"I had no idea..." is the statement most often made when the Goodwill of Mississippi story is told. Most people have no idea what this organization really does and how it affects our communities and people in this state. Goodwill of Mississippi is a non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities and other barriers to obtain employment. The organization creates jobs to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by helping people grow their potential through education, skills training and the power of work.

Reverend Edgar James Helms is credited for the beginning of Goodwill in 1915. He was appalled by the poverty that surrounded him due to people not being able to find work, so he went door-to-door collecting donations in the wealthiest districts of Boston. Helms believed that the donations could be sold for profit if refurbished and that the people who fixed them, could be paid a wage. He hired people in need and those considered unemployable, and Goodwill was born. Goodwill fills a necessary need in our workforce for people that are often over-looked for employment. Today, Goodwill Industries operates as a network of independent, community-based organizations all over the world. [continued on page 5]
Goowill of Mississippi’s Mission is to assist people with disabilities and other barriers to obtain employment. Traditionally, that occurs because our community donates and shops at our retail stores, which creates those jobs. In July, we will launch a new initiative to help more people gain jobs and improve their quality of life by living independently – workforce development.

Workforce development will allow our employees and clients (and area residents, too!) to learn valuable job and life skills such as digital skills, financial literacy, resume writing, interviewing training, and communication skills. In addition, specific skill accreditations, advanced education and technical knowledge will be offered to prepare for higher-paying jobs and career advancement. This is a new frontier for Goodwill of Mississippi and we are excited to continue to offer a hand up to those we serve.

David Hollingsworth
Ms. Deloris Kingdom has worked for Goodwill of Mississippi for three and a half years. She began as a clothes hanger at the Goodwill 51 Select Store and through her intensive will to achieve, Deloris is now one of the top producing managers at Goodwill of Mississippi. She holds a BS in Criminal Justice but believes that she has found her calling at Goodwill. “We are so much more than a thrift store,” states Deloris, “we are a haven for so many people.” She believes that at Goodwill, we all have inabilities and therefore we do not look at anyone’s disabilities. Deloris loves to teach and help people grow. Week in and week out, through her leadership, the Goodwill 51 Select Store is one of the lead stores in donations and revenue. Deloris spends a good deal of time meeting and greeting the customers and donors to build those important relationships. Her loving spirit and personality wins people over instantly as she continues to build repeat customers. Deloris states that there is not another team like the Goodwill of Mississippi team. She finds great support from everyone, especially the admin group. If she is overwhelmed, Deloris just calls for backup – “and here they come,” she added, “We depend on each other”. Her most inspiring person is her husband James. “He motivates me like no other and stands strong beside me when I need him,” states Deloris. Together they have five children and a very busy life. They attend Straitway Ministries Church in Utica and make their home in Jackson. When asked what she believed were the ingredients for her constant success, Deloris stated that she starts every day, without fail, praying for her employees and her clients at the Goodwill 51 Select Store. She knows that God blesses her every day in so many ways. For that, she is so thankful and grateful to be a Goodwill of Mississippi employee. “I really don’t look at it as a job,” says Deloris Kingdom, “it’s my calling. Goodwill and the Goodwill staff are my big daily blessing.” She says, “Kingdom come, thy will be done.”
Ms. Jessica Maxwell Flowers has been at Goodwill of Mississippi for two years. She began her work as a clothes hanger at the Metro Goodwill Select Store and set her goal to be the best and most productive worker at the store. It wasn't long until she was promoted to cashier where her abilities began to grow. Within a few months Jessica was promoted to assistant manager. Just recently, she has been promoted to Store Manager at the Clinton Goodwill Select Store and is doing a wonderful job. She said that as she looks back over the past two years that she must have the spirit of an achiever and now plans to keep that spirit alive. Jessica believes that her calling is to help people set goals and help them excel. Her work at Goodwill allows her to do just that. She loves her Goodwill family and feels that she has been supported since day one to be the best that she can be. “The leaders at Goodwill have taught me to believe in myself and never give up,” says Jessica, “they loved me through it and made me start loving myself.” When asked what she felt when she was told about her co-workers selecting her, Jessica said that it really shocked her. She had no idea that other employees even knew her and that made her feel worthy. She is grateful and very excited to be recognized by her fellow employees. Jessica is married to Daniel Flowers and they have a one year old son, Micah. When asked who is the most inspiring person in her life, she said it would have to be her son. “He has taught me so much in one year,” states Jessica - that unconditional love has opened her heart and showed her how to trust again. Her favorite things are to be a great mother, to cherish family time, and to read and learn whenever she can. Jessica and her family live in Utica and attend Utica Baptist Church. Because of her name, her favorite saying is, “Let me bloom where I am planted.”

Mr. Orlandas Martin has been at Metro Goodwill Select Store for one and a half years and recently moved to the Crossgates location. He captured the eye of his supervisors very quickly and was promoted to Backroom Supervisor where his daily production proves to be a strong asset to the organization. Mr. Martin’s heart is drawn to help people overcome problems in their lives. He is especially drawn to help kids that have no guidance and direction, and his dream would be to run a home for abandoned children. Orlandas states that he loves his job at Goodwill because of the people that work here. He is amazed at what they can get accomplished in a day. He explains that when Kaizen, a constant quality improvement program, was taught to them at the Metro store, that it was like a bright light went off in his head and he could clearly see how being more organized, taking less steps and having a set work design could greatly change their productivity. Kaizen opened-up a new way of thinking to him and he said it made him feel so smart. His advice to fellow employees is to find a passion in what you do – show your worth and people will pay attention. Orlandas feels his greatest blessing is that he is so thankful for everything that comes his way. “My Goodwill family is the family that I always wanted,” says Orlandas, “they guide me to do my best. I guess that I’ve been adopted, and I love it.” Orlandas states that he could not put into words what he felt when he was informed of being selected by his co-workers to receive this recognition. “I guess it was true humbleness, to be picked by people that some-days see me at my worst, and hopefully my best, that’s extra-special,” states Orlandas. In his very little spare time, he likes to read, watch inspiring movies and just spend quality time with his wife Milly. Orlandas has three children that are pretty grown. All live in Chicago but just recently his baby boy told him he had been accepted to Jackson State and now Dad is elated. Orlandas and his wife attend Greater Bethlehem Church and they make their home in Jackson. “Every day is like a new day at Goodwill, there is always a challenge,” says Orlandas, “and I’m ready!”
The Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce hosted the Grand Re-Opening & Ribbon Cutting of the newly expanded and renovated Goodwill of Mississippi 51 Place Select Store and Donation Center on June 7. The Store is located at 637 C Highway 51 North in Ridgeland, MS and open Monday-Saturday 9am to 6pm. Goodwill of Mississippi provides training, jobs and evaluations for people with disabilities and other barriers to obtain employment.

When you Donate – When you Shop – You Help Change Lives through the Power of Work

Goodwill Digital Skills Training
Grow with Google

Goodwill of Mississippi, working with Google, is offering FREE Digital (Computer) Skills Training and Certification five days a week at various locations throughout the Metro area. For information visit www.goodwillms.org or call 601 720-0223

SCHEDULE:
- Goodwill Clinton Digital Training Center - Mon.-Fri. – 9-11 & 1-3
- Jackson WIN Center 5959 I 55, Jackson, MS 39213 - Mon. & Wed. 11-1 & 1-3
- Pearl WIN Job Center 212 St. Paul, Pearl, MS 39208 – Tue. 11-1
- Canton WIN Job Center 152 Watford Pkwy, Canton, MS 39046– Last Thu. of the month – 9-11 & 1-3

“I had no idea…” (CONTINUED)

Goodwill of Mississippi began in Jackson in 1957. The non-profit organization is directed by a local Board, a local President/CEO and hires local employees. There are presently six Goodwill Select Store locations in the Jackson Metro area and one in Hattiesburg, MS. They operate under the direction of President and CEO David Hollingsworth. Goodwill of Mississippi partners with MS Dept of Rehabilitation Services to provide training and evaluation for people with disabilities and other barriers to assist in obtaining employment. Goodwill of Mississippi also assists veterans, those that have been incarcerated, people who have gone through rehabilitation and who have education barriers. CEO David Hollingsworth states that most people want to work, whatever their limitations, they just need a chance. Goodwill of Mississippi offers that chance. Working to enhance its mission, Goodwill of Mississippi partners with businesses and organizations to work together to offer a hand up to the people who need it most. YOU are a very important part of the Goodwill Mission – When You Donate – When You Shop - Jobs are Created and Lives are Changed. We invite you to know more about Goodwill of Mississippi and visit the Goodwill locations. Then you will probably also say, “I Had No Idea”.

WWW.GOODWILLMS.ORG
Meet the Goodwill of Mississippi Transportation Crew
(L-R) David Bernheim, Tae Dennis, Calvin Davis, & TJ Matlock.

Everyday these men coordinate house pick-ups, transport goods to our Goodwill locations, aid and assist in maintenance, and represent Goodwill of Mississippi with great attitudes and endurance of the elements.

Goodwill of Mississippi appreciates all that you do as vital members of our Goodwill Team.