

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Goodnews

Winter 2014

Changing Lives Through the Power of Work



Give the Gift of You

When you donate, shop, or give a financial gift to Rappahannock Goodwill (RGI), you support employment programs in our area. When you volunteer with Rappahannock Goodwill, you invest directly in the people our programs serve. In the past year, Goodwill programs benefited almost 4,000 adults. Nearly 800 of those people were served by volunteers in our Job Help Centers and via our GoodSkills Literacy Program – both of which are designed to provide resources, materials, counseling, and employment opportunities to people with barriers to employment. Thanks to our staff, AmeriCorps service members, and committed volunteers, 369 of those people were placed in jobs!

We celebrate our successes with an eye toward doing more and helping more. Volunteer engagement is how we get to “more,” which is why we are so excited about a recent report issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the National Conference on Citizenship. According to the report, volunteering in the U.S. remains a strong component of the fabric of our nation, enriching our communities, the individuals who serve them, and the individuals who are served by their good work. Altogether, 64.5 million Americans volunteered nearly 7.9 billion hours last year. The estimated value of this volunteer service is nearly \$175 billion, based on the Independent Sector’s estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour.

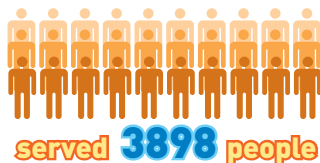
Here at Rappahannock Goodwill, volunteers are, without question, invaluable. Invaluable volunteers like Barbara and Ginny, who are profiled in this issue, are retired from their professions

but not from their community. Each understood the value of her professional background and both sought volunteer opportunities that allowed them to give back at their own pace, on their own schedule. We are grateful they chose RGI.

While a multitude of volunteer opportunities are available with us, we are actively seeking help with our GoodSkills Literacy Program and at any of our Job Help Centers. Volunteers at a Job Help Center provide computer and administrative support, conduct mock interviews, assist with resume writing, and build the confidence of adults working to overcome employment barriers. In our GoodSkills Literacy Program, volunteers teach reading, writing, and basic math and computer skills. They assist people with GED preparation and financial literacy education, and they help organize food drives and other community projects. Volunteers have a good amount of autonomy and work mostly on a one-on-one basis with clients, many of whom need encouragement and someone to help champion their abilities and potential.

New volunteers are invited to attend information sessions and to shadow RGI staff, and are encouraged to share ideas and resources they find helpful.

If you are interested in volunteering with Rappahannock Goodwill, check out our volunteer section on www.fredgoodwill.org or contact our Manager of Volunteer Services, Shanna Boutchyard, at (540) 371-3070, ext. 246 or email Shanna.Boutchyard@FredGoodwill.org.



Please visit our Web site: www.FredGoodwill.org

Goodwill Needs You. And You. And You, Too.



Woody Van Valkenburgh
 President/CEO
 Rappahannock Goodwill Industries

Nearly every time I give someone a tour of the Goodwill Community Resource Center, I hear the same thing: "I had no idea Goodwill did so much. I thought Goodwill was just a store." Usually the sentiment comes after I point out that in

addition to our 12 stores and outlet, we operate four Job Help Centers, a commercial laundry, a 20,000 square foot Collaboration Zone for like-minded organizations serving the community, and even a transportation hub where donated items that don't sell are packaged in bulk and loaded onto trailers to be sold for recycling.

Make no mistake, our stores are a big part of who we are and how we serve people with barriers to employment. They thousands of people in our region, Goodwill has been the conduit to the world of work. Our focus has been, and continues to be, providing resources, materials, counseling, and employment



just aren't all we are. For our region, Goodwill has been the conduit to the world of work. Our focus has been, and continues to be, providing resources, materials, counseling, and employment

opportunities. We know that when job prospects improve, so does quality of life, and so does the community at large. Unfortunately, community needs far outweigh available resources. As a non-profit organization, Goodwill relies a great deal on, and is heavily indebted to, our volunteers. Week in and week out, volunteer activity includes teaching adults about financial literacy, how to read and write, how to interview for a job, and how to write



a resume. While the ages, backgrounds, and skill sets of volunteers vary greatly, all of our volunteers share the desire to give back to others who need a little extra support to get ahead. If you are retired, a teacher with time in

the summers, or a student looking to get your feet wet in the world of non-profits, we hope you'll consider volunteering with Goodwill. Our online Volunteer Match program will guide you through the volunteer process and we're sure to have something aligned with your interests and availability.

If volunteering isn't an option for you, consider helping us "friend-raise" by sharing our mission, services, and need for volunteers with your friends, family, and coworkers.

With your help, we can help more. It's that easy.

10 Ways to Volunteer with Goodwill

Make a financial contribution to help support our mission.



- Help people in our Job Help Centers learn the computer skills necessary to find work.
- Be a mock interviewer – give a job seeker the benefit of your experience and expertise.
- Be a Literacy Tutor in our GoodSkills Literacy Corps.
- Be a volunteer mentor to a person with a barrier to employment.
- Lead a job skills workshop for individuals looking for work.
- Host a donation drive or donate unused clothes or household items.
- Volunteer in our Assistive Technology Lending Library, pairing people with technology that improves workplace success.
- Bring a large group to assist with special projects around our Goodwill stores.
- Make a financial contribution to help support our mission.
- Be a friend-raiser for Goodwill and help spread the good word about the good work we do!

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Find your place! Contact us to learn more about any of these opportunities by calling 540-371-3070, or visit www.FredGoodwill.org.

Goodwill's Good People

Ginny Motter

For Ginny Motter, retiring from the federal government in 2010 meant she could turn her attention to a different kind of work.

She wanted something that pays in “feel good moments” and high fives – the kind of work that changes you and your community for the better. Ginny found that work when she became a volunteer. “I knew I had to do something constructive with my time after retirement,” she recently said.

“I registered for a para professional counseling certificate at Germanna Community College and in the last semester was required to do an internship. My sister is a 17 year employee of Goodwill in Florida, so for me, I knew exactly where I wanted to devote my time.”

Ginny's professional background in human resources made



Goodwill's Job Help Center the perfect fit for her schedule and skill set. “I truly feel if I can help someone enter the workforce, it's a win-win.”

Helping adults with barriers to employment believe in their ability to obtain work is integral to the success of the Job Help Center. “I was working with one woman who felt like she was hitting a brick wall,” said Ginny. “She wanted to work, but didn't believe she had anything to offer. We worked together weekly for nearly three months and through encouragement, positive conversation, and practicing

interviewing techniques, she finally got a job and the confidence to go with it. It's truly a matter of changing how a person thinks about him or herself and helping identify skills they often aren't aware they possess.”

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Barbara Bamford

Barbara Bamford, newly retired and a recent Fredericksburg transplant from Rochester, New York, is a volunteer with our GoodSkills Literacy Corps. Each week, she provides one-on-one tutoring to adults who struggle with reading, writing, math, and financial literacy. “When we relocated to Virginia after retirement, I wanted to put my education and banking background to good use, while also learning about and serving my new community,” said Bamford. Nearly a year later, she is not only a committed volunteer, but also an advocate for the men and women she counsels.

“There's nothing like the feeling of watching someone grasp

a concept that caused them such difficulty in their life,” said Bamford. “I was working with an adult woman studying to earn her GED. She took tests several months apart and the scores revealed she came up two full levels in math. She was so proud and finally confident in her ability to learn and progress. It was a special moment and extremely rewarding to be part of.”

For others like Bamford who are looking for ways to give back, she has the following advice. “It's easy to make a difference. Just be present and bring a willingness and sincere interest in helping people improve their current situation. Everything else flows from there.”



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Our Mission

To provide to people with barriers to employment – particularly those with disabilities – an array of quality vocational and educational services so that they can work most independently.

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www.FredGoodwill.org