

[Goodwill Seeking More Schools to Help Turn Spring Cleaning Into Job Training and Placement](#)

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

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TACOMA, WA (May 1, 2013) – Tacoma-based Goodwill (covers Southwest Washington) is pleased to announce this year’s (Oct. 2012 – Sept 2013) community and school household clean-up effort will collect 1,250,000 pounds of donations, generating funds to help 9,000 southwest Washington residents with job training and placement in the area. The regional recycling activity includes participation in school donation drives, city and organization recycling events, and pickups at community garage sales. **The school donation effort culminates this year in Federal Way**, as Brigadoon Elementary School children get a first-hand lesson in living a “green” lifestyle as they collect and recycle gently used clothes and shoes. “This campaign is all about turning your spring cleaning into something that can strengthen our economy and help the environment,” said Terry Hayes, President and CEO of Tacoma Goodwill. “Simply cleaning your closet and donating items to Goodwill can go a long way to support unemployed and underemployed residents in southwest Washington. This is also a great opportunity to teach children about the importance of going “green” and about helping persons with disabilities and other barriers to employment.”



Tacoma Goodwill uses their boutique “Blue” store, 30 additional retail locations, online sales, a robust recycling and salvage effort, and partnerships with 800 area businesses in 15 counties to turn household goods into job placement, career training and education for 9,000 area residents per year. Included is their partnership and support of REACH (Resources for Education and Career Help) which provides 3,000 area youth with GED classes, educational transitional, and employment services.

Chris Odell, Principal of Brigadoon Elementary School in Federal way notes “The Brigadoon School community is excited to participate in this volunteer effort! In addition to helping others, it will teach our students the value of recycling and volunteerism. Our Tiger Club members, who are leading the effort, will also be practicing leadership. These are all values that are central to our American spirit, and so we are grateful for this opportunity.” "The Goodwill donation campaign is an important project for our students," said Assistant Superintendent Carol Matsui. "This is an opportunity for our students to contribute to real-life problems, and become active contributing citizens and community members by helping others." **The school donations program is still in its infancy**, receiving 124,204 pounds of donations from 78 elementary, middle and high schools in Southwest Washington since its start in 2010. Program Coordinator and Donations Manager Elaine Brabham expects to collect 50,000 lbs. in student donations this school year and hopes to double that number in 2013-2014. “Students and parents are using the most efficient way in America to turn household goods into economic and environmental gain,” said Brabham. “Every 2,700 lbs. translates into another scholarship for an individual to attend job training and placement. This is a win-win for school districts, schools, the community and education of youth.” Families

doing Spring Cleaning can donate directly to Goodwill at 15 donation stations and 29 additional retail stores in the region. For locations visit www.tacomagoodwill.org .**About Tacoma Goodwill**
*Getting America Back to Work…***Goodwill provides innovative job placement, career training and education to connect Americans with a higher quality of life.** As a unique nonprofit business, our thrift shop revenue and public donations fuel programs that help people with limited income, disabilities and disadvantages overcome barriers to employment. This year alone, Tacoma Goodwill Industries will help 9,000 people with education, job training and placement so they can become independent self-supporting citizens. Of these, more than 2,200 people will be offered office, culinary, catering, retail, custodial, warehouse, transportation and logistics careers thanks to partnerships with 800 companies across Washington. These critical career development and placement services are funded through generous financial gifts, grants, fees, commercial services and the operation of 31 thrift stores throughout our western and south central Washington operations. Please visit our website at www.tacomagoodwill.org .