When I begin sharing with others the breadth of mission services our Goodwill provides to the communities we serve, people are oftentimes confused, surprised and want to learn more.

'I thought you were just a thrift store.'
'I had no idea Goodwill did all that.'

At Goodwill, we do so much for so many...yet, few really understand the impact our agency has on thousands of lives each year.

One particular mission program of Goodwill that holds a special place in my heart is our COMPASS Rape Crisis. Serving three of our 10 counties, this service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to survivors of sexual abuse. Goodwill employees are prevention specialists. They are advocates. They are healers. And, this year, this amazing program marks its 25th year of care and outreach.

April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and COMPASS has always led efforts to raise awareness community-wide during this time. We all know someone who is a survivor of sexual abuse/assault. I challenge each of you to honor survivors, and honor the work of COMPASS this April by participating in Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES**

1. **Educate yourself**
   - To learn more about how to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence and support survivors, take a look at online resources or contact COMPASS.

2. **Volunteer or donate**
   - Organizations like COMPASS do the vital work of advocating for better laws, counseling survivors, and developing educational campaigns. You can donate your time or money to help keep COMPASS operations going. Log onto CompassRapeCrisis.org/ways-to-help/

3. **Attend an event**
   - COMPASS will host a number of public events in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and throughout the year to recognize their anniversary. Follow COMPASS on Facebook at @CompassSupport to find events and show your solidarity with the cause.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

Thursday, May 26, 2022 | 8am

in person at Kent State University at Stark’s Conference Center

**BREAKFAST**

Goodwill

report to the community

featuring Goodwill Industries International CEO Steve Preston
Local in the late 80's and early 90's, there were very few sources of information and referrals geared specifically for survivors of rape. Education in the area of sexual assault, date rape, sexual harassment and rape were extremely limited and many times amounted only to what was covered lightly in health and home economics class.

In August 1996, a small group of local residents sought to research and eventually develop a task force to provide advocacy, education and awareness in Tuscarawas County. Eventually, the Task Force formed a non-profit agency known today as COMPASS.

COMPASS initially started with just one full time employee, but with additional funding, staff and services quickly expanded. By 2003, COMPASS was providing a 24 hour hotline, hospital/police/court advocacy, Junior/High School prevention education and even more services. In 2006, COMPASS became a subsidiary of Goodwill Industries. Today, COMPASS provides comprehensive services to thousands of individuals each year in a three county area. The agency has expanded its outreach from its New Philadelphia and Canton offices to include presence at Kent State University Tuscarawas, Walsh University and Malone University.

Oftentimes, the needs of Goodwill participants stretch well beyond the scope of just one or two services. To answer that call, the Employment G.P.S. program has been developed and expanded.

"Providing wraparound services and addressing multiple needs of a client is definitely not a new idea," explained Director of Mission Services Katie Gauze. "We have provided this program in the Stark County area for several years under the name Dream to Achieve."

Nowadays, the program name has changed to better address its goals...G.P.S. or Goals. Planning. Support. And, more significant, the program has now expanded to four counties: Stark, Tuscarawas, Carroll and Cuyahoga. Employment G.P.S. is free and open to anyone who is seeking assistance.

"A client may come to us with a need for job training. We can help with that! But, we also need to look at the whole person. What can we provide that will offer long term success? Maybe they need help with literacy or housing. Maybe they need assistance setting up a bank account or working through a domestic violence situation. Success, especially long term success, is achieved when we can address the whole person," added Gauze.

To learn more about the Employment G.P.S. program, email missions@goodwillgoodskills.org

Staff like Cleveland Employment Specialist Leslie Bentner (left) work individually with Goodwill participants to ensure all needs are being met and long term goals are being achieved.
PUTTING DONATIONS IN DRIVE: DONATE AUTOMOBILES

Although best known for accepting donations of clothing and household goods, your Goodwill can also accept donations of vehicles. Through Goodwill’s partnership with CARS, a third party vendor, donors’ cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs, 4-wheelers, boats, or planes can help support Goodwill mission programs.

1. Simply call 866-699-5719 or visit goodwillgoodskills.org/donate and submit an online form.
2. Schedule a free vehicle pick-up.
3. Receive a donation receipt at the time of the pick-up.

NOW OPEN: NEW BOOKSTORE IN WESTLAKE

The first of its kind in the state of Ohio, Goodwill opened a used bookstore and donation center in Westlake on March 4. A ribbon cutting was held with special guests from the City of Westlake, West Shore Chamber of Commerce and others. The store features thousands of books and media along with select wares. Both the store and donation center are open daily 10am to 6pm.

(Left) Ribbon cutting with Phil Romano (Director of Alternative Retail), Anne Richards (CEO & President), John Sobolewski (West Shore Chamber), Westlake Mayor Dennis Clough, Girl Scouts Jayna Less, Cassandra Frey, Kate Doyle, Sarah Kunz (Ecommerce Manager), and Bryant Taylor (VP of Donated Goods). The store is located at 30655 Detroit Rd. in Westlake.
EXHIBIT FEATURES LOCAL ARTISTS AT GOODWILL CAMPUS

Goodwill's Coming Together for Good Program in collaboration with the Stark County chapter of the NAACP, Martin Luther King Commission and Stark County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta presented a Black History Month art exhibit at The Ken Weber Community Campus.

The theme of the exhibit is celebrating, remembering, and recognizing the achievements by African Americans. Pieces for the exhibition were submitted by local artists and include pencil, multi-media and acrylic mediums surrounding African American Heritage, life, and experiences.

The display can be viewed by the public Monday-Friday 8am to 4:30pm at 408 Ninth St. SW in downtown Canton.

Artwork from a variety of local artists is on display at The Ken Weber Community Campus at Goodwill. (Right) Tracy Dawn Brewer's artwork is called With These Hands.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART SHOW

For the first time, Goodwill is hosting a 5k Walk/Run. The community race will be held at Stadium Park in Canton, Ohio on Saturday April 30.

Funds generated from the race will support Goodwill's mission programs which provide job training for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment, parenting programs, emergency vouchers and more.

"We are approaching this race as an opportunity to share messaging about our mission, and our efforts around recycling and lessening our impact on the environment," explained VP of Marketing and Development Maureen Ater. "This race is purposely scheduled near Earth Day. We are encouraging our attendees to bring material donations of clothing and housewares. Recycling facts and stats will be dotted throughout the course. And, we are finding ways to lessen the impact on the environment from the race itself!"

Last year alone, more than 18 million pounds of material goods were diverted from area landfills thanks to donations to Goodwill, sales in local stores and recycling efforts of the agency.

"Green is good. And Goodwill is the very best way to be green!" added Ater.

THRIFT STYLE EXHIBIT

In partnership with the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, Goodwill was part of the recent Thrift Style exhibit. The exhibit included a variety of resourceful, upcycled clothing and projects from the early 1900s to modern day. (Left) Mannequins displayed a refashioned velvet blazer from Goodwill and an upcycled woman’s cape, originally a quilt from Goodwill stores.
Kate and I are proud to support Goodwill because of the organization’s unique ability to create job opportunities for a wide spectrum of individuals in our community. Over the past 10 years, we’ve had the privilege of getting to know the leadership of Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio and watching them live their mission has been truly inspiring. Goodwill’s Cycle of Success strategically converts donations of clothing, home goods and financial resources into programs and services that touch lives and empower people.

Your closet, cupboards and storage unit are more powerful than you think.

Currently, all Goodwill stores are experiencing a shortage of donations, especially household goods like kitchen wares, small appliances, pots & pans, home decor & knick-knacks. These items ultimately support a comprehensive network of outreach programs that help thousands in our community.

“We have less than one third of these donations on our shelves than we did last year at this time,” explained Vice President of Donated Goods Bryant Taylor. “These donations and shopping at our stores are vital steps to keeping our ‘Cycle of Success’ going.”

The ‘Cycle of Success’ is Goodwill’s way of describing how goods are donated, then sold. Funds then support vital mission programs.

Individuals throughout the community are encouraged to gather unused items and donate those items at a Goodwill store or donation center. Schools, businesses and places of worship are also encouraged to run donation drives with their constituents during this time of need.

GW COO GRADUATES EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Congratulations to Chief Operating Officer Mark Trew who graduated last month from Goodwill Industries International Executive Development Program (EDP). This intensive program blends classroom instruction and applied learning and aims to help participants develop the skills necessary for success as a Goodwill president and CEO.

GW STAFFER FEATURED IN TEDX PROGRAM
Congratulations to Goodwill’s Supervisor of Mission Services Cynthia Woodall who was featured as a speaker at the TedX Balch Street event in March.
OUR DONORS with gratitude

Monetary support of Goodwill Industries makes an immediate and lasting impact on the lives of thousands of individuals in our community. We appreciate the continued support of our donors. The following list of individuals and organizations contributed financially between September 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022. If your name is misspelled or has been omitted, please contact Goodwill at 330-617-4734 so we may correct our records.

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HOW CAN YOUR BUSINESS SUPPORT GOODWILL?
Goodwill of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio operations go well beyond the retail stores. With 28 mission-based programs, Goodwill works to help individuals obtain meaningful employment, strengthen families, provide needed counseling or access to food and basic needs. Businesses are a key component to the success of Goodwill in the 10 counties served by the agency. Sponsorship support of Goodwill events, donation drives with employees and company donations of computers or technology accessories can make a positive and meaningful impact. Contact Manager of Community Relations & Fund Development Diane Pilati at 330-617-4734 or email info@goodwillgoodskills.org to see how your business can help change lives for good.

GOODWILLGOODSKILLS.ORG
More than 18 million pounds of goods were diverted from local landfills last year thanks to material donors to Goodwill.

More than 35,000 individuals donated goods at attended donation centers in 2020.

More than 18% of Americans will shop at a thrift store in a given year. For perspective, 11.4% shop in factory outlet malls, 19.6% in apparel stores and 21.3% in major department stores.

More than 20,000 units of books and media were included in the Westlake Bookstore before its opening on March 4.

135 miles is the distance between our Goodwill's two furthest locations (North Olmsted to Weirton WV). In total, 10 counties are served.

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