

# THE GOODWILL GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2023

## Letter from Mr. Shelfer, President & CEO, Goodwill Industries - Big Bend



Fred G. Shelfer, Jr. CEO

This is the last Gazette issue for this year. It's a busy time with holidays and year-end activities. It's been a good year for us, and I think we are making progress in every area. In retail, we surpassed the previous best year we ever had, so thank you and congratulations to all that work in retail or support retail. Support services that handle maintenance, contracts, purchases, and security have been able to post gains and manage our properties effectively. Human Resources has done a fine job with employee relations, insurance, and loss prevention. The transportation department has kept up with the demand from retail and now has four warehouses functioning well and systems operating efficiently. The administration is completing a three-year strategic plan, has an approved budget for the coming year, has an active advertising campaign ongoing, is rolling out

Supro, and has hosted the final board meeting of the year.

There have been major changes in the Mission Services department; however, Tamara Williams, Kim Gay, Shannon Harper, and key members of that staff have pitched in and there has been real progress made and plans in place to have the department up and running at full capacity in the coming year. A new VP will be coming onboard in January, and we are excited about the prospects.

We have so many dedicated, hardworking, and skillful people working in our Goodwill. Thank you for what you do. Each and every year you make me and our Board of Directors proud of our organization. I wish all of you a happy holiday and a bright new year.

Sincerely,  
Fred G. Shelfer, Jr.  
CEO

## SAFETY Want to Know More?



Did you know there is a "My Self" page on Ascentis where you can review your personal information, benefit information, and find resources to help you at work and at home?

From the "My Self" tab, select **Personal Information** to make sure your name, address and phone number are correct. Your W-2 forms will go to the address listed on Ascentis.

Select **Benefits** to get a summary of the plans you have chosen, or to add or change your beneficiary.

The **Company Resources** tab has a copy of the Goodwill Handbook, which tells you how to find PTO and request time off and many more training options.

Also located in **Company Resources**, is the Work Life Matters-EAP explanation. Provided by Goodwill, this benefit is available to all employees and their families. Information on services such as confidential advice, support, and solutions to your real-life issues is located here. This includes counseling, financial help, legal services, legal forms, and supervisor training.

If you have questions, ask your supervisor for help navigating to your "My Self" page, or ask an HR representative. We are here to help!

## DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING



Merry  
Christmas

### December 25th

Christmas is one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the USA. It commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and is marked by festive traditions, including decorating Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, and spending time with loved ones. For more information, visit <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas>



happy  
HANUKKAH

### Hanukkah (Chanukah)

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday that typically falls in December. It celebrates the miracle of the oil in the Temple and involves lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and enjoying traditional foods like latkes. For more information, visit <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/hanukkah>

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration of African heritage and culture. It involves lighting the Kinara (candleholder) and observing the Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) while reflecting on African values and traditions. To learn more, visit <https://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/>



### December 26th - January 1st

New Year's Eve marks the end of the current year and the beginning of the new year. People celebrate with parties, fireworks, and countdowns to midnight. It's a time for reflection on the past year and setting resolutions for the year ahead. For more information, visit <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-new-years>



### December 31st

## Shout-Outs



From Kimberly Sineath: Shaffield was thrilled to be a part of The Learning Pavilion's Trunk or Treat again this year. We had a fabulous time decorating our circus trunk/bigtop and circus train, dressing the part (Valerie as the clown, Holli as the fortune teller and Jeffrey as the strong man) and welcoming all the kiddos and parents that visited our big top!

And for the second year in a row, we took home the Tricked Out Trunk Award!

Thanks to Valerie, Holli, Jeffrey and Kyle for all your creative contributions in representing Shaffield for this worthy cause!

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From Candice Worlds: Lindsey has been the ideal example of what a Safety Captain should be. Throughout my short time performing safety inspections at the Destin store, Lindsey has completed every topic and drill. Never missing a beat! Destin store truly has the best person for this role and we're very happy to have Lindsey as a part of our safety team!!!

Thank you, Lindsey, for caring about the safety of our customers and your peers!!!!



From Kim Gay: Shout out to our Speedy Responsive IT team Matt and Will who ran in the Tallahassee Turkey Trot!



From Candra Johnson: Shoutout to Reggie Smith, one of our Donation Attendants at the Quincy store. He greets everyone with a smile and tells them to make sure to rate us to get a chance to win \$500 every week! Thanks for helping us serve others in our mission, Reggie!

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## JOIN AMERICORPS

Give Back To Your Community by helping participants overcome barriers and gain meaningful employment and Recieve a modest Bi-Weekly Living Stipend, A Segal Education Award up to \$4424.00, and Forbearance on your student Loans!

### Open Positions

- Trainers
- Resource Connector
- Placement Specialist
- Volunteer Developer



### Qualifications

- 17+ years & UP!
- US Citizen
- Team Player
- Available to serve On-Site (No Remote)
- Basic Computer Skills

APPLY NOW

[www.goodwill.com/ameri-corps](http://www.goodwill.com/ameri-corps)



Industries - Big Bend, Inc. goodwill  
300 Mabry Steet Tallahassee, FL 32304 (850) 576-7145



Share with friends and family! Employees require approval prior to applying.  
Contact [rhowell@goodwillbigbend.com](mailto:rhowell@goodwillbigbend.com) if you are an interested employee.

## Success Story: Kevin Lee

Before Goodwill, Kevin encountered legal trouble at a prior job and served time in prison.

Despite his past, Goodwill gave him the opportunity to work again, first as a photographer in our Ecommerce department, then moving on to taking care of shipping within the department. After going through our Manager Training Program, he is now a lead associate in the Ecommerce department.

He's been with us for over a year, proving that Goodwill can help you climb the ladder of success, even after tough times.

*Thank you, Kevin, for sharing your story with us.*



## Care Corner: Earn to Learn and Tuition Reimbursement

At Goodwill, we're committed to supporting your education. If you've been a full-time employee with us for a year, you can receive up to \$2,000 annually for college expenses.

In addition, we offer up to three hours of paid study time each week, making it convenient for you to manage your work and education effectively. Whether you're pursuing your GED or enrolling in online classes, our program is designed to help you.

If you are eligible for the "Earn while you Learn" Program, log into your Ascentis profile and click on the following tabs: My Self > Company Resources > EARN WHILE YOU LEARN REQUEST FORM. For tuition reimbursement, log into your Ascentis profile and click on the following tabs: My Self > Company Resources > TUITION-REIMBURSEMENT

Completed forms should be sent to [sgoldsmith@goodwillbigbend.com](mailto:sgoldsmith@goodwillbigbend.com).

For more information, contact the Career Development Center or our HR department (850-576-7145 x 107).

Your success is important to us, and we're excited to help you on your educational journey.



## WORD SEARCH

### WILD CATS WORDSEARCH

I D N U R A U G A J O T M M A O  
 A U A G G L A S D L C T A P R C  
 M T C A R I A T U L A V R E S E  
 R M P I A N M N S C A C G C R L  
 D R U G D S O P E A H I A A R O  
 T R M C H E E T A H T S Y R R T  
 I C A M G E O F F R O Y S C A T  
 H T T P A M P A S C A T A C G C  
 X E L E O P A R D T R G N T U L  
 D N S I A E L N L C A E A A O C  
 E G R R O Y L L O L D C T J C E  
 P I C A N N A W L L B I T L X L  
 D R L X U N S I O O F L H A A L  
 E E O T E G C G B N O C Y A A A  
 C R E H T N A P A S S N S P R T  
 D O K D O K T J C A A I N O S A

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|---------------|------------|--------------|
| BOBCAT        | JAGUARUNDI | PALLAS CAT   |
| CARACAL       | KODKOD     | PAMPAS CAT   |
| CHEETAH       | LEOPARD    | PANTHER      |
| COUGAR        | LION       | PUMA         |
| GEOFFROYS CAT | LYNX       | SAND CAT     |
| GOLDEN CAT    | MARGAY     | SERVAL       |
| IRIOMOTE CAT  | OCELOT     | SNOW LEOPARD |
| JAGUAR        | ONCILLA    | TIGER        |

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# THE GOODWILL GAZETTE

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Blaze Schlock	1 Joshua Bennett	8 David Roland	13 Jacob Kane	18 Barbara Sue	24
Katherine Folsom	2 Jessica Leger	8 Jermain Wright	13 Arjuan Claitt	18 Matthew Rodrigue	24
Widlene Bien-Aime	2 Woodrow Faison	9 Rachele Baity	14 Charles Smith	18 Jermaine Thrower	26
Alexis Brown	3 Lindsey Banning	9 Ian Pierson	14 William Huffman	18 Jasmine Woods	26
Mary White	4 Misty Beaman	9 Jon Morrow	14 Julian Collins	20 Jalee White	27
Harold Mcknight	4 Jordan Harris	10 Zahjtee Dotson	15 Marjorie Shaw	20 Amber Adams	28
Ashley Elliott	5 Wanda Sanchez	11 James Moses	15 Darryl Sutton	20 Austin Tarr	28
Zykira Scott	5 Kimothy Young	11 Jaeon Wilson	15 Cassey Walton	20 Christine Soita	28
Brian Williams	7 Ashtin Srinivasan	11 Hugh Nelligan	16 Luke Howard	20 Demario Paramore	29
Craig Starke	7 Brandon Dinwiddie	11 Summer Farris	16 Marlo Davis	21 Jennifer Billcliffe	29
Lashaunda Andrews	7 Judie Ballenger	11 Brianna Gray	17 Tammie Byrd	21 Mathis Groover	30
Minerva Perez-Oquendo	7 Karradiene Baker	12 Abi Soriano	17 Gary Yant	22 Lori Dunlap	30
Kimiko Corkery	7 Omayra Gonzalez	12 Melva Watkins	17 Gloria Harris	22 Sara LaJoie	30
Justin Tetreault	7 Ernestine Washington	13 Kenneth Oder	17 Kathleen Farmer	22 Miles Quinnell	30
Tracie Wood	7 Lucia Rice	13 John Dennis	17 Rosie Huesby	22 Jessica Anthony	31
Timothy Smith	7 Cameron Morris	13 Melissa Norris	18 Micah Ross	24	



William Coker	37	Kelsey Cowin	4	Mary Simon Irby	2	Devin Clemons	1
Joshua Hull	13	Jennifer Billcliffe	4	Marsue Wagener	2	Stacey Scott	1
Johnnie Mitchell	13	Jeffrey Davis	4	Antonio Stokes	2	Shanequa Jenkins	1
Vicki Jackson	11	Josh Davis	3	Tammy Berry	1	Zachary Roeder	1
Rachele Baity	10	Lillie Smith	3	Jeffrey Whitehurst	1	Alander Crapps	1
Olga Davey	9	Cameron Morris	3	Maricel Villarain	1	Brett Carroll	1
Gabriel Rico-Aldaz	9	David Burns	3	James Hill	1	Tina Wells	1
Crystal Lyles	6	Laura Angleton	3	Conley Cole	1	Amy Phillips	1
Wanda Smith	6	Shannon Batts	3	Janet Scarlett	1	Mary McShane	1
Brandon Barclay	5	Destinee Davidson	3	Linda Lawrence	1	Penelope Livingston	1
Maxwell Jackson	5	Brian Neal	2	Andrew Butt	1	Shannon Bowman	1
Amber Adams	4	Susan Zuraitis	2	Suzanne Bonham	1		