



GOODWILL

# Grapevine

SEPTEMBER

2011

a monthly publication for employees of  
goodwill industries of the columbia willamette

*Vyonnah and friend, Lily Mwandira enjoy a delicious treat at Yogurt Extreme in Corvallis.*

## Making The Grade: The Story of Vyonnah Wambui

Our cover feature, Vyonnah Wambui, was born and raised in Kenya, East Africa. “I grew up in a humble family of three. Me, Mum and my two siblings.” Vyonnah says growing up in Kenya was great, “there are a lot of wild animals and the climate there is fantastic!”

Now a resident of Corvallis, our Goodwill cashier was brought up knowing only hard work. Her mother raised the family on a single salary as a secretary in a law firm. She also worked a second job at a snack bar. As the eldest child, Vyonnah happily worked after school side by side with her mother. “I am proud of her and I want to make her proud, too.”

Vyonnah came to the United States on a Green Card, and chose Corvallis because a family member spoke highly of Oregon State University. Both a student and Goodwill employee, 23-year-old Vyonnah says she is not disappointed in her move, though it is many thousands of miles from home. “I miss my family so much,” she says, “we Skype almost every day!” This month marks her first full year in America.

Former Corvallis store manager, Tami Stubblefield, began Vyonnah in production, hanging and tagging clothes, then promoted her to cashier after just a few

short months. “She blossomed at the register, even though she was once very shy. We are so proud of her!”

“I like my job so much! I am happy that I can pay my own bills and buy my books now that I am going to college!” While working full time at Goodwill, Vyonnah takes ESL classes at OSU. This fall, following the completion of her general credits last year, Vyonnah begins introduction classes to the nursing program. Through a giggle she exclaims, “I am scared, but I am ready and I am excited.”

Hired through our Job Connection program, Vyonnah showed ingenuity from the start. And she also knows how to hold onto earnings, explaining, “I do all my shopping at Goodwill, except for groceries. It’s affordable and convenient.”

She is happy and proud to spread the news to her fellow students: “Trust me! I recommend Job Connection to my friends whenever they are looking for jobs. Goodwill’s mission is a restoration of hope to many who had lost hope. It makes us all equal and through this I have learned to appreciate myself and others. Thank you so much, Goodwill.”

We are so proud to have you among us, Vyonnah!

As we say goodbye to another summer season, Portland Production and Contracts participants reflect on the best of their summers:



## around Goodwill



*"I like to camp and being in the talent show!"*  
- Holly Phillipi



*"I love the sunshine!"*  
- Mary Contreras



Over 100 community members attended a "Meet the Employers" event. Goodwill's Job Connection hosts or joins dozens of similar job services events throughout the year.



For the second year, joining forces with the Happy Valley community during its "Dumpster Day Weekend" was a great success. Five Goodwill trailers were filled to capacity.



## Recyclers

Ranked by the number FTEs in Clark County and, in the event of a tie, by the year established. Figures as of 6/3/2011.

RANK	NAME	Company	Phone	FTEs	Materials Recycled	Top local executive	Year est. locally
TEAM	LAST	Address	Fax Website			Title	
1		Waste Connections Inc. 12115 N.E. 99th St., Suite 1830 Vancouver, WA 98682	360.892.5370 360.514.9017 www.wconordwest.com	264	Assists with waste reduction in businesses, schools, homes, multi-family residences, construction sites, demolition sites & special events	Rob Nielsen Western Region Vice President	1997
2		Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette, 6425 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661	360.695.4669 360.759.4954 www.meetgoodwill.org	260	Gently used household & business items excluding large appliances, home building materials, mattresses & box springs. All electronics, working or non-working at 13 Clark County locations	Michael Miller President, CEO	1927
3		8705 N.E. 117th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98662	360.254.0404 www.cemex.com			Vice President, General Manager	
4		Columbia Resource Co. P.O. Box 61726 Vancouver, WA 98666	360.737.1727 360.737.9620 NA	80	Newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, plastics, metal, mixed-waste paper	Jason Hudson Division Vice President	1992
5		IMS Electronics Recycling Inc. 2401 St. Francis Lane Vancouver, WA 98660	360.750.8883 360.750.8537 www.ims-electronics.com	55	Bus. & res. electronic components/equipment... recycling services for WA residents & businesses with less than 50 employees are free, data destruction services using Dept. of Defense criteria, pick-up & de-installation svcs.	David Palenshus General Manager	2007
6		YWCA Clark County 3609 Main St. Vancouver, WA 98663	360.696.0167 360.693.1864 www.ywcaclarkcounty.org	40	Gently-used items accepted for our SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter & WORTH, ILS.Y's Care & Sexual Assault Programs.	Sherri Bennett Executive Director	1916
7		H & H Wood Recyclers Inc. 8401 N.E. 117th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98682	360.892.2805 360.892.3326 www.hhwoodrecyclers.com	31	Yard debris, lumber, concrete & land clearing, roofing	Ben Holscher Vice President	1991
8		Janus Youth Programs Inc., Clark County 2609 N.E. 93rd Ave. Vancouver, WA 98662	503.233.6090 503.233.6093 www.janusyouth.org	25	Socks, hooded sweatshirts, jackets, hats, gloves, rain gear, board games, art supplies, towels, new underwear, personal hygiene items, movie tickets, backpacks	Dennis L. Morrow Executive Director	1995
9		PSC Environmental Services 625 S. 32nd St. Washougal, WA 98671	360.835.8594 360.835.8872 www.pscnow.com	20	Waste & by-product materials for commercial & industrial	Kris Iverson Location Manager	1982
10		Best Buy 16611 Mill Plain Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98684	360.449.0142 360.449.0136 www.bestbuy.com	20	TVs, cell phones, printers, computers, ink	Jim Best General Manager	2006

Vancouver Business Journal places Goodwill second on its list of leading Clark County Recyclers.



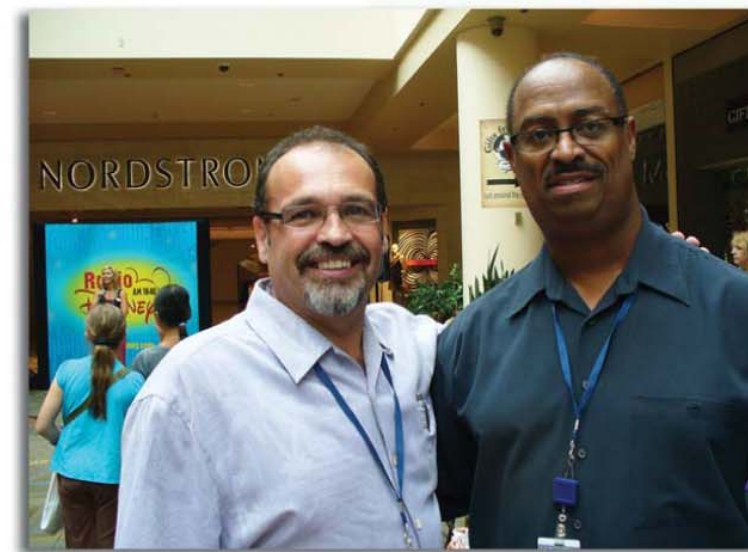
Channel 2's consumer reporter, Shellie Bailey-Shah, takes a local family to Goodwill to save big bucks at our Cornell store.



On both Channel 12's MORE program and PDX 49's 8 pm news, reporter, Stephanie Karlovic, educates her viewers on shopgoodwill.com best buys.



Volunteer models look outstanding in their back to school fashions for Channel 2's AMNW show. To view this segment: <http://www.katu.com/amnw/segments/129537333.html>.



Goodwill was featured by Radio Disney. They dedicated a two-hour event to our charity and simultaneously provided booth space for the Job Connection program in the busy Lloyd Center Mall. Pictured left to right are employment specialists, Randy Beamer and Ron Young. We were also given 30 minutes of air time to speak about all of the programs Goodwill brings to its service areas.

## in the news



Channel 12's Andy Carson, who is a father of three and a co-host on the talk show MORE, reviews the money-saving deals found at our retail stores. Visit this link to view the segment: <http://www.kptv.com/video?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=6176554>.



KOIN TV's Studio 6 welcomes Goodwill volunteer models as they parade vintage clothing in the spirit of the Emmy winning Mad Men program, in its 6th season on AMC.



Six diverse Entercom radio stations, from alternative rock to country, feature Goodwill on their half hour public affairs shows.



KOIN News reporter, Tim Becker, features a loyal Goodwill shopper and his unique find at Goodwill's Portland Superstore. Watch the story by visiting the following link: <http://www.koinlocal6.com/media-center/local.aspx?videoid=2738880>.



## GICW Now Has A Voice On The TriMet CAT Committee

**G**oodwill would like to congratulate our Benefits Specialist, Harold Cheeks, for his appointment to the TriMet Committee on Accessible Transportation as of July 2011. The Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) was formed in 1985 to advise the TriMet Board of Directors and staff on plans, policies and programs for seniors and people with disabilities. All CAT members are appointed by the TriMet Board president for a two-year term.

### CAT RESPONSIBILITIES

Together with TriMet staff, CAT develops an annual work plan to identify major issues and prioritize the year's activities.



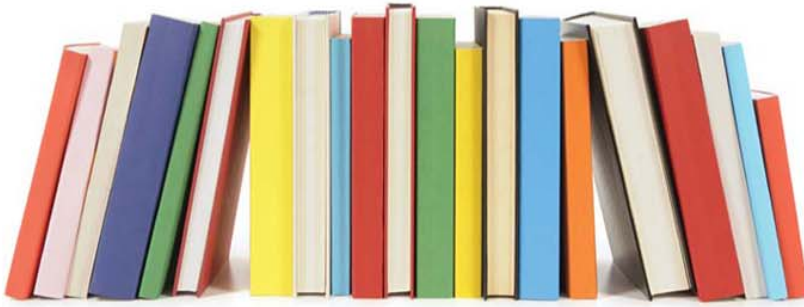
### CAT BUSINESS MEETINGS

With the exception of the month of August, the CAT business meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. At these meetings, CAT receives information and public comment, hears subcommittee recommendations, deliberates and takes action.

### ABOUT CAT MEETINGS

All CAT meetings are open to the public and include a forum for citizen comment and input. Public comment is not accepted at meetings of ad hoc CAT subcommittees.

If you have any comments or concerns that you would like to be addressed, please contact your GICW Employee Benefits Specialist, Harold Cheeks, at 503-238-6179.



## Easing Into Learning

*From the desk of ECE-ESL Assistant Program Manager, Celeste Roberts*

**S**tudents are heading back to school this month and as a parent, aunt, or friend, it is easy to wonder how best to support their study habits and school success. Here are some ideas to help the youngsters in your life succeed, as well as a few tips for encouraging lifelong learning:

- ◆ Help your student organize their life. Organization is a learned skill. The earlier a student learns how to file papers and mark due dates on a calendar, the more likely they'll be able to pay credit card bills on time and remember birthdays down the road. Everyone organizes differently. A three-ring binder and pencil case may work for some, while folders and a backpack with lots of pockets may work better for others. Help students select a place for completing homework and make sure they have the supplies they need. Show them how to keep a day planner. Encourage them to pack their backpack the night before to be ready in the morning.
- ◆ Encourage your student to read. Start from an early age and make sure you have reading materials around the house. Newspapers, books and magazines are all good options. Goodwill is a great place to buy inexpensive books, or visit your local library to take books out for FREE! Try to make sure your student sees you reading. You'll show them that adults value this form of education and entertainment as an

alternative to television, the internet or video games.

- ◆ Show interest in their school work. Ask your students what they're learning by using questions such as, "What is one new fact you learned today?" or "If you had to study one subject for the rest of your life, what would it be?" By consistently asking questions and showing pride in their work, you'll be telling them that school is important and that you are proud of their efforts. It is up to you to pass on a positive view of school and the value of education.
- ◆ Be a lifelong learner. Learning doesn't end when you finish school. No matter how old you are or how much education you've had in your life, there are always opportunities to learn. Community colleges often offer non-credit classes in courses as varied as gardening, painting or French. Visit a library and borrow a book on a subject you like. Visit a museum. Volunteer with a community organization. Your interest in learning new things will show the students in your life that you value the learning process.

There are many more ways to help others succeed in school. For resources or help determining what your next educational step may be, contact Celeste Martin and ECE at 503-963-3200. Now go read a book!

## A Quiet Force: Jim Osmanberg's Story

Neighbors know him well. Jim Osmanberg, one of the donation attendants at our Vancouver Wal-Mart site, is so popular, when he moved from a prior Goodwill ADC location, his donor fans followed him. He says, "well, it's flattering - they call me their Goodwill guy."

Their "Goodwill Guy" is someone who believes a simple truth – every donor counts. Jim smiles when pushed further, "Experiences here should be positive; if I have time to joke and have fun with our regulars, I take the time. It matters."

As a child born with cerebral palsy (CP), early lessons surrounding his condition would later shape him into a confident man. Being a young boy different from his classmates, bullies made him a target. After growing tired of the put downs, Jim says he hit the biggest one of the bunch. It was a turning point, after which all the school yard harassment simply stopped. "I never had to worry again," he says in his unassuming way. His mentors were his strong, hardworking parents, who taught him to value what he has and taking nothing for granted.

One of three remaining children, he continues to view his parents as wise examples of good living.

They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Jim himself has been married 13 years.

Jim earned a degree in marketing; his college focus was due to his love of English. While extremely well spoken, which he found a great asset in the business world of sales, Jim embraces his other passion. It's that passion that brings him our way: "I love being outside, I crave it." His love of the outdoors is well-suited to the work of a donation attendant.

Jim's folks understood his need to be outdoors, as did his grandmother, with whom he was very close. And when he showed up at Goodwill's Job Connection office, we knew how to accommodate his desire for fresh air. For the past eight years he has been part of our ADC force. "It was like coming home," he states.

In his free time, Jim likes hiking and camping, no matter what the weather is. As a 20-year survivor of cancer, he greatly values his wife and family. Jim understands connection. With sincerity, he lives by his own motto: "Remember to focus on living – every day is a gift."



### about grapevine

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[www.meetgoodwill.org](http://www.meetgoodwill.org)



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