# GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC.

*"Improving People's Lives Through the Power of Work!"*

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*President & CEO*

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*Chairman-Elect*

**Mike Whitehead**
*Vice Chairman*

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## GOODWILL'S ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE

***SHREVEPORT—May 8, 2009—*** Goodwill Industries' Annual Awards Luncheon was held on May 7, 2009 at East Ridge Country Club. The event honors Goodwill's Achiever and Graduate of the Year, Helms Graduate Staff Person of the Year, and the Contracting in Partnership recipient, and recognizes retiring and incoming board members.

The Achiever of the Year award honors an outstanding person with a disability or other disadvantaging condition who has shown great progress and accomplishment in overcoming barriers to employment, while still benefiting from the Goodwill work environment or receiving services to support employment in the community. The winner serves as a role model and inspiration for all recipients of services in the Goodwill family. Goodwill Industries' Achiever of the Year for 2008 is Melvin Yawn.

The Graduate of the Year award honors an outstanding person with a disability or disadvantaging condition who completed a Goodwill Industries career services program and is competitively employed by a non-Goodwill employer. The winner is selected for outstanding achievement in overcoming barriers to attaining and maintaining employment. The Graduate of the Year for 2008 is Deaquanita Watson.

The Edgar J. Helms Award for Graduate Staff is named in honor of the founder of Goodwill Industries. Rev. Helms believed that unselfish service, faith and a strong work ethic should permeate Goodwill's mission, fostering self-reliance and success in others through training and employment. This award recognizes a Goodwill Graduate Staff who exemplifies the mission of Goodwill Industries and Rev. Helms' values, while maintaining or increasing his or her own self-respect and self-reliance. The Edgar

J Helms Award recipient for 2008 is My'Easha Joseph.

The Contracting in Partnership Award is presented to the state or federal entity that has shown outstanding support to the state Employment Development Service (EDS) or the federal Ability One program in providing employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities. The 2008 Contracting in Partnership Award recipient for 2008 is the General Services Administration.

Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana's board officers for 2009-2010 are: Carl Franklin – Chairman, Keith Gamble – Chairman-Elect, Mike Whitehead – Vice Chairman, Robert Dunlap – Treasurer, and Secretary – Holly Wall. New board members, who were elected to Goodwill's Board for a 3 year term ending in March 2012, are Carl Bantle – President of Sheve Land Constructors, LLC, Mike Ferrell, Vice President of Business Affairs at LSUS, Melinda Hernandez – retired school teacher and community volunteer, Janie Kelley – Director of Nursing Services at Nurse Care Shreveport, Joe Littlejohn – Agent with New York Life Insurance Company, and David Smith – Financial Planner. Also, Phyllis McCown, has been elected as President of the Women's Auxiliary for 2009. She will serve a one-year term as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. Retiring board members are Margaret Sour, Glenda Erwin, Andy Shehee, Dick Chilvers, Caldwell Dunn, Ivan Smith, Jr., and Pat Hackney.

Sponsors for the luncheon were Barksdale Federal Credit Union, Ed Criswell Insurance, Bob Crosby, and Heard, McElroy & Vestal – Certified Public Accountants.

***ABOUT GOODWILL INDUSTRIES® OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC.***

Goodwill Industries® of North Louisiana, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency that serves people with workplace disadvantages and disabilities by providing job training and employment services, as well as job placement opportunities and post-employment support. Goodwill Industries® of North Louisiana is a member of Goodwill Industries® International (GII) and the United Way of Northwest Louisiana, affiliated with NISH (formerly known as National Industries for the Severely Handicapped), and accredited for its adult job development, job supports, and job-site training programs by CARF (formerly the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities). Goodwill Industries® of North Louisiana is also a member of the Louisiana Association of

Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) and certified through its ethics and accountability program, the Louisiana Standards of Excellence. *www.goodwillnla.org*

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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