For the 28th year, Goodwill of Mississippi recognized a group of outstanding servants for their outstanding volunteer service to our community. The Goodwill Salute Dinner recognized 16 honorees for their role in real community leadership to improve the lives of others. Three youth leaders were among those recognized, as well as Goodwill’s Employee of the Year, Sharon Johnson.

A record-turnout of 460 attended the event at the Country Club of Jackson on August 21st. Honorees included James Farris, LaKeysha Greer Isaac, Robert E. Hauberg, Jr., Stuart Kellogg, Paula Kemp, Collette McIntyre, Hibbett Neel, Wendy Putt, Elee Reeves, Cathey Russell, Doris Scott, Carolyn Wakefield, Rev. Dolphus Weary, James Farris, Doris Scott, Marion Richmond, Paula Kemp, LaKeysha Greer Isaac, Leah Margaret Cook.

The Goodwill Salute Dinner is organized and conducted by GIVS (Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services), an all-volunteer auxiliary that supports the mission of Goodwill. They are fabulous friends of Goodwill and truly reflect our mission of helping our employees.

Salute Dinner, continued on page 2
**Goodwill Industries of Mississippi Board of Directors**

Susie Brabec, *Board Chair*
Amanda Nicols, *Vice Chair*
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Blake Murphy, *Treasurer*
Gray Wiggers, *President & CEO*
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Phillip Grady
Gloria Allen Hill
John Honigfort
Buddy Huff
Craig Jackson
Christi Jones
Lauren Lawhorn
Tobi Fulcher
John Sewell
Lorraine Washington

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**Goodwill Promotions**

**September**

**Kim Edwards** was promoted to Assistant Manager, Crossgates store

**October**

**Bill Walker** was promoted to E-commerce Manager

**Kacine Romine** was promoted to E-commerce Assistant Manager

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**Salute Dinner, continued from page 1**

They do this in a number of ways: providing employee birthday celebrations, home-cooked Thanksgiving and Christmas lunches, volunteer devotional meeting time, and the annual Goodwill Art Show for persons with disabilities. They are an inspiration to our employees, our staff and our Board of Directors. All this is done from their hearts, and it is all done because they care.

The Salute Dinner would not be possible without corporate support from the community as well. Each of these companies generously supported to the Salute Awards Dinner: Gertrude C. Ford Foundation, WAPT-16, Godwin Group, Blue Cross Blue Shield, C-Spire, Trustmark, BankPlus, East Group Properties, Saks Fifth Avenue, Paula and Randy James, St. Dominic’s, Horne CPA & Business Advisors, Metro Christian Living, Entergy, The Wiggers Family.

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**Goodwill Goes to the Ballgame**

**Ben Schlink threw out the first pitch and hung out with the Braves’ mascots.**

**Ice cream was a big hit among Goodwill employees and their families.**

Employee Night at the Mississippi Braves game was a huge success this year. Goodwill CEO Gray Wiggers measures the success of the annual event, held on July 10th this season, by the number of ice cream cones served to our employees. Ninety-nine cones were served, which is an all-time record!

Goodwill employee Ben Schlink threw out the first pitch and also hung out with the Braves’ mascots. It was a fun night and good fellowship!
Goodwill Trucks Receive a Facelift

You may have noticed around the community that Goodwill of Mississippi’s trucks have a new look!

The redesigned trucks predominately display Goodwill’s signature “smiling G” logo and utilize Goodwill’s blue and white colors. In addition, our mission of changing lives through the power of work is clearly highlighted.

Goodwill’s all-volunteer auxiliary GIVS raised the funds for the purchase of these trucks. The trucks are used for customer pickups of donated goods, and delivery of donated goods to stores. The redesigned trucks “thanked” GIVS at the Salute Volunteer Dinner at the Country Club of Jackson, where they were first unveiled.

The final decision on the new look was made by the transportation team, which includes Frank Bryant, Kevin Lofton, Howard Foster and Robert Meeks.

Goodwill Consolidates Operations

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi consolidated our retail operations by closing the Pearl Select Store located at 426 N. Bierdeman Road in Pearl, MS, on October 18th.

The Pearl store opened in 2000. Over the past years, shifts in shopping patterns in south Rankin County and added thrift store shopping options led to the consolidation.

“Pearl and south Rankin County are very good communities for Goodwill. We made sure that all our employees working at the Pearl store would be relocated to other Goodwill stores or operations as a result of this consolidation,” says Gray Wiggers, President and CEO. “We invite all our loyal customers to continue to shop and donate at any of our stores. Our nearby Crossgates Select Store has a state-of-the-art donation drive-thru to make donating easy and convenient.”

Planning is underway to open additional stores throughout the 59-county Goodwill of Mississippi territory.

It’s Fall on Goodwill Social Media!

On social media, Goodwill Industries of Mississippi is sharing fashion finds from our local Goodwill Glam Girl, and style boards for fall looks.
Caitlyn Rogers

Caitlyn Rogers has done it all at Goodwill. She has sorted clothes and accessories, ran the cash register, hung clothing and priced items. She came to Goodwill as a client in December of 2010, and has since become an exemplary employee.

“Caitlyn has continued to improve since her first day with Goodwill,” says 51 Place Select store manager, Sharon Johnson. “Anything that needs to be done, she will help with it without anyone telling her to do so. We love having Caitlyn as part of our 51 team!”

“What I like about Goodwill are my co-workers,” Caitlyn shares. “They make me laugh every day!” She also likes working for Goodwill because “it helps people who need help. Goodwill helps our customers and our employees, too.”

She is originally from Birmingham, Alabama and moved to Brandon when she was very young. Her parents live in Brandon and she has a little sister, Elizabeth, who attends Mississippi College.

Her family also includes not one, not two, but three dogs. Bear is a chocolate lab, Reese is a cocker spaniel/lab mix and the newest addition is a cavalier puppy named Maggie. Caitlyn reads her Bible religiously and goes to church. She enjoys watching “The Dukes of Hazzard,” puts puzzles together and listens to music. She also is a big Mississippi State fan.

Jared Irwin

Jared Irwin may well be the most passionate Alabama Crimson Tide fan in Mississippi. He certainly is among our Goodwill employees.

If you visit the 51 Place Select store to drop off your donation and are helped by a receiver wearing an Alabama ball cap – that’s Jared. “My Mom got me started, she used to say ‘Roll Tide’ when I was little and I started saying it, too. I go to Tuscaloosa at least once a year – the greatest place in the world – and I’ve seen the Tide in Dallas at ‘Jerry’s World’ and in Miami when they beat Notre Dame for the National Championship.”

Jared came to Goodwill after graduating from Holmes Community College. He handles donations, hangs clothing, prices items, takes racks out to the sales floor and enjoys his work at Goodwill. “I get to be with good people. Miss Sharon allows me to do my own thing, she gives me independence to get my work done.”

Sharon Johnson, store manager, notes, “Jared enjoys coming to work and showing off his skills each day. He has advanced in pretty much every area throughout the store and is looking forward to applying for management in the near future.”

Goodwill has helped Jared to grow personally. “I was really, really shy when I started here. I couldn’t look into people’s eyes. It took me a long, long time to come out of that. But now I interact with customers and I’ve come out of my shell. My work at Goodwill has changed my life by allowing me to be me more independent and now I converse more.”

Jared was born in Columbus, Mississippi and moved to Madison at a young age. In his spare time he plays video games, reads science fiction and fantasy books and is really into Star Wars. Oh yes, and the Crimson Tide on fall saturdays.