



GOODWILL  
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## From One Coast to Another --- Lost and Found Via Shopgoodwill



On our shopgoodwill.com site it's the norm to find unique things. But it was the familiar that caught the eye of one shopper. While clicking through hundreds of items, Brian Allen of Shallotte, North Carolina, found a belt buckle he thought was lost to him forever. He recognized the Eisenhower bicentennial dollar shimmied into the buckle's center. He had placed it there after carrying it around in his wallet for 17 years, believing he was putting it in a safer place. Allen believes someone stole the belt buckle more than 24 years ago, when he lived in Florida. The loss wouldn't have been so painful except his now-deceased father gave the coin to him. It had always been a good-luck token.

After winning the bid for the buckle, Allen anxiously awaited its arrival. When he finally opened the package, a close look gave him no doubts about its origin: "It still had the gold-foil lined piece of cardboard in place where I had to shim the dollar from rattling around in the mount." Now, he tells us, it is back in his wallet - - more dear than ever. While he has no idea of the coin's journey after it left his possession, he is certain it will remain with him as a token of his father and Goodwill from here on out.

## The Southern Region is Awash in Color



Southern Region District Manager Phil Paradis decided to light a competitive fire among the employees of his nine stores with an 'End Cap Contest'. In January, each store entered three end-cap displays to be judged together. The contest inspired some amazing merchandising ability! Stores voted on their favorite but were not allowed to vote for their own. Above is the winning grouping from Wilsonville.

The Keizer and Salem stores received honorable mentions for their hard work. Impressive job everyone!

## The North Coast's Alan Isaksen - A Lesson in Perseverance

It cost him at least ten jobs, "Employers didn't know what kept me from excelling, but knew something was wrong." That "something" also greatly affected Alan Isaksen's school years; "My mind sees the row of numbers, but my hand writes something different." Struggling to keep up, he was held back in third grade and had to wait until his 32nd year of life to learn he was born with dyslexia.

Doctors tell us dyslexia causes problems with the brain's ability to recognize and process symbols, though it does not affect thinking or understanding complex ideas. Alan explains that what he did learn well in school was how to become invisible, "Eventually, I learned to stay in the back, avoid observation. I struggled as best I could to pass."

In addition to dyslexia, he copes with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Adults with ADD often experience difficulty managing day-to-day tasks and responsibilities "The last job I lost was as a merchandising manager. I have trouble organizing things", Alan says. He held onto that position less than three years.

With Goodwill, Alan felt safe applying for work. We immediately saw his great potential and hired him only a week after the Warrenton Goodwill store opened in October 2010. Store Manager Belinda Dorosh says Alan is dependable and extremely capable, "He is positive and thorough -- an outstanding employee in

all aspects. We love having Alan as part of the team!" It's no wonder; competent in both receiving and processing donations as well as producing electrical items, Alan routinely works at an impressive pace.

Alan is also thankful that the store is accessible by public transportation. He explains his ADD makes him feel both overwhelmed and distracted when driving.

When not at work, Alan's passion is expressed in a local shop he and his partner of 18 years own called



The Troll's Nook. Offering collectables from the 1859's to present, it also showcases soft sculpture, bags, period aprons, dolls and crafts Alan has made. "Sales are down right now, the economy being what it is adds to that. But in the summer season we see more of our customers." He says the beautiful North Coast beaches draw summer tourists, and many locals walk one block over to their store either before or after visiting Sunday Market, the area's farmers market.

Content now at work and happy to create at home, Alan finds himself in a better place these days. "I love everything about Goodwill. I'm made to feel my work is appreciated and I love being a part of the mission." It is clear to us that our new employee models not only dedication, but a willingness to learn no matter the barrier. His hard work and sunny attitude exemplify the Goodwill mission.

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