

Creating OPPORTUNITIES



A Publication of Easter Seals Goodwill Industries

Spring 2016

From the Desk of Rich Borer

Easter Seals Goodwill Industries, like nearly every nonprofit organization, is often asked how funding translates into action on behalf of our agency's mission. Funders and donors rightly expect their funds to be used wisely. That is why a fundamental activity of any charitable organization is to provide donors with information that lets them know how their support and generosity is being put to work.

With that said, I am excited to tell our story in the pages ahead. The Easter Seals Goodwill Industries' stories that Edgar Helms from Goodwill and Edgar Allen from Easter Seals created over one hundred years ago remain strong today.

You will see the faces of Easter Seals Goodwill staff, learn about our Community Re-Entry Services and two of its participants, Kenneth and Devernon.

You will read about our highlights of 2015 and our financial results for the year. You'll learn about our



2016 Celebrate campaign and your opportunity to help and support our efforts.

In Connecticut our economy is nearly as challenging as the Great Depression itself; however, the wisdom of our founders continues to pay dividends. We continue to serve so many different groups of people, just as we have since the historic merger 48 years ago that created Easter Seals Goodwill Industries.

For the young, we provide hope for the future. For people with disabilities or other barriers or disadvantages, we teach the self-worth that a paycheck brings. For the thousands who have lost jobs, we provide opportunity and a road map back to productivity.

Thank you for your interest and support to our agency and working with us to further our mission as we work to "find the good in people and things, and letting nothing go to waste."

H. Richard Borer, President

Featuring ESGI Participants



DEVERNON



KENNETH

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ESGI Participant Profiles



Everyone deserves a second chance. Devernon, age 32, from New Haven, is taking full advantage of his.

After completing an eight year prison sentence, Devernon is eager, enthusiastic and ready to reclaim his life. Finding a job was one of his first goals which led him to our Community Re-Entry Services' 'Skills for Success' class in November 2015.

Our employment training class taught Devernon how to prepare a resume, correctly fill out a job application and undergo a job search. But what he found most helpful was

the interpersonal skills training and communications advice.

"Listening to human resource managers explain the do's and don'ts of interviewing helped me improve my communication skills and better prepared me to meet with possible employers," says Devernon.

The importance of attitude, presentation and personal responsibility, which are cornerstones of CRS, resonated with Devernon.

By the end of November, he landed a job as a cook at Camps, a new

restaurant in Middletown. With the support of his employer, he's now studying to receive his food safety certification and is excited about his future career in the restaurant industry.

"Empowerment," said Devernon. "The counselors here encouraged me to set goals, work hard, believe in myself and empowered me to take control of my future. They're understanding, caring and truly want to help each one of us in our own way."



While still in prison, Kenneth knew that he would contact ESGI's Community Re-Entry Services upon his release in order to get his life on track. One of Kenneth's former acquaintances as an inmate had successfully completed the CRS program which inspired him to want to do the same.

Kenneth, age 48, was released from prison in September 2015. Connection House, a short-term residential substance abuse treatment center, facilitated Kenneth's participation in our Community Re-Entry Services program.

"You get out what you put into this program," said Kenneth. "If you pay attention, learn and apply yourself you can change your life."

After completing the 'Skills for Success' employment training, Kenneth worked with ESGI Employment Specialist, Shane Henrique, who taught him how to search and apply for jobs online and how to prepare for an interview.

According to Kenneth, "The counselors stick by you and continue to act as a resource as long as you need them."

To ensure his job readiness, Kenneth initially worked at a Goodwill Store as part of our Transitional Employment Program (TEP) which provides job coaching and mentoring support. Now Kenneth holds down two part time jobs; he's a floor associate at Big Lots and a maintenance worker at Wendy's.

CRS also put Kenneth in touch with a men's support group that helps ex-offenders deal with the challenges of rejoining society. According to Kenneth, "We help each other and we volunteer to give back and help the community."

Services Highlight **Community Re-Entry Services**

Obstacles and challenges faced by people being released from incarceration can be overwhelming. Former inmates are often without jobs and have few resources to help them.

Easter Seals Goodwill Industries' Community Re-Entry Services (CRS) provides employment support services to individuals who have recently been released from incarceration or those who have a history with the Department of Correction. CRS supplies guidance to help transition former inmates back into the community.

"Ex-offenders have few options, little opportunity and no resources when they're released," says Dan Varley, Program Coordinator. "Our lengthy intake process allows us to recommend the right support services for any of their specific needs, like housing or transportation, and give them referrals or connections to find work."

Finding gainful employment, for instance, can be a challenge when past convictions are noted on a

job application. Learning how to discuss criminal history and strategies for overcoming the barriers that can arise are part of the focus of our 'Skills for Success' full day, three week employment workshop.

According to Varley, CRS works with men and women on parole and those who are "end of sentence" which means they are off parole, without supervision but their arrest still comes up on their record and can prevent them from getting a job.

Our staff in our Middletown and New Haven offices works with our participants at various stages of the program. After completing the 'Skills for Success' workshop, an Employment Specialist assists participants in their job search

by teaching them how to look up job leads, fill out applications and strategize or prepare for interviews. Employment Specialists also go into the community to advocate for participants.

Once employed, our Retention Specialists act as advisors and help our clients maintain their jobs. They guide them on how to work through any issues and problems that may arise during the initial stages of employment.

Referrals for the Community Re-Entry Services program come from our outreach efforts with parole officers, homeless shelters, other community providers and the State of CT Department of Correction.

Attention Employers:

CRS Employment Specialists build relationships with employers in the community to help open doors for our participants. Employers interesting in offering former inmates a fresh start can email dvarley@esginh.org.

Employer Profile **Camps - Middletown, CT**

Helping the participants in our Community Re-Entry Services (CRS) program find and maintain employment is the ultimate goal. Thanks to businesses like Camps, a restaurant in Middletown, CT, former inmates can find jobs which can be the critical factor in their success at a fresh start.

Camps

Camps, which recently opened on Main Street, offers "comfort food with a twist" according to their website. In addition to a spacious eating area, Camps has ample space for parties, banquets or meetings.

This past November, Camps' general manager, Yaz Sheriff, met and hired CRS participant Devernon, who made

a strong impression during his interview. According to Sheriff, "Devernon was very enthusiastic, eager to learn, sharpen his skills and develop his career goals."

Devernon worked to prepare the restaurant for Camps grand opening in December and is currently employed as a cook.

Through the Middletown Chamber of Commerce's employee development program, Camps is sponsoring Devernon's training to obtain his ServSafe® food safety certification. Once completed, Sheriff is encouraging Devernon to go on to become a ServSafe proctor.

CELEBRATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are proud to co-chair the 2016 Celebrate campaign for Easter Seals Goodwill Industries (ESGI). Born and raised in the greater New Haven community, we have seen the great work ESGI has performed with services provided to our neighbors in need. The services provided by ESGI are essential to helping our less fortunate friends and neighbors experience dignity and honor in their lives. Because of ESGI's great work, people are empowered to fight past disabilities, educational and financial obstacles that would otherwise be insurmountable. These services include job placement for those that don't know where or how to begin their job search, skill development to enhance earning potential, transportation for those that cannot get to their place of employment, recreational activities for those who long to be part of a community... and much more.

When you visit a Goodwill store in your area, look for people like Frank, who lives with autism and proudly serves on a warehouse team or Michael, who remains confined to a wheel chair stemming from his fight with hydrocephalus. With the help of his ESGI job-coach, Michael now has meaningful employment at a Goodwill store and supports himself while building his self-worth.

There are over 1,500 Franks and Mikes in our community that live better lives because of the work ESGI performs, every day. The mission here is pretty clear. As co-chairs of the Celebrate campaign we have the goal of raising \$100,000 before December 2016. This effort begins with each and every one of you discovering what we have discovered, that an investment in Easter Seals Goodwill Industries is an investment in our friends and neighbors. With that we urge you to make your donation today and help ESGI help others.

Dominic and Susan Rapini
Co-Chairs, ESGI Celebrate Annual Appeal Campaign



Why Give?

Your donation supports the mission of Easter Seals Goodwill Industries: to enhance employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges.

Please Consider Making a Gift Today

Make your donation online at <http://eastersealsgoodwill.org/celebrate/>. Or send a check by mail or call our Development Office at 203.752.5330. 432 Washington Ave. North Haven, CT 06473

CELEBRATE

2015 Financial Report

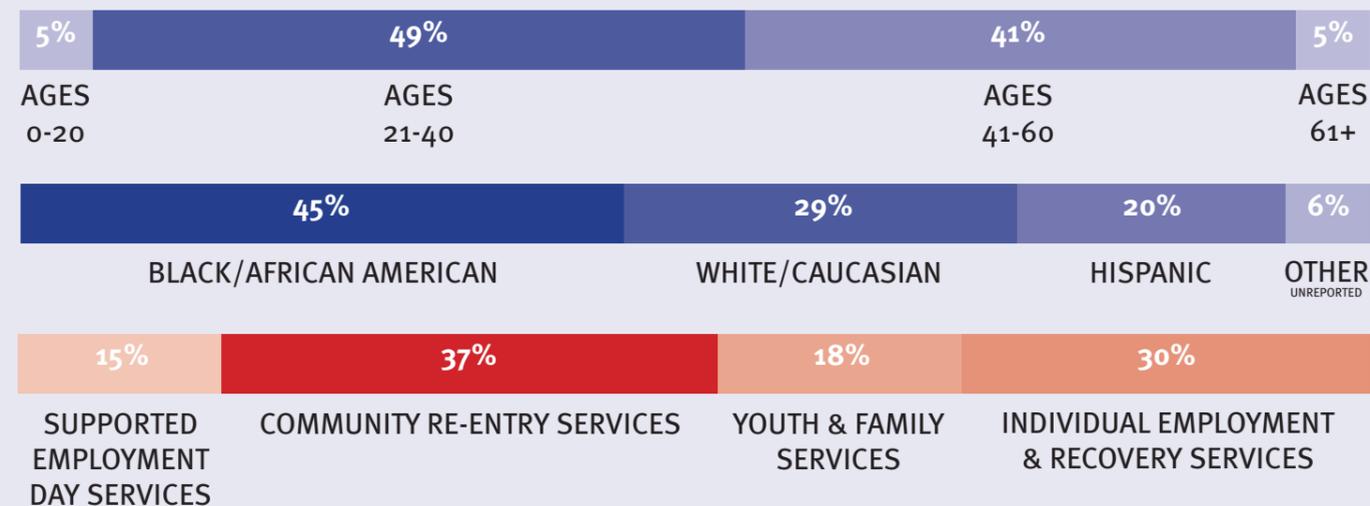
How our community invested in ESGI:

Purchases through Goodwill.....	\$18,351,000
Fees, Grants & Contracts for Programs	\$4,867,000
Charitable Contributions	\$419,000
Other	\$23,000
Total:	\$23,660,000

How we invested those resources:

Collecting, Processing & Selling Goods	\$15,784,000
Providing Direct Services	\$5,009,000
Management & General	\$2,231,000
Resources for Future Investment in the Community	\$434,000
Fundraising	\$202,000
Total:	\$23,660,000

In 2015, we provided services to 1,329 individuals:



Our services were funded by these primary sources:



Treasures Galore

At Goodwill Stores



Scouring the aisles and shelves of your local Goodwill store can often bring reward for the effort. Exploring Goodwill can be an adventure in treasure hunting with the results changing season by season. With a little bit of patience and knowledge, customers can uncover valuable items or the best bargains in town.

paintings. Vinyl record and book collections often make their way to Goodwill with rare specimens among them just waiting to be discovered. Serious shoppers who are looking for specific things often do advanced research or bring along their smart phones to shop more efficiently or wisely.



Other Goodwill shoppers enjoy browsing and picking up odds and ends that spark their fancy. Household items such as dishes, kitchen gadgets, linens, tools and even furniture can be some of the best finds at Goodwill. One Goodwill customer furnished her entire backyard pool area with treasures from Goodwill stores.

Whether you're decorating a room in your house or adding to one of your collections, you never know what you'll find at Goodwill!



For those on a quest for valuable items, Goodwill Stores can be the place to find antiques ranging from figurines and rare coins to precious

Spring is the perfect time to clear out unwanted items and donate them to Goodwill.

ITEMS GOODWILL NEEDS:

Books
 Shoes
 Clothing
 Linens
 Rugs

Drop them off at your local Goodwill store or donation center today

Thanks to our Board Members

ESGI appreciates the skills and expertise that each of our Board members has contributed by volunteering their time to help us!

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 432 Washington Avenue
 North Haven, CT 06473

Nonprofit
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 New Haven, CT

ESGI Retail Stores & Donation Centers

Clinton

369 East Main Street
 (860) 664-9211

Groton

664 Long Hill Road
 (860) 448-6400

Hamden

2369 Dixwell Avenue
 (203) 230-2910

Middletown

955 Washington Street
 (860) 347-5404

New Haven

472 Foxon Boulevard
 (203) 468-2355

Westville

61 Amity Road
 (203) 397-2735

Norwich

201 Salem Turnpike
 (860) 204-0018

Orange

81 Boston Post Road
 (203) 795-3333

Goodwill Outlet Hamden

2901 State Street
 (203) 248-1600

Rocky Hill

80 Town Line Road
 (860) 529-6838

Southington

350 Queen Street
 (860) 621-0775

Wallingford

1145 North Colony Road
 (203) 265-4211

Branford

249 West Main Street
 (203) 481-7777

New Britain

190 Columbus Boulevard
 (860) 224-0885

To find a Donation Center or Donation Bin near you, please visit www.eastersealsgoodwill.org/donate

Visit Easter Seals Goodwill Industries on:

