Goodwill Names New CEO

David Hollingsworth, formerly Vice President/Marketing and Community Involvement at Goodwill of Mississippi, replaced retiring President & CEO Gray Wiggers on January 1, 2016.

Goodwill is about 2nd chances.  
Goodwill is about changing lives for the better. 
Goodwill is about community economic development through job creation. 
Goodwill is a hand up, not a hand out. 
While Goodwill is many things to many people, our mission has not waivered since Goodwill opened its doors in Jackson 59 years ago.

Goodwill of Mississippi’s mission is to assist those with disabilities and other barriers to employment to gain meaningful jobs. To this end, Goodwill has a unique and simple business model. Donations from our generous community are processed by our employee associates and then resold in our retail stores. Because each step along the way creates jobs: taking the donations, sorting the donations, handling and placing the donations on the retail floor, and ringing up the sales—we are able to fulfill our mission. 

The future here at Goodwill of Mississippi is very very bright and I wanted to share with you a view into the Goodwill of Mississippi crystal ball…

Our vision is to be a premier employer in Central Mississippi. We are planning to open new stores in the metro Jackson area and other counties in Mississippi. Why? A new store will create 12-18 new jobs for those with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Our vision is to continue our strong relationship with Mississippi’s Vocational Rehabilitation Department. Members from Vocational Rehab actually started Goodwill of Mississippi in 1957 and our partnership has strengthened for close to six decades. Goodwill evaluates and trains VR clients, some who come to work for our organization.

We like to promote from within, so many of our employees grow after they are hired. Five employees already have been promoted this year. A talent assessment is being conducted of our workforce and will offer a pathway to invest in their education, training and future growth. 

While Goodwill exists to help the disabled and those facing other barriers—we can reach out to more groups in need of jobs—such as our veterans and youth. In Mississippi, these two groups have unemployment rates that are among the highest in the nation. 

Our employees are achievers and have many inspirational stories to tell. We want to recognize and celebrate their accomplishments—large and small—and share those success stories with the communities we serve.

We will strive to add more community partners to further our mission, advancing our mission by preparing some of our employees for jobs in the for-profit sector. 

And it is our social responsibility to become a greener company.

I am honored to lead this organization and invite and encourage you to join us in our life-changing mission.

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi assists people with disabilities and other barriers to obtain employment.
Coming Soon: New Store

Goodwill is proud to announce the upcoming opening of a new store in Jacksonian Plaza. Located between Books-A-Million and Kroger, the new facility will offer convenient shopping to the North Jackson area. Scheduled for a soft opening in late April with a grand opening in early May, the property is currently being renovated to meet the needs of customers, clients, and staff.

The management team has been chosen and all are eager to start this new phase in the life of the organization.

Kim Edwards has been selected as the new store manager when it opens. She has worked in a number of jobs and locations and has done great work. This year she was the recipient of the Don Simpson Achiever of the Year Award and epitomizes Goodwill’s mission. Kim is currently the manager at the Centre Street facility. She says that she looks forward to the challenge, and we all anticipate her continued success. Kim received her education from the University of Georgia.

Yolanda Payton, assistant manager, has been with Goodwill since July 1, 2014. She presents a pleasant demeanor and knows how to work with customers to keep them coming back. She is currently at the Centre Street facility and was promoted to key-holder in October, 2015. She has a willingness to accept responsibility and excels at every task she’s given. Yolanda has an AA Degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Her experience includes working for the Mississippi Gaming Commission and other state agencies.

Mayo Perry, assistant manager, has been working at Goodwill since June 19, 2012. He has been working at the 51 Place location since he arrived and has shown great leadership skills and impressive ability to train others. His knowledge of pricing and fast-paced production make him an asset to the organization.
LaTonya Smalls, E-commerce Manager. LaTonya has been working with Goodwill since November 11, 2014. She began at the Ridgeland warehouse sorting clothes, but her work ethic and ambitious nature quickly had her working in the E-commerce department where she has exhibited great ability to effectively lead her team. LaTonya is currently working on her Human Resource Degree at Virginia College.

Adrienne Reed is the new manager at the Centre St. store.

Terry Davis has been named the Warehouse Manager at the Metro store. He has been with the organization over three years and was chosen Achiever of the Year in 2014. Terry says, “I’m going to be here for a long time!”

Deloris Kingdom is interim assistant manager at Place 51. Deloris came to Goodwill in the fall of 2016. She is a Jackson State graduate with a degree in criminal justice. Deloris says, “I see Goodwill as an opportunity to serve.”

Jerry Robertson has transferred from Place 51 is now key holder at Centre Street. Jerry has been with Goodwill three and a half years and received the Spirit Award a couple of years ago.

28th Annual Goodwill Art Show
Sunday, April 3, 2016
2:00 p.m.
Madison Square Center for the Arts
2103 Main Street, Madison, Mississippi

Each year, the Goodwill Art Show showcases the work of artists with disabilities. Cash prizes are awarded to artists chosen in four categories.

In addition, the art can be purchased by cash or check after the event.

Sponsored by Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services & Madison Square Center for the Arts

Past Winners

UPCOMING EVENTS

Late April—
New store opening

May 30, 2016—
Closed for Memorial Day

Beginning March 1—
Extended pickup hours: Monday-Saturday, 8:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M., Hinds, Madison, Rankin Counties. Call 601-853-8110 to schedule home pickup of large donations.
Anthony Collins, better known as “A.J.” around the Centre Street store, began with Goodwill as a client through Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation. He was hired as a full-time employee on November 2, 2015.

A.J. works in the E-commerce department of Goodwill. He lists merchandise that comes in and is responsible for putting information about great bargains on the website, shopgoodwill.com. He evaluates donations to determine if they are valuable enough to list and assists with shipping.

Working in the team environment and meeting people is what he enjoys most. He also likes understanding the differences of values and materials and helping customers who opt for in-store pickup.

From Canton, Mississippi, A.J. is family-oriented. He is the middle child of six. He was homeschooled and obtained his GED. He went on to get an Associates Arts degree in computer electronic engineering at ITT.

A.J. says, “Talking and making people laugh is my favorite hobby.” He goes on the say the he does play video games, but has to go back to the old games like Pac-Man, Centipede, and Mario to pick the best.