Neil and Anne Harper first learned about Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries through the Wesley Foundation, a United Methodist organization serving students in the greater Boston area.

Reverend Edgar Helms, who founded Goodwill in 1895, was a Methodist minister and his vision laid the groundwork for Goodwill’s mission, which is to help individuals with barriers to self-sufficiency to achieve independence and dignity through work.

Neil and Anne met at the Wesley Foundation in Cambridge in the 1950s. They had both moved to Massachusetts for school and married in 1959, shortly after graduation.


Neil and Anne Harper are Longstanding Supporters

Neil and Anne Harper met at the Wesley Foundation in Cambridge in the 1950s. They had both moved to Massachusetts for school and married in 1959, shortly after graduation.

The Helms Society is named in honor of Reverend Edgar J. Helms who founded Goodwill 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 Goodwill in Your Estate Plan

If you’re looking to create a legacy or generate an income stream for your retirement, Goodwill offers a range of planned giving options including bequests and charitable gift annuities. By including Goodwill as part of your planned giving, you will help individuals to achieve independence and dignity through work for generations to come.

Please contact the Philanthropy Department at giving@goodwillmass.org or 617-541-1404 for more information.

A Legacy of Helping People

Goodwill’s Mission Services Meet Community’s Need

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries hosted its first ever virtual Annual Meeting in January to recognize the accomplishments of the men and women who worked so hard this past year to achieve independence and dignity through work.

The theme of the Annual Meeting was Goodwill is Here, a reminder that through thick and thin, Goodwill is here to serve and to help the individuals who need it most. The participants who came to Goodwill last year faced many challenges, but were undeterred in their determi nation to go to work.

“It is especially important to remember that Goodwill was born during challenging times and has been doing this important work for 125 years,” Ned Helms, incoming Board Chair of Goodwill Industries International and the grandson of Goodwill’s founder, the Rev. Edgar Helms, noted at the virtual meeting.

Over the past year the pandemic and the economic downturn have presented new challenges for daily life and disproportionately affected the vulnerable populations that turn to Goodwill for support.

Program participants were resilient, however, as they overcame new challenges throughout the year. For Lisa, a cashier at the Goodwill Store in Hyde Park and a participant in Goodwill’s Employment Supports Program, the ability to work “makes me feel happy and it helps me out a lot to have supports in place to find a job and keep a job.” She said she appreciated the help she got from Goodwill when she was having difficulties in her life.

The virtual meeting also included interviews with Alicia, who went through Goodwill’s Human Services Employment Ladder Program (HELP) and now works at Eliot Community Human Services, and Sebyera, who turned Goodwill for help finding the right training program and is now working as a medical assistant at Tufts Children’s Hospital.

Rosalin Acosta, the Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, was the keynote speaker at the meeting and noted that unemployment was still high in Massachusetts, particularly for communities of color. She said MassFire Boston Career Center, the one-stop career center Goodwill operates, serves a critical role in helping get people back to work.

“You do so many great things at Goodwill,” Secretary Acosta said.

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Goodwill Employer Partner Receives Award

American Surgical Company Recognized

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries business partner American Surgical Company (ASC) was recognized as the Providers’ Council’s Business Partner of the Year. Goodwill nominated ASC and the award was accepted by ASC President Erik Piasio at the Providers’ Council’s Annual Conference in the fall.

ASC, which manufactures single-use medical tools, provides job opportunities for participants from Goodwill’s Employment Supports Program, including Johnny Tran who has worked there since 2015. Johnny says of his time at ASC, “I think this is a great job. I like coming here every day and going to work.”

Goodwill and ASC also combined forces to testify at the Massachusetts State House in October 2019 before the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities to raise awareness of the contributions workers with disabilities can make with appropriate support.

Congratulations, American Surgical Company!

Providing a Helping Hand

Goodwill Job Training Program Prepares People to Work in the Human Services Field

Every day, Alicia Monteiro tries to comfort individuals who are dealing with isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic. Working as a brain injury residential counselor at Eliot Community Human Services in Braintree, Alicia sees her residents struggle because of limited social interactions.

Alicia is helping others now. When she came to MassHire Boston Career Center, she had been unemployed for more than a year and needed help herself. A career advisor told her about Goodwill’s Human Services Employment Ladder Program (HELP), which prepares people to work in human services.

Alicia was hired at Eliot even before she graduated in early March. Alicia has stayed in her job throughout the pandemic, making sure that those in her residence are supported. Goodwill’s HELP program gave her the tools to navigate along the way, she noted.

“It was a good fit for me,” Alicia said of HELP. “It was exactly what I was looking for.”

Alicia is hopeful that life for her residents will become more normal soon. “Right now, we are focused on keeping everyone healthy and safe,” she said. “That is the most important thing.”

Goodwill Events

Goodwill created socially distant ways to continue its longstanding holiday traditions. These events are an additional way Goodwill supports program participants who are doing everything they can to enable their families to participate in this special time of year.