Employee of the Year, Sharon Johnson, Puts Staff and Customers First

Sharon Johnson celebrates her 4th year anniversary at Goodwill on July 21st – and 4 is a charm as she was named Goodwill’s Employee of the Year.

Sharon started at Goodwill in sales at the 51 Place store. She learned all store operations and was an exceptional worker. One year later, she wanted to advance to a truck driver. “There were people who didn’t think I could be a driver because they didn’t think I could pick up the heavy stuff,” Sharon recalls. “When someone says I can’t do something, well, no is not an option for me. It made me determined to show I could do it. You can do anything if you put your mind to it!”

Not only did she become an excellent truck driver, but she also requested student aid to pursue a HVAC degree at Delta Technical College, which she earned with honors.

In October of 2013, she was named Store Manager for 51 Place. Her store has constantly exceeded budgeted goals, and it is not difficult to see why. Sharon’s philosophy is to help others grow and she is always selling! She has learned and been helped by many at Goodwill. “I have received a lot of help from many people at Goodwill – Miss Jackie, JD, Mr. Frank and other co-workers. And I have learned what makes Mr. Don happy and what makes him mad. I try to keep Mr. Don happy!”

“Goodwill gave me a second chance and Goodwill challenges you to be better. Goals are set to be met and (Goodwill) helps people better themselves.”

Sharon, 35, is from Jackson and her Mom and Dad are her biggest heroes. She has 2 brothers, a sister and a host of nieces and nephews. She likes to watch movies, from action to horror, X-Men and loves Kevin Hart.

While Goodwill is dedicated to providing 2nd chances, Sharon is a wonderful example of how lives do change and is well deserving of being selected as Goodwill’s Employee of the Year.
Goodwill is about 2nd chances – and sometimes third chances, too. Justin Lonie, our Goodwill Achiever of the Year, has made the most out of his opportunity working for Goodwill.

“Once I got out of prison, I got on myself to change. I knew I had to work, no matter how hard it was. I battled with myself that I could do better, and I also felt it was going to get better,” relates Justin. “I worked at a car wash first, but then I got a job that paid by the hour with Goodwill. I was going to take it and work it. Goodwill was a stepping-stone to get better, to go to the second level. I am happy and content, and I know it is going to get better. I really don’t want to go to another place, to be honest.”

Justin reflects on what he learned from working at Goodwill – and what Goodwill reinforced to him: “I’ve learned a lot such as how to deal with different people and different things like how to drive a fork lift.”

“My family raised me well. I just made some bad choices. The things my family taught me, such as responsibility – Goodwill re-instilled in me. Responsibilities like being on time and being patient with people. And I’ve made some good friends here, some are like brothers and sisters to me.”

While Goodwill has made a huge impact on Justin, he has made an equally big impact on others. He befriended a disabled co-worker, Deonte Young. They became extremely close (“I love him to death” says Justin) and by bringing Deonte out of his shell, Justin helped change both of their lives.

Lives do change at Goodwill, often through the power of work, and as Justin Lonie proves, through the power of love and friendship, too.
Goodwill - We like it!

Goodwill of Mississippi hit two milestones on one day in the world of social media!

The Goodwill Facebook page reached 2,000 Likes recently, a significant milestone. The page was launched in April of 2013. Likes are a measurement on Facebook of the number of people who are following a particular page.

More recently, Goodwill published a Facebook page for our Hattiesburg Select Store. The page was launched in March of this year and in only four months we have topped 1,000 Likes!

If you haven’t visited our Facebook pages – please visit us regularly for updates on merchandise arrivals, mission messages, special announcements and shopping and fashion tips.

Facebook is just one of our social media sites, we are also on twitter and Pinterest.
Our partners at United Way will start their end-of-the-year 2015 fundraising campaign.

Please consider what you can give to this great partner with Goodwill.

Thank you for caring and your support of United Way.