Linda Ephraim has been with Goodwill for fourteen years and has worked in all areas of our retail operations. She has mainly worked at our Metro facility and has been a leader in all areas that she has worked. She has served as assistant manager and manager of our Crossgates store when it first opened.

She currently works at the Metro location and is a key person of its continued success. Her pleasant demeanor and patience makes her a great trainer to our Vocational Rehabilitation clients. Linda relates that she was attending a class through the Department of Human Services and learning how to prepare a resumé when the coordinator asked if she would be interested in a job with Goodwill. She accepted. She’s had to overcome some health issues, but sees herself staying with the organization. Her favorite part of her job—staging the Boutique section of the Metro facility and making it look inviting.

She admires all the people who come to Goodwill and push through their difficulties. Linda and her husband, Thomas, have been married twenty-six years and have two sons. She is an avid reader.

She is grateful that Goodwill gave her a job that allows her to help provide for her family. Goodwill is grateful to have Linda Ephraim as THE GRAY WIGGERS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!
This is Kim’s second time with our Goodwill. She first came here in 2012 and was doing a great job when her entrepreneurial spirit took over and she decided to open her own business. She returned to Goodwill in September 2014.

Since walking back through these doors, she quickly ascended to assistant manager of our Crossgates store, and then manager of our Centre Street facility where she also oversaw the production of the E-commerce department. Kim excels in every task asked of her.

Kim has now been selected as the new Jacksonian Select store manager located on I-55 Frontage Road between Books-a-Million and Kroger. She epitomizes Goodwill’s mission. She says, “I try to live this every day,” since Goodwill has given her a chance to start over, living the best way possible.

Her favorite part of working for the organization is the people: employees, clients, customers, and donors. By the same token, she says that working with a variety of disabilities is also one of her greatest challenges. She hopes to one day work as Goodwill’s Retail Sales Specialist or Loss Prevention Officer.

Outside of her “day” job, Kim and her husband also manage an apartment complex and they are active in their church, Pocahontas Baptist Church in Clinton.

Kim attributes the greatest influence from anyone in the company to now-retired Vice President of Human Resources, Don Simpson, who was the first person she met and accepted her with a smile and without question. Kim says, “I am grateful to be a part of such a great family.”

Congratulations, Kim, for being chosen, THE DON SIMPSON ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR!
Sharon has been with Goodwill since October, 2010. This is her second time being nominated, and she won Employee of the Year in 2013. She has served in many capacities since her arrival, including truck driver, assistant manager, and she is currently the manager of the 51 Place location. She was also a recipient of our scholarship program where she obtained her certification in HVAC maintenance and repair. Sharon has been a success in every role that she has accepted and continues to impress with her work ethic and customer service.

Sharon came to Goodwill needing a fresh start to a new beginning. Her favorite part of working for the organization is helping others and making her crew and customers smile. Her time with Goodwill has given her a new perspective and helped her further her education with the scholarship award. Though she’s had to overcome a number of challenges, she feels she is now in a great place in her life. She credits Don Simpson (retired VP of HR) and Jacqueline Page as having the biggest impact on her since she came to Goodwill. Sharon hopes to move up in the organization, and perhaps work in Human Resources in the future.

Outside of work, she enjoys watching TV and spending time with her family and friends. She says, “First, I want thank God for everything; my family for being there for me; and Goodwill for giving me a second chance to better myself.”

Goodwill is so proud to have Sharon as the recipient of THE GIVS SPIRIT OF THE YEAR AWARD!
In October, 2009, my life changed in a major way. I was in a bad car accident. I lost my left arm. I’ve been an amputee for 6½ years. For three of those years, I was out of work. Through Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, I came to Goodwill as a client, beginning my training and evaluation at the Metro facility. I was hired as an employee and promoted to Assistant Manager August, 2014.

I’ve had the pleasure to work at all the locations except Jacksonian, Hattiesburg, and the warehouse. Since coming to work with Goodwill, I’ve been working on a bachelor’s degree in accounting, and I earned my forklift license in May, 2015. I’m currently working on my class D driver’s license. The people of Goodwill are more than coworkers—they’re family. I enjoy working with the customers, but the part that touches me most is working with clients. I look back where I came from and then see where I am now, all because Goodwill gave me a chance. I hope to stay with the organization and move up in the company.

I appreciate Goodwill because of their mission, which is to give people with disabilities or some other barrier to gaining and keeping employment the same kind of chance that they gave me.