



We believe that work is a foundation for empowering individuals, strengthening families, and building prosperous communities.

August 2017 News from Goodwill

A Pathway to Independence

Johnathan's Story of Homelessness to Employment

Johnathan* came from Cameroon to the United States as a teenager. He completed high school, but his efforts to find work were fruitless. As a result, Johnathan became homeless.

He found refuge at Samaritan House, a shelter in Virginia Beach for individuals experiencing homelessness, where Goodwill partners to provide job readiness services. A Goodwill employment specialist assessed Johnathan's interests and skills, which led him to enroll in Goodwill's hospitality training program.

The two-week certification program uses Goodwill's hotel partnerships to provide on-site training and education.

"It was fun. Every morning I woke up and knew I was going to class to learn something," Johnathan said.

At the end of the program, he earned a certification through the American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute.

Today Johnathan works for Marriott and loves his job as a houseman. If anyone in the housekeeping department needs something, he's the guy they call.

The variety is one of his favorite parts of the job. "Every day you meet new people," he said. **"Goodwill helped me get my first job ever."**



Now that he is employed, Johnathan has leased an apartment and--for the first time in years--regained his independence.

[Learn more about Goodwill's job readiness programs...](#)

**Johnathan is not his real name.*

What Does Back-to-School Mean to You?

Define Yourself this Season



This time of year is full of fresh starts and new learning opportunities. No matter what "back to school" means to you, here are a few ways to seize the season:

- 1) **Get Organized and Tackle the Clutter:** Check out professional organizer Lorie Marrero's [tips for getting and staying organized](#) by creating systems that will last all year long.
- 2) **Sharpen Your Skills:** Kids aren't the only ones who go back to school. Goodwill helps thousands of adults prepare for employment opportunities. Whether you want to refresh your resume, learn a new skill or earn a certification, Goodwill can [provide the support](#) and motivation you need.
- 3) **Refresh Your Style:** Whether it's your home, yourself or your kids, August is a great time to

refresh and restyle. Read the [Brilliant Back to School Buys from Goodwill](#) blog post for inspiration!

A Summer Toast to Ambassadors

Goodwill hosted its first annual Ambassadors Society reception on June 21 at Willow Oaks Country Club in Richmond to honor donors' generosity and ongoing commitment.

"Many of our donors have supported Goodwill for years, and this event is a small gesture of our appreciation for their dedication and support," said Andrea Butler, vice president of Mission Advancement.



In the photo (left to right): Alex Kay, Russell Coleman and Gina Coleman



About Goodwill's Ambassadors Society: Individuals who give \$1,000 or more in a calendar year are recognized as members of the Goodwill Ambassadors Society.

This group of sustaining members enjoy benefits such as exclusive receptions, early access to special leadership events, reserved seating and more. To learn more about becoming a Goodwill Ambassador, please contact Laura Dickinson at

Laura.Dickinson@goodwillvirginia.org or 804-239-6326

Gratitude for Gifts

Thanks to a grant from the **Altria Companies Employees Community Fund**, Goodwill will help more students with disabilities prepare for and transition to post-secondary education or employment. Our School-to-Work program provides individualized training, job coaching and paid work experience in Goodwill social enterprise retail stores. Without vocational support, these students may experience prolonged periods of dependency, untapped potential and limited fulfillment. **Thank you ACECF!**



In the photo: ACECF Volunteer Suzanne Tomasini (left) and Goodwill President and CEO Charles Layman (right).

Partnership Connects Donations to Employment

Since 1992, Hands Across Middlesex has provided vulnerable Middlesex County residents with food, clothing and financial assistance.

“What it takes in manpower and transportation to serve our community is incredible,” said Executive Director Emily Lancucki.



When her non-profit organization sought a strong community partnership, Lancucki called Goodwill of Central and Coastal Virginia (GCCVA).



Initially Hands Across Middlesex gave its excess donated goods to Goodwill, which picks up the goods and resells them to help fund its employment and education programs for job seekers. Today, Hands Across Middlesex refers its clients to Goodwill’s community employment centers, too.

“If we have clients looking for jobs, we let them know Goodwill is a place where they can go for help,” said Lancucki. “Goodwill is exactly the type of organization we want to support.”

GCCVA fuels its social enterprise by collecting used furnishings, electronics and other goods—including distressed inventory and overstocks of new items—from hundreds of businesses, government agencies and other organizations each year.

Lancucki encourages other businesses and charitable organizations that want to make a difference to work with Goodwill. “You don’t have to re-invent the wheel. Community partnerships are amazing and we can do a lot for one another,” she said.

For more information on how your organization can donate goods to GCCVA or establish a community partnership, contact [Roger Fournier](#) in the Peninsula and Hampton Roads, or [Russ Rainer](#) in Central Virginia.

Turn Jeans into Jobs and Support Local Schools

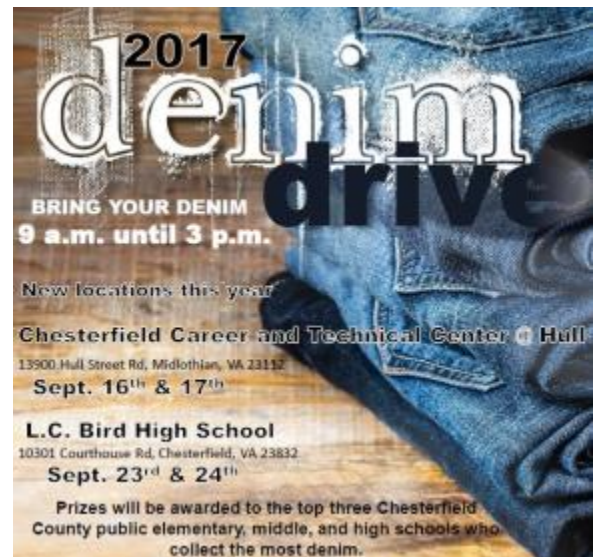
Goodwill and Chesterfield County Public Schools are gearing up for the **9th annual Big Denim Drive** in mid-September.

Students and PTA/PTSO groups representing all 62 CCPS schools will participate in the drive to turn jeans into jobs through Goodwill while competing to raise funds for their schools.

Schools collect donated jeans and other denim items for Goodwill, which resells the denim through its social enterprise, to support Goodwill's job training and career development programs that served more than 17,500 individuals in 2016.

The friendly competition among schools ends September 24 and culminates in an awards ceremony on October 10.

To learn more, please contact [Russ Rainer](#).



Goodwill Opens 32nd Retail Store

Strawbridge store is Goodwill's fifth in Virginia Beach



In the photo (left to right): District Manager Jeannie Butler, Retail Manager Tim Kleppe, Board Chairman Chris Rouzie, and President and CEO Charles Layman cut the ribbon to commence the opening of Goodwill's newest store in the Strawbridge area of Virginia Beach.

Shoppers lined up for the opening of Goodwill's newest retail store and donation center in the Strawbridge area of Virginia Beach on July 13.

The store employs 22 retail associates. This store, like all of Goodwill's locations, will generate funding for Goodwill's 20 different job readiness and career development programs to help area job seekers, at no cost to them.

[Click here to read the press release.](#)



How do 50,000,000 pounds of used goods change lives?
(You have to see it to believe it.)

Go behind the scenes and learn how Goodwill:

- Empowers individuals through employment
- Positively impacts our local economy
- Keeps 40 million pounds of unwanted items from our area landfills annually

[RSVP for a one-hour breakfast or lunch tour date in Hampton Roads or in Richmond!](#)

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