clients who began work	71	200
Clients who reached 30 days on the job	52	117
Clients who reached 60 days on the job	41	92
Clients who reached 90 days on the job	37	85
Retention Rate (clients who reached 90 days divided into clients who were eligible to reach 90 days)		70%
Number of Participants in Gear Up Classes	33	94
Number of Gear Up Classes	3	12
Number of Outreach Workshops (Gear-Up classes outside the Shreveport- Bossier City area funded by United Way of Northwest Louisiana)	2	6



Tangela at work.

"Most of the things you may think you can't do can really be done if you have faith and never give up. Anyone can be a success!"

Sweet Sixteen Success

Sixteen-year-old Tangela Moore called the telephone number listed in the newspaper for a Goodwill Job Services Workshop in Minden and asked for help finding a job. Although she had never worked before, she had a strong desire to help her grandmother, Lucille Moore, guardian of three other grandchildren besides Tangela. When speaking with an Outreach Job Placement Specialist Tangela said, "There are things we need in our house and I want to help my grandmother get them."

Tangela lives in Heflin and attends Lakeside Jr./Sr. High School in Sibley, where she is finishing her junior year with A's and B's in every class. Her favorite subject is science, although she is not sure if she likes chemistry yet. While at school, Tangela works as a Student Assistant in the library checking books in and out and re-shelving them. Her

goal is to attend Grambling State University to become a Registered Nurse. She plans be the first person in her family to go to college.

The Outreach Job Placement Specialist helped Tangela translate her educational and social skills into work related skills to list on job applications. She was given several job referrals, including the Subway Sandwich Shop, where she was hired as a Sandwich Artist after only nine days of job searching.

Tangela recently celebrated eight months on her job, and really enjoys working and having her own money. She does not like asking her grandmother for anything, and has actually wanted a job since she was 14. Lucille is very proud of Tangela and notes that "[Tangela] goes to

school, keeps her grades up, and still goes to work on time."

Although Tangela has maintained successful employment since June 2007, she remains actively involved with the Goodwill Job Services Program. She often calls the Outreach Job Placement Specialist when she needs suggestions on how to handle situations at work and better communicate with her managers. She also hopes to gain clerical experience and plans to transition into office work next year.

Tangela's advice to others seeking to improve their lives is to ask for help when you need it and never give up. She says, "Most of the things you may think you can't do can really be done if you have faith and never give up. Anyone can be a success!"

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2008 Regional Job Fair

Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana is pleased to partner with the City of Bossier City and the Bossier Chamber of Commerce for the 2008 Regional Job Fair.

With help from a grant from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, geared towards strengthening families

and the community, Goodwill and its partners will hold a Regional Job Fair on July 15, 2008 at the Bossier Civic Center from 9AM to 2PM.

This event is free for jobseekers and open to the public.

Anyone interested in a booth at the job fair

should contact Audrey Allen, Open Placement Manager, at (318) 868-4701 or by email at aallen@goodwillnla.org.

There is a \$50 (non-refundable) registration fee for booth space. All registration fees must be paid in full by July 7th.