

Ohio Valley Goodwill Update

SUMMER 2020



CELEBRATE YOU!

Following more than ten weeks of the closure of its 18 stores and 29 Attended Donation Centers in the Greater Cincinnati area in response to COVID-19, Ohio Valley Goodwill was elated to have the opportunity to celebrate returning shoppers and donors on Tuesday, May 12th. The organization re-opened its retail stores and other business lines in accordance with a phased plan which began with the re-opening of the Beechmont, Fairfield, Loveland and Tri-County locations on May 12th. The re-opening events also marked the beginning of the organization's "Celebrate You" campaign which was designed to thank shoppers for their support during this very difficult time. Goodwill's network of retail stores were freshly cleaned in preparation for the big day.

"As a non-profit which has been a fixture of this community for more than a century, we really missed our wonderful customers, donors and friends during the past several months," said President and CEO, Joe Byrum. "We rely so much on the generous support we receive through our stores and donation centers in order to provide employment and training programs for people with disabilities and our nation's veterans."

In addition to the re-opening of its network of retail stores and donation centers, Goodwill's Auto Auction and As Is Auction re-opened. The Goodwill Auto Auction is held every Saturday at 9 am at its 10600 Springfield Pike location and the As Is Auction is located in the rear of the property fronting Glendale Road and takes place Tuesday and Friday mornings at 8 am. For more information about the Goodwill Auto Auction, visit www.goodwillcars.com. To find out about the As Is Auction, visit **www.cincinnatigoodwill. org/shop.**

To view a list of all of Ohio Valley Goodwill's retail and donation center locations in the Greater Cincinnati, visit **www.goodwillbargains.com.**

Ohio Valley Goodwill Presents Summer Youth Services 2020

In response to COVID-19, Ohio Valley Goodwill re-designed its Summer Youth Services to reflect all recommended Health and Safety guidelines in accordance with the CDC and Ohio Department of Health.

The organization received nearly 100 referrals prior to COVID impacting normal business operations. Goodwill team members had offered students and families the choice of a remote service option or an in-person experience with accommodations for health and safety and all preferred the in-person



We are the community!

option. The revamped Summer Youth Services offered experiences 12 hours per week during 3 three week sessions. Work experiences took place through the organization's network of retail stores. Summer Youth offers an opportunity to participate in an interactive, paid work experience in an integrated and competitive employment setting.

All Pre-Employment Transition Services for Students are offered through a collaborative partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and students must be at least 14 years of age and be eligible for services through OOD.

For more information about Ohio Valley Goodwill's Pre-Employment Transition Services and Summer Youth Services, please call (513) 771-4800, ext. 6313 or email: ccombs@cincigoodwill.org.



ADA30 Virtual Celebration Held in July!

For more than six months, Ohio Valley Goodwill was part of a planning committee in partnership with Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities (HCDDS), the Center for Independent Living Options (CILO), the City of Cincinnati, Council on Aging, EasterSeals and Metro as well as community advocates to

mark the historic 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Originally planned to take place as an in-person event at Washington Park on July 24th, the 2020 ADA anniversary was re-invented as a virtual celebration.

Aspects of the month-long ADA30 celebration event included a kick-off proclamation presented virtually as well as Disability Pride events taking place remotely in various locations around the Greater Cincinnati community. There was also a virtual panel discussion moderated by Kevin Flynn which featured representatives from the University of Cincinnati; Office of Accessibility, The Kroger Company and Cincinnati Public Library talking about enhancing accessibility and inclusion in Greater Cincinnati. A number of local organizations have been singled out for their commitment towards community inclusion including CABA, Cincinnati Art Museum, Project SEARCH and Disability Cocoon and received award recognition during a virtual ceremony. Finally, throughout the month of July, self-advocates shared their personal experiences in regards to the Americans with Disabilities Act and how it has impacted their lives. The purpose of this year's ADA30 celebration is not only to focus on the progress that has been made over the past 30 years but also, to forecast the future in terms of inclusion and accessibility.

For more information about ADA30, please visit **http://hamiltondds.org/ada30**

Virtual Pigabilities Race takes Place and Goodwill Honored to be Invited!

As the Title Sponsor of the PigAbilities event which is part of the annual Flying Pig Marathon each year, Ohio Valley Goodwill was delighted to be invited to participate in a "virtual" PigAbilities race which took place in Mariemont on June 3rd. Originally scheduled to take place during the first weekend in May, the PigAbilities event was re-scheduled due to the COVID-19 crisis and is now being held only through virtual formats sometime in the Fall. PigAbilities is



designed to provide an opportunity for athletes of all abilities to participate in the festivities of the Cincinnati Marathon weekend in an accessible and welcoming way. Goodwill is always proud to be the Title Sponsor of the PigAbilities event which welcomes athletes of all abilities.

The "virtual" PigAbilities race was held at the request of two of the athletes along with their coaches, Claire Lynch, Meghan Leonard, Alli Lynch and Rachael Colaw, in the village of Mariemont and included a one mile course. Dozens of supporters were on hand to cheer on the athletes during the one mile race. The two athletes had been training for the one mile run for weeks beforehand. Goodwill Representative, Sharon Hannon, Marketing Director, was thrilled to be asked to help cheer on the athletes and to hold the Finish Swine banner. Our most sincere congratulations to Claire, Meghan, Alli and Rachel on their outstanding achievement! To find out more about PigAbilities, please visit http://flyingpigmarathon.com/events/pigabilities/

Ohio Valley Goodwill Prides Itself on Inclusive Services for All!

For more than a century, Ohio Valley Goodwill has been offering employment and training services as well as life enrichment opportunities for adults with disabilities, our nation's veterans and others with barriers to economic self-sufficiency. The foundation for the creation of and on-going delivery of those services is based on a basic underlying core value of the organization - respect and dignity for every individual served. During the difficult times we are all currently experiencing, we thought it was an important time to remind everyone of this core value as not only the reason for Ohio Valley Goodwill's services overall but a primary source of motivation for our staff team.

Specifically, in our Veteran's Services department, 100% of our Case Managers are military veterans themselves and can personally relate to the experiences of the veterans they serve. Through our Employment and Community-Based Services programs, all individuals are served based on their personal goals and wishes by Employment Specialists who are dedicated to helping them realize those aspirations. In our Center for Advocacy, Recreation and Education (CARE) program, community inclusion and helping individuals determine their own personal interests is the purpose of the service offering. Ohio Valley Goodwill rejoices and celebrates each and every story of personal success -whether it reflects a community volunteering opportunity which leads to a new friendship or a transition student who lands a job following graduation from high school. Each and every story is the ultimate reason for our century-long mission of service and we are grateful to the Greater Cincinnati community for their on-going support for this mission.

It is also important to note, Ohio Valley Goodwill's programs and services are designed to serve individuals of all backgrounds, races, and ethnicities. Therefore, we stand by the great state of Ohio and its leadership who have called for the recognition of disparity across Ohio. We uphold the idea that everyone deserves the chance to succeed. As a service provider agency, it's our goal to ensure those we serve feel included, valued, and respected.

Please join Goodwill as we recognize the core values of respect and dignity for every individual in our community and their significance within our broader society.



Vanetta Moss Goes Back to Work

Following the mandated COVID-19 closure of her employer's business, Vanetta Moss was excited about returning to work. Vanetta works for a local retailer and has been an employee there since August of 2019. Vanetta works five days a week and she was very much looking forward to getting back to work.

Vanetta works in the production and stocking aspects of the store which involves unloading boxes, putting items on conveyor belts after sorting, as well as stocking display shelves. She also assists in the cleaning and organizational responsibilities of the store. As a community employee,

Vanetta takes Metro or Uber to work each day. She is able to use these forms of transportation independently because of the Travel Training assistance she received from Goodwill. In addition, she receives on-going Job Coaching from Ohio Valley Goodwill and appreciates the support. Her supervisors enjoy Vanetta's positive attitude and dedication to her job.

"I really like my job and the people I work with. I am happy to be back at work," said Vanetta. Goodwill wishes Vanetta the very best in her return to work.

To find out more Ohio Valley Goodwill's Employment and Job Coaching services, visit **www.cincinnatigoodwill.org/services** or call (513) 771-4800, ext. 6327.

Ohio Valley Goodwill Welcomes New Chairman of Board of Directors

Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries is pleased to announce that Mr. Bill Courtney is the organization's new Chairman of its Board of Directors. Mr. Courtney previously



served as the Vice-Chair of the Goodwill Board beginning in 2018. Mr. Courtney succeeds Charles Wright, who served as Board Chair from 2008 until March 2020. Mr. Wright is the CEO of Wright Brothers Gasses and previously served as Vice-Chair in 2007 and has been a member of the organization's Board of Directors since 2002. "On behalf of Ohio Valley Goodwill, I am so grateful to Charlie for his extraordinary leadership and dedication to the Goodwill mission for the past 18 years. He helped to guide the organization to a place of great esteem and recognition in the Greater Cincinnati community and thanks to his guidance, Goodwill is positioned to continue to provide its critical services for years to come," said Joe Byrum, President and CEO.

While Mr. Courtney officially began his tenure as Board Chairman effective March 30, 2020, all current board meetings are being held remotely and formal recognition for both Mr. Courtney in his new role and Mr. Wright for his service will take place when the Board is able to meet face-to-face. Mr. Courtney's biography includes the following relevant summary:

Bill Courtney served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for ClarkDietrich Building Systems, Inc., leading this national construction materials manufacturing company for 33 years. Beginning in 1985, he oversaw the growth of this business from a single plant with nineteen employees to an entity that, today, includes fifteen plants and over 1,500 employees. He also was the inaugural President of the Steel Framing Industry Association (SFIA) from its founding in 2011 and provided leadership and direction that was essential to the organization's growth from eleven members to a national network of more than 1,400 members today. Bill graduated from Austin College in Sherman, Texas and received his Masters of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1984. He currently serves as a Senior Advisor for ClarkDietrich Building Systems.

Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries thanks Mr. Wright for his invaluable service and commitment to the Goodwill mission and welcomes Mr. Courtney to his role as Chairman of the organization's Board of Directors.



Joseph S. Byrum, President & CEO Bill Courtney, Chairman Board of Directors Sharon Hannon, Newsletter Editor An equal Opportunity Employer and Services Provider Donations to Goodwill are tax deductible Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization. Accredited by: The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)