

# GOODNEWS

SPRING 2018

## THE PERFECT DUO—AATIF AND CARMELO

Aatif, a disabled United States Naval Air Force Veteran, came to Goodwill of Orange County's Tierney Center for Veteran Services seeking assistance to achieve his career goals and move toward self-sufficiency. Through the Tierney Center's employment and career counseling support, Aatif was offered an employment experience opportunity working with one of Goodwill's various programs.

In his role, Aatif would work as a job coach providing support to individuals with developmental disabilities as they gain valuable job skills and move toward greater social and economic independence.

It was in this position that Aatif met Carmelo, a Goodwill program participant. Carmelo spent a few hours each day rolling silverware sets at Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles in Anaheim. While Carmelo enjoyed this task at the restaurant, his ultimate goal was to work in the kitchen as a cook.

Upon learning of Carmelo's true passion, Aatif approached Goodwill's program management with an idea. Using his 27 years of experience as a professional chef, Aatif proposed that he work with Carmelo on an



Carmelo and his job coach, Aatif along with the kitchen manager, Tony

individual basis in the kitchen. Roscoe's manager, Elmo and kitchen manager, Tony both agreed to give Carmelo a trial run to live out his dream with the help of his job coach.

Aatif accepted a full-time position with Goodwill in order to teach Carmelo the necessary skills to succeed as a prep cook for Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles.

For the past nine months, Carmelo has exceeded expectations and continues to grow in his position. He has acquired new skills using kitchen equipment and completes important tasks that help keep things moving in the busy kitchen.

Carmelo looks forward to continued employment and more responsibilities.

Roscoe's states, "He is a fast learner who always comes to work with a big smile, in fact, he has the best attendance in our kitchen. He's really a member of our family."

Aatif appreciates how much Carmelo has taught him in return and is pursuing a Master's degree in social work to continue his personal dream of helping people.

## NEWSFLASH

### SAVE THE DATE: 2018 GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY FALEY SPECIAL GAMES

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Goodwill of Orange County Faley Special Games! On Friday, May 4, join us at Cal State Fullerton for OC's largest non-competitive sporting event for athletes with developmental disabilities. Thousands of special athletes of all ages attend annually and are paired with volunteer "buddies" for a fun day of outdoor activities! For more information go to [ocgoodwill.org](http://ocgoodwill.org) or call 714-550-9155.



# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

*An African proverb states, "If you want to go fast, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together." This is true in the work we do at Goodwill of Orange County.*

Partners make us better. These partners take many forms and include corporate supporters, community-based agencies and organizations, and individuals who passionately make our mission, their mission. While partnerships can involve financial investment in Goodwill of Orange County, "support" takes many forms. Some of these key partners refer clients to us, employing program participants who can benefit from our programs and services. Together, Goodwill of Orange County delivers services for our shared clients in a joint effort to

help them overcome their barriers and achieve their highest levels of personal and economic independence.

One of Goodwill of Orange County's priorities has been to expand our network of partners with social enterprise based on servant leadership and commitment to showcasing one of our core beliefs: the power of work changes lives. We hope you continue on this journey with us, as a friend and, especially, as a valued partner.

## ALEX'S JOURNEY TO REACH HER GOALS



The most difficult thing a person can do is talk about the most personal time in their life. Alex was diagnosed in Spring of 2016 with a mental disability—bipolar disorder. Isa, her wife (fiancé at the time), noticed Alex was not her usual self a few weeks prior to the diagnosis.

After a difficult week of arguing with her family and friends, Alex made an appointment with a mental health clinic in Santa Ana. Her family and wife were there every step of the way in her recovery.

It was not an easy recovery. Alex was in extreme denial of her diagnosis. She had let her bipolar disorder take over—something she did not think

she could come back from. Alex thought she could never go back to work due to her illness.

She had given up on life and truly thought she was never going to get hired anywhere.

As time went on, Alex started to feel better. She began sleeping eight hours every night. Her moods were finally under control, she gained self-esteem and her overall health improved. Alex credits all of her improvement to Isa.

Six months into his recovery, Alex began feeling like a new person—ready to take on the world. Isa encouraged her to seek employment and give it another chance. She was recommended to talk to Chris Anders, an Employment Specialist at Goodwill of Orange County's EmploymentWORKS Program.

Chris helped Alex clean up her resume and taught her essential interview skills to help her find meaningful employment. With help from Chris, Alex was hired at a local grocery store as a clerk. After ten months, Alex left her job at the grocery store to begin working in Mental Health Services in the City of Orange. She is now a Peer Mentor, helping people like herself overcome their mental health diagnoses.

Alex states, "With dedication, determination and support, I was able to reach the goals I set for myself."

Her next goal: to move up in her company!

# PROOF IN NUMBERS

PERSONS SERVED: 5,666  
PERSONS PLACED: 222  
AVERAGE WAGE: \$12.97

Based on February 28, 2018 Goodwill of Orange County statistics.

## WITH HARD WORK COMES GREAT REWARDS

Think back to one of your first jobs. Were you in high school or was it during summer vacation? Were you excited, anxious, or even scared? Think back to all the lessons you learned during your first work experiences. How to get along with coworkers, the importance of punctuality, and following a dress code. How to accept feedback from supervisors, as well as how to provide it to others.

Our first employment experiences have provided us all with the foundation and work ethic to inform how we navigate the responsibilities of the working world.

For youth with disabilities, these experiences can be even more transformative.

Beginning this year, Goodwill of Orange County, in partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation, has begun providing youth with disabilities these employment experiences with the Student Services Work Experience Program. The program allows students ages 16-21 the opportunity to participate in a 100-hour paid internship in a community-integrated work setting earning minimum wage or higher. During training, students will receive guidance and assistance from staff and job coaches with years of experience providing support to persons with disabilities in employment settings.

One of the first youth to utilize this service was Charles, who is completing his internship working with [shopgoodwill.com](http://shopgoodwill.com), Goodwill of Orange County's



Charles and Youth Work Experience Supervisor, Isaac at shopgoodwill



e-commerce auction platform. Charles gains important knowledge and experience in a growing work environment that also aligns closely with his interest in technology, a field he intends to have a career in when he gets older.

Charles is grateful for the support he receives at work describing it as, "such a great community and people willing to go the extra mile to make sure everyone is satisfied with the workplace."

With the support and guidance of Isaac Harmon, the Youth Work Experience Supervisor, Charles works on multiple e-commerce tasks such as pulling books and media for customers' online orders.

Charles states, "Working at Goodwill has been great and has provided me with life lessons that I will never forget. I have learned that with hard work comes great rewards."



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## DID YOU KNOW...

GOODWILL IS IN THE BUSINESS OF HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE FACING BARRIERS TO GET AND KEEP JOBS, WHICH PROVIDES PURPOSE, PRIDE AND DIGNITY. WE BELIEVE THE POWER OF WORK CHANGES LIVES.

### — SAVE THE DATE —

Monday, June 11, 2018 | Pelican Hill Golf Club

Join Goodwill of Orange County for an exciting day of golf and an enchanting dinner under the stars.

This event will benefit the Tierney Center for Veteran Services, an Orange County resource for veterans and their families.

#### — RSVP —

[amyh@ocgoodwill.org](mailto:amyh@ocgoodwill.org) | 714.547.6308 x356

#### — NEW —

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