



(Vision)

Vi-sion (vizh'en) *n.* A Goodwill publication serving Southern/Central New Jersey and the City of Philadelphia



Brides Say I DO to Goodwill

Why were hundreds of brides-to-be lined up in the wee hours of a bitterly cold Valentine's Day morning at Goodwill's Pennsauken Store? To get a crack at the deeply discounted wedding gowns for sale during Goodwill's first ever Bridal Extravaganza.

Featuring over 120 new and gently-used wedding gowns plus scores of accessories, shoes, mother-of-the-bride dresses, tuxedos and flower girl dresses, Goodwill's Bridal Extravaganza included something for the entire wedding party. New wedding gowns, ranging in value from \$300-\$1,600 were donated by local bridal boutiques including Jay West in Haddonfield, Danielle's in Philadelphia, Adrien Pierce Couture in Berlin and many others. Gowns featured designer labels like Oleg Cassini, Alfred Angelo and Bellissimo Couture. Brides hailing from as far away as New York City, Delaware and the Jersey Shore flocked to the sale, snatching up gowns for between \$39.99-\$299.99.

News of Goodwill's Bridal Extravaganza spread quickly thanks to an unprecedented level of media attention. In a five-day period, news of the sale appeared on 13 different television newscasts. Coverage included a front page story in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*; stories on CBS 3's Eyewitness News and ABC-6's Action News; and on Dom Giordano's 1210 a.m. call in talk show.

Philadelphia resident Traves Sanders was the first person in line at 5 a.m. The early rising and crossing of the Ben Franklin Bridge was worth the wait. She purchased the first wedding gown she tried on for just \$200.

Knowing there would be many eager brides, Nancy LaMorgia was nervous about the crowds. She suffers from a nerve disorder and is in a wheelchair. Getting bumped around can be very painful for her. But Goodwill's style specialists took Nancy under their wings and helped her find a beautiful gown for a summer wedding. The price tag--\$200. Before leaving the store, Nancy and her family thanked Goodwill for the amazing hospitality.

And some lucky brides walked away with more than one gown. Stephanie Lesko of Barnegat, NJ was torn between two wedding gowns. She ended up buying them both. "I can wear the traditional gown to church and the other which is a tad sexier to the reception," she said. Her mom, Ingrid, also bought her mother-of-the-bride dress at the sale. Three dresses for \$300!

In the end, Goodwill's first ever Bridal Extravaganza was about many happy endings. And judging by its success, it looks like it will be an annual event.



Mixing Music & Banking

By day, he works for PNC Bank. By night, he transforms into an aspiring musician. But what remains constant 24-7 is Nick Karns' desire to achieve success and greater independence through meaningful work.

Born twenty-nine years ago with cerebral palsy, Nick graduated from Riverside High School and Burlington County College and went on to hold many part-time office jobs. In Nick's eyes, part-time wasn't going to put him on the road to self-sufficiency. He needed full-time employment. To take the leap forward, the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR) referred him to Goodwill. He enrolled in Goodwill's Supported Employment Program, a job readiness course that prepares individuals to be successful on the job by covering such subjects as job development, job search, job coaching and follow-up services.

After spending some time with Nick assessing his skills and interests, Goodwill Mission Services Manager Angela Flagler helped him land a full-time job at PNC Bank's Processing Center in Moorestown. His responsibilities in the Encoding Department include data entry, scanning checks and organizing other back up material.

According to PNC supervisor Kathy Ruckerfeller, Nick is very dedicated to his job and flexible with his work load. "He's willing to go that extra mile to get the job done—even if it means staying past his shift."

"Earning a full-time salary is helping me be more independent and has also energized by musical career," said Nick. "I'm thankful to Goodwill for the extraordinary level of guidance and encouragement that they gave me."



SAVE THE DATE



GOODWILL'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Wednesday, April 29, 2009
6:00 p.m. Cocktails & Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. Dinner & Awards Ceremony
Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield, NJ

Honoring The Brad Hennefer Golf for Life Foundation and others who work to build a better community

For an invitation or to donate to the silent auction, please contact Mary Palmisano at mpalmisano@goodwillnj.org or 856-439-0200 ext. 224.

A portion of all ticket/table purchases is tax deductible.

All event proceeds will support Goodwill's job training and employment services for individuals with disabilities and disadvantages.

The Power of Work Spreads to Philadelphia

Goodwill has partnered with the City of Philadelphia and The Knight Foundation to launch a first-of-its-kind Prisoner Re-Entry Program.

In announcing the partnership, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said, "I am thrilled to be partnering with Goodwill and the Knight Foundation to put ex-offenders back to work. The stronger his or her ties are to the greater community, to which having meaningful employment is, the less likely an ex-offender is to re-offend."

The Knight Foundation has pledged \$1.4 million over three years to fund the program.

The Prisoner Re-Entry Program emulates the Sheltered Workshop Model that Goodwill has used for more than 50 years to serve individuals with disabilities. It works like this: Goodwill solicits sub-industrial contract work (such as assembly, packaging, inspection, bulk mailings,

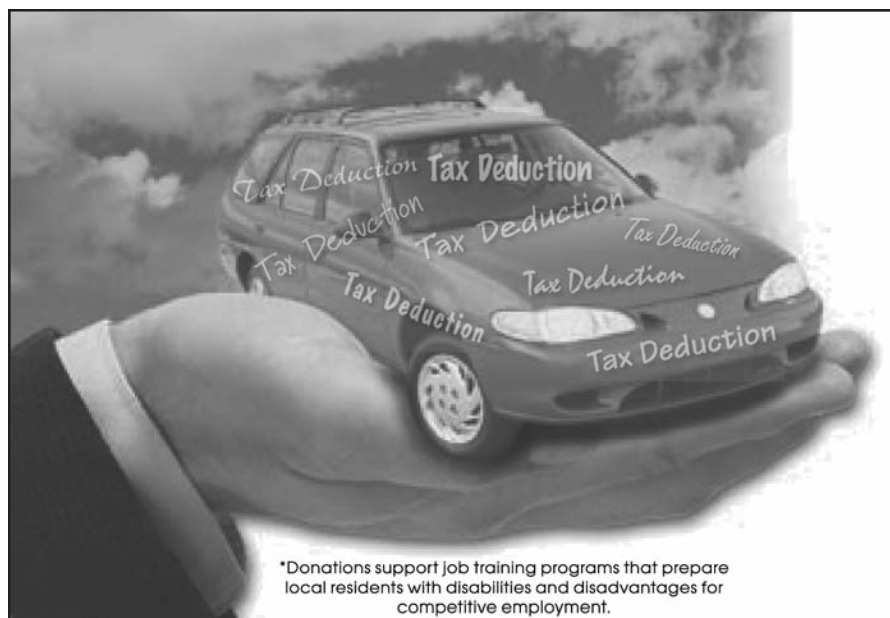
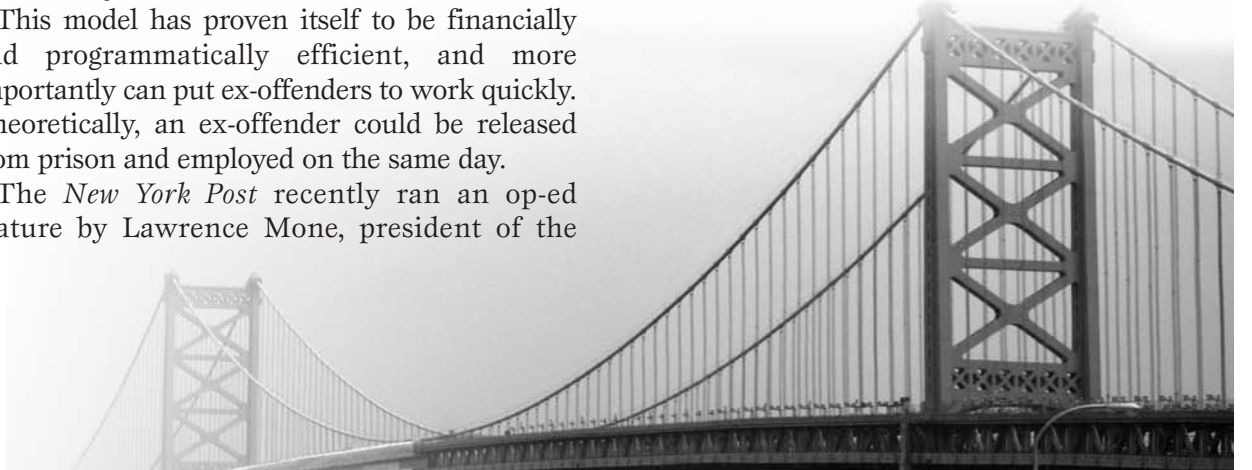
etc.) from local companies and then employs ex-offenders to perform the contract work. Ex-offenders receive hands-on light industrial training while earning a paycheck and building a resume. Once job ready, participants are placed into competitive jobs in the community. Follow-up services are provided to ensure a successful job match is made.

This model has proven itself to be financially and programmatically efficient, and more importantly can put ex-offenders to work quickly. Theoretically, an ex-offender could be released from prison and employed on the same day.

The *New York Post* recently ran an op-ed feature by Lawrence Mone, president of the

Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, giving accolades to Philadelphia's prisoner re-entry program for "making great strides in addressing the real problems of urban areas."

Goodwill's 19,472 square foot Sheltered Workshop is located at 455-473 N. 7th Street in Philadelphia.



Your Car Has Tax Deduction Written All Over It



Donate Your Car To Goodwill
877-577-GIVE (4483)
www.goodwillnj.org

Financial Contributions

Everything Goodwill does is geared at helping people get to work! If you'd like to make a financial donation to fund Goodwill's job training programs that prepare local residents with disabilities and disadvantages for competitive employment, please send it to:

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Maple Shade, NJ 08052

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www.goodwillnj.org

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Clothing Drive Kudos

Many thanks to the following local companies and organizations for hosting Goodwill clothing drives. Through the sale of gently-used donations, Goodwill generates revenue to support its high caliber employment training programs for local residents with disabilities and disadvantages. If you'd like to host a Goodwill clothing drive to support this mission, please call 856/439-0200, ext. 224 or e-mail mpalmisano@goodwillnj.org.

- Alder Avenue Middle School, Egg Harbor Township
- Burlington County College (Mt. Laurel & Pemberton campuses)
 - Club Libby Lu (Deptford & Toms River)
 - Francis House, Camden
 - Horace Mann School, Cherry Hill
 - J.W. Lilley School, Erial
 - Larc School, Bellmawr
 - Laurel Springs School
 - Lockheed Martin, Moorestown (on-going)
 - Metrologic Instruments, Blackwood (on-going)
 - Smart Bodies, Marlton
 - The Dorchester, Philadelphia

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