



GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF HAWAII

CHILDREN DO WELL WHEN THEIR FAMILIES
DO WELL, AND FAMILIES DO BETTER WHEN
THEY LIVE IN SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

2006 FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

A COMMUNITY OF CARING

In Hawaiian culture, community and *ohana*, or family, are one and the same. Goodwill Industries of Hawaii structures its programs around this philosophy so important to the families it serves. “We support our clients as parents within their individual families and then connect them to their larger family, the community,” says COO Dan Buron. “We provide Goodwill’s traditional employment services but also much more.”

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii’s focus on economic stability serves these families well where the gap between wages and a high cost of living undermines parents’ ability to help their children have bright futures. On Oahu, the most populous island, average home prices hover near \$670,000, and the cost of living for a family of four amounts to \$50,000. Jobs in tourism and other Hawaiian industries generally pay poorly, and many parents hold more than one full-time job.



HAWAIIAN TRADITION TEACHES US THAT A
FAMILY’S SUCCESS AND A CHILD’S FUTURE

DEPENDS ON NOT ONLY PARENTS AND CHILDREN BUT
ALSO NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS. WE ARE
ISLANDS OF FAMILIES, BUT NO FAMILY IS AN ISLAND.

—Laura Robertson, President and CEO, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii

REACHING OUT TO FAMILIES

In helping parents overcome these challenges, the Goodwill staff actively reach out to the larger *ohana* of community, linking families to resources and services that will support their success. An average day might find Goodwill staff chatting with disabled high school students about higher education goals and connecting them to resources; coaching incarcerated parents preparing to return to their families and permanent employment; and sitting down with collaborating agencies to discuss the needs of a homeless family.

For this organization, work does not stop at day's end. Goodwill encourages staff to link families in their communities to important services when it makes sense for families, which often means after-hours and on weekends. For the past 17 years, one weekend each year finds Goodwill staff running a fishing tournament for families with a child facing a developmental disability. The tournament has strengthened bonds within and among these families, affording parents opportunities to offer and ask for support from one another. "A gathering place or an event becomes the agent of change," explains Buron. "If you personally know the person you're serving, the parent or child often feels more comfortable and more capable of moving forward."

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii will soon break ground for a learning center, which will house programs ranging from job training to parenting education classes and also double as a community center. "Every family will be welcome," says Robertson, "whether they need Goodwill services or not. After all, that's the Hawaiian way!"

FAMILIES COUNT FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

Through a joint venture of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Goodwill Industries International, the FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Awards recognize Goodwill member agencies with outstanding programs that work to give children what they need most—strong, capable and economically successful families. Responding to the varied needs of the families they serve, these organizations improve the economic prospects of working men and women and create the services and networks of support that all families need to realize their aspirations for themselves and their children.

In 2005, Goodwill Industries International provided job training and career development services for nearly 850,000 individuals, many of whom are parents. These parents often benefit from other local Goodwill programs aimed at stabilizing and strengthening families. “These local member agencies are expanding on our core mission of helping individuals overcome barriers to find and retain employment,” says George W. Kessinger, Goodwill Industries International president and CEO. “We work to place parents in permanent employment, because we want to help them become more effective in meeting their families’ needs. When you support a parent, you support the entire family and the community where they live.”

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