



March 24, 2012

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Council Bluffs Goodwill

Holly Schwietz from the Council Bluffs Goodwill talked at the Treynor Optimist Club on March 24. She has worked at Goodwill for ten years.

Holly currently works in the Work Experience Program, where she has worked for eight years. The program is for High School students who have been referred to the program by their school. There are currently 90 students in five of the area's 13 Goodwill stores. The focus of the program is Employment and Training. The students set individual goals, receive High School credit, and get paid minimum wage. Holly has 15 students every day, with them working on shifts 8:30 until 3:00 p.m. She files a report on each of the students every Trimester.

Students learn skills such as regular attendance, handling stress, maintaining focus, interacting with others, etc. They need to attend school to work at Goodwill under the Work Experience Program. The students are a supplement to the Goodwill staff, so they learn to perform every aspect of the work.

Holly went to the University of Kansas majoring in film studies. She started working for Family Service on special needs adoptions. She that led to other jobs and eventually to her current position. She said that every job she found was through friends.

Goodwill started during the Depression. During that time employment was difficult to find, but people with disabilities had very few opportunities. At that time employees would refurbish clothing.

The Council Bluffs Goodwill is the only store on this side of Iowa. This summer because of the flooding they received 16 million tons of donations. Six million tons were not usable.

The emphasis at Goodwill he past 1½ years has been recycling. They refurbish and sell computers at 72nd and F in Omaha. Some clothing is sold in bulk in Omaha.

The Council Bluffs store puts out 2000 pieces of clothing every day. They also put out 30 carts of other items, such as books, shoes, etc. There are 22 staff at the store, plus support from the students.

The busiest month for Goodwill is October, for Halloween. The busiest donation month is December because of taxes. Goodwill also has an e-bay type website for expensive things they have to sell.

Holly said that 55 million people in the United States have some type of disability. Goodwill appreciates everyone's help for shopping and donating to Goodwill.

Meeting Minutes

Chuck Nielsen provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on March 24. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Dennis White offered the opening prayer.

Dale Willenborg contributed to the Youth Fund for his first new granddaughter born Wednesday. He has five grandsons.

Can Kennel sorting will be Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for the Jr. Optimist Club. Bicycle Safety will be April 26. The Youth Appreciation Program will be April 29 at 3:00 p.m. this year. Volunteers for the Scholarship committee are needed.

Steve Irvin said that the Optimist Scholarship applications should be available next week.

Dennis White won the 50/50 drawing and Steve Irvin won the attendance drawing but did not collect. There were 10 members and one guest at the meeting.

Calendar

- Mar 28 - Can Kennel sorting for JOOI, 6:00 p.m.
- Mar 31 - PEO Brunch at 9:30 a.m. \$10/person
- Apr 26 - Bicycle Safety, 3:30 p.m. at Elementary school
- April 29 - Youth Appreciation Ceremony, 3:00 p.m. at Zion Church.

Birthdays

- Mar 2 - Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 - Kenneth Graham (recognized)
- Mar 20 - Jon Jacobsen
- Apr 6 - Kevin Abbott
- Apr 20 - Steve Chambers
- Apr 25 - Rocky Saar
- Apr 28 - Gene Seran

Anniversaries

- Mar 4 - Gene & Erika Seran
- Mar 8 - Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)
- Mar 15 - Jeff & Carrie Nelson
- Apr 7 - Jim & Diane Clausen

Speakers

- Mar 31 - Vision Treynor - Shelly Bailey
- Apr 7 - National Pork Board presentation
- Apr 14 - Omaha Symphony

Programs

- Mar - Dale Willenborg
- Apr - Jim Clausen
- May - Ken Graham