Join the Edgar J. Helms Society

The Helms Society is named in honor of Reverend Edgar J. Helms who founded Goodwill 125 years ago right here in Boston’s South End. We remain committed to his vision of helping individuals with barriers to self-sufficiency to achieve independence and dignity through work.

Membership in the Helms Society begins at $500. There are multiple levels of benefits based on your giving level.

Consider Sustaining Your Support

Some donors choose to make gifts on a recurring basis, and predictable revenue is tremendously helpful to Goodwill and the people we serve. A sustaining gift allows you to spread your annual contribution in smaller increments over the course of the year by using your checking account or credit card.

For more information on the Helms Society or how to make a donation, please visit our website www.goodwillmass.org or call (617) 541-1259.

‘Always Do the Right Thing’
Professor Herbert Lemelman was Deeply Committed to Goodwill

Professor Herbert Lemelman had a passion for the law, for teaching, for helping others, and for supporting Goodwill.

He was a member of Goodwill’s Board of Directors for more than 20 years, including serving as its Chair from 1996 to 1998. Professor Lemelman passed away in May.

As a Board member, he was committed to supporting community members with barriers to employment, especially those with developmental disabilities. He brought to the Board exceptional legal expertise. He served as a law professor at Suffolk University for more than 50 years, including time as an Associate Dean. Professor Lemelman taught and mentored thousands of law students. He loved Boston and was dedicated to the community. Goodwill benefited from that dedication through his invaluable service.

Gene Colangelo, Chairman of Julio Enterprises, who served on the Goodwill Board with Professor Lemelman, recalled, “I will never forget what he used to say to me, ‘Always do the right thing, never take shortcuts, and always be up front.’” Gene commented on Professor Lemelman’s relentless energy and zeal for Goodwill’s work. “He believed in the Goodwill mission and was committed to helping others.”

Professor Lemelman generously donated to Goodwill for many years. He enjoyed attending The Good Party and seeing so many community leaders come together in support of Goodwill. His wife Lois, who also volunteered at Goodwill, said Herb was dedicated to Goodwill. She made a point of donating his clothes to Goodwill, including his signature bow ties. “Herb would have loved that,” she said.

Everyone at Goodwill is deeply appreciative of Professor Lemelman’s contributions to our work and the people we serve.

Work for a Better Future

Goodwill Finds Ways to Support Participants

For Goodwill participant Lorenne Sirena, the COVID-19 pandemic brought a halt to her daily routine. She had been working at Wentworth Institute of Technology in food services when everything came to a close in March.

More than 5 months later, Lorenne is still not working, but her spirits remain high and she is actively engaged in Goodwill’s remote services. Zoom calls have replaced her in-person meetings with her case manager and she recently participated in a fruitful session with a Bank of America volunteer who offered budget tips. She is eagerly looking forward to the day she can go back to work.

Since late March, Goodwill has had to transition from face-to-face services to virtual for Lorenne and many others in Developmental Services. The transition required rapid restructuring of the curriculum. In addition, many individuals Goodwill serves did not have access to personal computers. Thanks to Goodwill’s computer recycling program, however, the organization was able to provide refurbished donated computers.

Goodwill has also begun offering virtual services at MassHire Boston Career Center, the one-stop career center it operates. Kelli Clancy, a mother of a young daughter, was referred to MassHire through the Department of Transitional Assistance, and she worried that the pandemic might make getting a job more difficult. But in June she was hired as an administrative assistant at the law firm of Squillace & Associates in Back Bay.

"They saw great potential in me and helped me get through this," Kelli said of the MassHire staff. “It was a challenging experience but things worked out well.”

For participants in Goodwill’s AbilityOne program, which provides housekeeping and janitorial services for more than 7 million square feet of federal government properties, the pandemic meant their work became more important than ever, including for Bob Carvin, a program participant who recently began working at the Hanscom Air Force Base. He said he takes great pride in making sure the military base, which is an AbilityOne site, is clean and safe. He is grateful to have been able to earn a paycheck throughout.

Lorenne, Kelli, and Bob all have different stories but the one common thread is that your support has helped make their lives better!

To read more about Goodwill’s mission services please visit www.goodwillmass.org.

Fall 2020

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries
1010 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119
617.445.1010
www.goodwillmass.org
Goodwill’s Statement on Racial Justice

Together, we bear witness to the senseless and violent killing of George Floyd and so many others. In the face of this evidence of longstanding, systemic racism, we must stand as allies to our Black colleagues and neighbors.

Racism is insidious. People who are Black or Brown are more likely to be poor. More likely to be unemployed. More likely to be underpaid. And, more likely to contract and die from COVID-19.

At Goodwill, we are committed to helping people find jobs that are right for them. We do this for everyone who comes through our doors, most are people of color. We intend to redouble our efforts. To work to make more opportunities available to individuals who are Black and Brown. To evaluate our own operations through the lens of race and determine what more we can do.

Goodwill has been serving the local community for 125 years and has a deep and abiding commitment to social justice. As we work together to respond to the combined effects of COVID-19 and unemployment, we will keep the need to address the underlying issue of racism at the forefront of our efforts.

Goodwill President and CEO Co-Chairs Impact Study on Women’s Leadership Development

Joanne K. Hilferty, President and CEO of Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, is one of four Co-Chairs of The Commonwealth Institute’s annual Impact Study on Women’s Leadership Development in Massachusetts. The impact study looks at how companies retain and advance women employees. As part of her role as a Co-Chair, Joanne has been encouraging via social media businesses and organizations to participate in the study. The findings will be released in December.

Goodwill President and CEO Co-Chairs Impact Study on Women’s Leadership Development

Goodwill President and CEO, Joanne K. Hilferty presenting on Zoom.

Searching for a Career

Goodwill Programs Supports Young Adults with Disabilities

Estiven is inquisitive, eager to please, and a hard worker. Now, he is getting a chance to put those attributes to work.

Estiven is one of ten young adults who graduated in June from Project SEARCH. Goodwill’s school-year program that prepares high school students with developmental disabilities for competitive employment. In July, he started working in food services at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, where he completed his Project SEARCH internships. He loves his new job.

“He was a joy to have in class,” said Lola Hamilton, a Project SEARCH instructor from the Boston Public Schools. “I’m so proud of him and not surprised that he is doing well.”

Project SEARCH is an evidence-based model that Goodwill operates in conjunction with the public schools and employer partners. The students are typically in their last year of high school and have the opportunity to learn about the world of work and to participate in a number of internships where they develop important job skills. In March, the program transitioned to a remote learning model and the participants did not skip a beat.

This year, graduation was held via Zoom but had all the important elements of a traditional graduation: excited graduates, proud parents, speeches and the presentation of certificates. Dignitaries in attendance included Boston City Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi George, New England Baptist Hospital President David Passafaro and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital President David Storto.

“You showed dedication and determination by coming every day to learn new skills,” said Goodwill President and CEO Joanne K. Hilferty, in her remarks to the graduates. “You are all now part of the working world. You will have the opportunity to continue to develop and Goodwill will be there to support you along the way,” she declared.

Congratulations to Estiven and all the Project SEARCH graduates!