14th Annual Mardi Gras Bash Huge Success!

On Saturday, February 9, friends and supporters of Goodwill of Southern Indiana enjoyed a night out celebrating the mission, sharing in successes and raising $61,000 – a 16% increase over last year for services! Guests were entertained as they entered and marveled with performances by a magician, juggler, fire-eating stilt walker, jazz band and dancers.

This year for the first time, the event was held at Horseshoe Southern Indiana and had the highest attendance ever with 326 guests. The event featured a large silent auction with a wide array of packages, an exciting live auction and a 50/50 raffle.

A video produced in-kind by Cool World Video Creations highlighted clients and current employees who received services through Goodwill of Southern Indiana. David James, Goodwill of Southern Indiana employee shared his story of receiving vital skills and ultimately a job through Goodwill’s Employment Services program. “Because of Goodwill, I found a job and got to be employee of the month! I felt excited and glad I got a job.” stated David. Rachel Peper, Children’s Learning Center parent, shared her story about her son Kaden who has received services to address his special needs. “I’m able to go to work and know that my son is taken care of now. I think we can do anything.” Ryan Pierce found work through the Employment Service program at Goodwill. “Goodwill’s services helped me be a team member at McAlister’s!”

Thank you to the following for your support and participation in the Mardi Gras Bash – Dawne Gee (Emcee), Brian Beckort (Auctioneer), Ryan Pierce, David James, Rachel Peper and Kaden Siewert (Guest speakers), the Market Street Stompers with Jeanette Kays, all the performers and the staff at Horseshoe Southern Indiana. Thank you to attendees, volunteers and all the individuals and businesses who donated auction items.

Save the Date! Our 15th Annual Mardi Gras Bash is Saturday, March 1, 2014 at Horseshoe Southern Indiana.
Eric Lock feels as if he has accomplished a lot in life, especially with his career. He was in customer service for 10 years and saw that he just wasn’t moving forward like he wanted and saw a need for change. “I didn’t feel good about myself because I had gone a couple months without a job.” He came into the Jeffersonville Goodwill store looking for a position. With no openings, the manager referred Eric to the Job Connection Center (JCC) inside the Clarksville Goodwill store.

Eric shared his experience about the JCC, “I think the biggest help that I had was with creating my resume. I like to be professional and precise. In doing so the resume builder was very helpful. It takes your experience and puts it in a way that is simplified and sounds great. I used the JCC’s staff’s advice on the resume as well. They were very helpful with wording and putting it together. I didn’t have computer access at home so being able to go to the JCC and online free of charge - that was great!”

As a result, two weeks later Eric was able to find a job. Eric credits the JCC’s help and feels without it he probably would have not found a position so fast to help him get back on his feet.

The following Goodwill of Southern Indiana employees were recently recognized as POWER award winners. Goodwill values the POWER of People – Our team members, donors, shoppers and volunteers make it possible for us to provide exceptional services to our clients.

Opportunity – We search out opportunities for our clients and for the organization so all will succeed.

Work – We assist our clients with locating jobs and help them enjoy a successful future.

Responsibility – Our organization makes decisions based on integrity, ethics and financial stewardship. For those reasons and more, Goodwill of Southern Indiana is a better organization because of the hard work and dedication of the following five employees!

Courtney Brutscher
HR Benefits Manager, 7 years
Courtney provides exceptional customer service. In her role as Benefits Manager, she discusses personal matters with team members, and does so with great compassion and concern for their well-being. Courtney always goes the extra mile, without being asked. She’s on top of things, working hard and smarter, her work is without error and she never forgets the mission of Goodwill.

Kizzi Little
Madison Store Associate, 3 years
Kizzi always has a positive attitude and is willing to do whatever is necessary for the good of the store. In fact, she goes out of her way to make sure things are done in a way that is best for the store. She jumps in and helps her co-workers and she is excellent with our customers. Kizzi is knowledgeable about our operations, answering questions from co-workers and customers. She values the look and the quality of the Madison store. Kizzi works hard and demonstrates class and professionalism in everything she does. Our customers love Kizzi; she is a great person to work with and she strongly believes in the Goodwill mission.

Beth Stunson
CLC Lead Teacher, 2 years
Beth was promoted this year to lead teacher. She earned it through hard work, attention to detail and promptness. She is extremely flexible in how she approaches her work as a teacher and she radiates positivity. Beth’s attitude toward her job is awesome.

Doris Taylor
New Albany Store Manager, 9 years
Doris is said to be the best boss the New Albany store has ever had. She works with all her team members and is there when you need help. She is willing to work right alongside you. Doris is an extremely hard worker. She makes sure the store looks good and things are running smoothly. Doris meets all the criteria for the POWER Award winner, and then some!

Coats for Kids Donation Drive
Nu-Yale Cleaners recently donated over four skids of winter coats to Goodwill of Southern Indiana to distribute to Goodwill voucher partners. This is the second annual Coats for Kids drive sponsored by Nu-Yale Cleaners. Nu-Yale cleans, stores and distributes all items free of charge to those in need during the winter season.
Paths to Quality at the Children’s Learning Center

The Children’s Learning Center (CLC) is progressing through Paths to Quality levels. Paths to Quality is Indiana’s Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System. Research shows that high quality early childhood programs prepare children for future success in school and in the workplace. A child’s experiences in a child care program can significantly contribute to brain development and the future success of the child. High quality child care programs are essential, not only to children, but also to their families and the communities in which they live. Parents need stable, high-quality care in order to be productive at work. They count on their child care provider to ensure that their child is safe, healthy and learning during those hours they must be at work. Our school systems need children who are entering school prepared and ready to succeed. Businesses need a high quality workforce both now and in the future. In fact, studies have shown that high quality early childhood programs increase the graduation rate, reduce crime rates, and in the future, reduce the need for social service systems.

In order to improve the quality of child care programs, states across the nation are using Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS), such as the one here in Indiana, Paths to QUALITY™. Quality Rating and Improvement Systems assess the quality of care within a program, work to improve that level of quality, and give families an easy way to recognize symbols that tells them that the children are safe, healthy and learning. Paths to QUALITY™ gives families an easy way to identify child care centers that are working to improve their quality of care.

Research shows that high quality early childhood programs contribute to brain development and the future success of the child. Children in high quality early childhood programs have a better start, a better preparation for future success. Many programs are working to improve the quality of child care centers. Paths to Quality is Indiana’s Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System. The system validates child care programs for ongoing efforts to achieve and maintain the highest quality. The Children’s Learning Center is currently at Level Four: National accreditation (the highest indicator of quality). The CLC will reach Level Three in the near future.

Many local schools have recently hosted Goodwill school donation drives. Special thanks to Providence Jr./Sr. High School, Sacred Heart School, Bradie Shrum Upper and Lower Elementary Schools and New Albany Floyd County Elementary Schools. We appreciate all the help the students and staff provide us! If your school, business, church or civic organization would like to host a Goodwill donation drive, please contact Sandra Parke-Topolski, Donations & Product Services Coordinator at 812-725-5483 or stopolski@goodwillsi.org.

27 students from Sacred Heart School volunteered in January at the Clarksville store. Students participated in all sorts of tasks including folding clothes and pulling clothing from racks, cleaning baseboards, sorting books, and straightening shelves. If you know a group interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Stevens, Volunteer Manager at 812-207-2269 or estevens@goodwillsi.org.

School Drives

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New Staff

Welcome to the following staff that joined Goodwill of Southern Indiana:

Dyan Elliott-Miles - Job Connection Center
Josh Hall - Bedford Store Manager
Allison Moss - Floyd's Knobs Store Manager

Mardi Gras Sponsors

Thank you to all of our Mardi Gras Sponsors for their support!

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Employee News

Retirees

Mary Hodge retired from our Clarksville store in February.

James Harper retired in January from our Clarksville store.

Mary Hodge shows off her retirement certificate.

Pictured left to right are Kyle Staggers, Clarksville Store Manager; Bonnie Davis, VP of Donated Goods Retail; James Harper, Processing and Latonia Seay, Processing Supervisor.

We wish our retirees the best. They will be missed greatly! Thank you for your service and dedication to our Goodwill mission.

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Thank You to the following individuals, businesses and foundations that made a financial contribution to Goodwill of Southern Indiana from November 16, 2012 to March 12, 2013.

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