

November 2025 Edition

Pathways

PULSE PRESS



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**Fall Festival Fun
at Farmer Mike's**

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THANK YOU FOR SUBSCRIBING!

VOL: 11.24



PTO

Advocacy Council

Fall 2024 Updates



Thank you again for electing us to represent our PTO peers for this season! We are available to assist you so feel free to visit us if you require any assistance. We hope everyone had an excellent month of November!

- Your Fall 2024 Advocacy Council

Catch this Pathways spread in this month's edition of Southwest Florida Business Today!



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Community Resource Centers

Empowering Career Growth Through Essential Skills

Goodwill Southwest Florida is committed to ensuring individuals possess the digital skills necessary for today's job market, and we constantly evolve our offerings to meet employer demand.

We offer a range of free training programs, including the cutting-edge Google AI Essentials Course, through a partnership with Google.

This online course provides knowledge of generative AI, a valuable skill for boosting resumes, improving earnings, and advancing in any field, all at no cost to the participant.

Individuals can enhance their skills by contacting Marjorie Hayes at marjoriehayes@goodwillswfl.org

Scan QR Code to find a Community Resource Center near you.



Building Confidence and Independence for Adults with Disabilities

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida is committed to serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by offering unique, hands-on programs focused on independence.

Our life skills development program, Pathways to Opportunity (PTO), supports over 100 participants annually in building essential life skills with a focus on real-world applications. A recent partnership with Punta Gorda Airport, the Transportation Security Administration, Aviation Security Management, and Abolgent Airlines provided 13 PTO participants with a transformative air travel experience. Participants were guided through every step from check-in to baggage claim to deplaning at the airport and reduce anxiety around unfamiliar environments.

The success was immediate and profound. One participant's family, after 36 years, finally felt confident enough to book a flight for him the very next day. As Jessica Tursi, Director of Disability Services and Navigation, noted, "Opportunities like this build confidence and independence, helping our participants feel prepared for real-world experiences."

To further this independence, PTO staff are developing virtual social stories, which are interactive guides that provide participants with preparation for new experiences like flying or interacting with law enforcement.



SENIOR PLANET

Our efforts to build digital literacy extend to all generations. Senior Planet, offered through our Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) and approved by AARP, provides older adults with free technology and fitness programs in English and Spanish across Southwest Florida. We are the only nonprofit providing these unique lectures, workshops, and courses throughout the region.

The training focuses on digital literacy, online safety, smartphone usage, and physical fitness, aiming to improve financial security, social connection, and health for seniors. We also partner with other community agencies to bring this training directly to the people they serve.

For more information, contact Angela Hernandez at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2227 or email angela.hernandez@goodwillswfl.org.



The success of these programs is visible in people like Lydia A. In December 2024, Lydia came to the West Cape Coral Community Resource Center for an Employability Skills Workshop. She soon became a dedicated volunteer, training as a receptionist, supporting English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and gaining clerical experience. Simultaneously, she enrolled in Digital Literacy and Senior Planet courses.

By September 2025, Lydia's dedication paid off: she secured a job placement as a Substitute Teacher at Heritage Charter Academy, receiving Goodwill Southwest Florida Community Gift Card to purchase professional attire for her new role.

Lydia shared, "I've had a great experience being a part of the West Cape Coral CRC. I have training to advance my digital skills which I will need for my new job. Mrs. Amalia has been instrumental in my success!"



Goodwill also addresses a critical life transition through its Disability Navigation program, launched in early 2023.

This service helps young adults with disabilities aging out of the school system and their families navigate Florida's complex Medicaid Waiver (iBudget) system and other disability services. Recognizing that many families were lost and unaware of available resources, Goodwill Southwest Florida created a resource packet now shared statewide.

The program has directly supported hundreds of families and reached many more through educational outreach and free community sessions, with no requirement to enroll in other Goodwill Southwest Florida services.

For more information, contact: Jessica Tursi at (239) 995-2106 Ext. 2301 disabilitynavigation@goodwillswfl.org



Scan QR Code for more information about Pathways to Opportunity

Art Lab with Alliance for the Arts



WE ARE NOW IN THE 2ND MONTH SESSION OF ART LABS AND INSTRUCTOR CAT IS KICKING IT OFF WITH THIS SENSORY PLAY PROJECT. CAN YOU TELL OUR PARTICIPANTS ARE SO IN LOVE WITH EXPERIENCING MULTIPLE ART MEDIUMS?? 🥰🥰 WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR NEIL & JESSICA AT ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS FOR THIS AMAZING PARTNERSHIP! 🎨





PLAY IT FORWARD

SPORTS COLLABORATION WITH EASTER SEALS

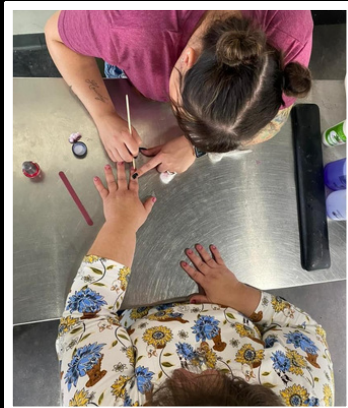
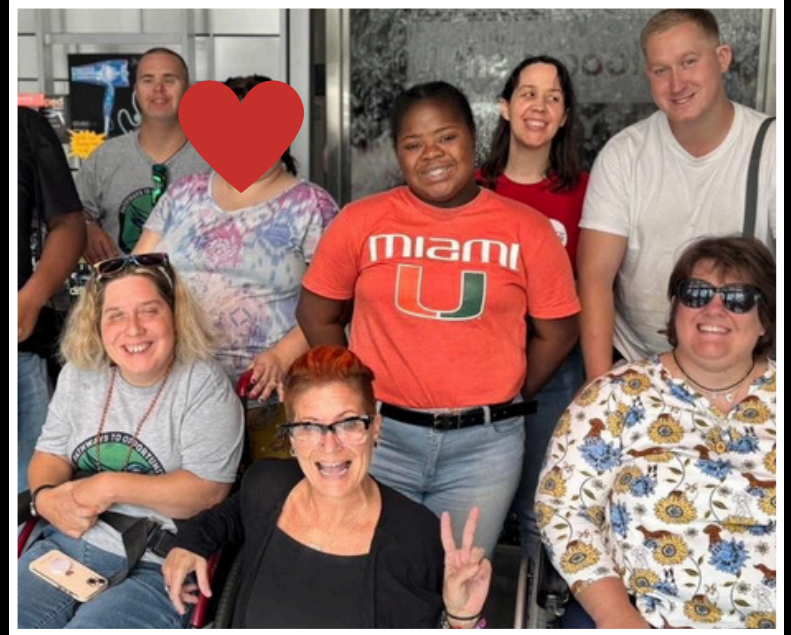
GAME 1: BASEBALL



PATHWAYS GETAWAY DAYS

OUR FRIENDS AT PAUL MITCHELL THE SCHOOL FORT MYERS
TEAMED UP WITH PTO TO HOST TWO EXCITING "SALON GETAWAY"
TRIPS OFFERING PARTICIPANTS IN WOMEN'S AND MEN'S CLUBS
TWO CHEMICAL-FREE SERVICES OF THEIR OWN CHOICE!

BOTH FRIDAYS WERE A HIT:
BIG SMILES, NEW LOOKS, AND
LOTS OF FUN AS THEY LEARNED
SOME AMAZING STYLING TIPS
FROM THE TALENTED PAUL
MITCHELL TEAM. THANK YOU
FOR CREATING A MEMORABLE
EXPERIENCE FOR ALL!







Puppy
Love

Happy Birthday Swampee!



Our participants celebrated our favorite Everblades mascot in the BEST way: with homemade cards, a birthday cake, and even a special birthday hat made just for him! 🎂🎉

Swampee brings so much joy, laughter, and energy to our program, and our participants absolutely love him. Seeing their faces light up as he entered each room was the real gift! ✨

Fun Swampee Facts:

- 🦎 **Swampee is the official mascot of the Florida Everblades.**
- 🦎 **He made his big debut back in 1998**
- 🦎 **His mission? To spread smiles, high-5s, & hockey hype wherever he goes!**

Thank you, Swampee, for celebrating your big day with us, we had a blast!

It's the season for
**#FRIENDS
& FOOD**

OUR FRIEND MICHELLE
AT OPEN GATES
MINISTRIES STOPPED
BY TO DO EXACTLY
WHAT SHE'S KNOWN
FOR... TAKING CARE OF
OTHERS! SHE WANTED
SHARE SOME HOLIDAY
LOVE BY PROVIDING
THIS AMAZING MEAL
SPREAD FOR
PARTICIPANTS AND
STAFF HERE AT
PATHWAYS AND
EVERYTHING WAS
AMAZING!



Shine Bright, Do Good



JOIN US FOR A KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT

DATE & TIME

Wednesday December 17TH, 3-5:00pm

Kendra Scott, Waterside Shops

20% of the proceeds to benefit

Pathways to Opportunity

Can't make the event?

SHOP ONLINE 12/17/2025 & 12/18/2025 WITH CODE:

GIVEBACK-KTMLF



KENDRA SCOTT



2025 FESTIVAL OF TREES

BENEFITTING:

SIDNEY & PERNE
DAVIS
ART CENTER

Goodwill 9
Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.

PRESENTED BY:



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
CHARITIES

ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY 12/5

7pm: Wreath Lighting
7:30pm - 10pm: Ben Allen Band

SATURDAY 12/6

10am - 2pm: Santa's Block Party
7:30pm - 10pm: Santa's Rooftop Party

TREE VIEWING TIMES:

Thursday 12/4: 11a-9p

Friday 12/5: 11a-10p

Saturday 12/6: 10a-10p

Sunday 12/7: 11a-6p

TREE RAFFLE TICKETS:

\$10 each or 3 for \$25

10 for \$50 • 25 for \$100

Raffle Drawing:

Sunday 12/7 at 5pm



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AND A
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239.333.1933
2301 First St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901



NOVEMBER 2025 MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Trafalgar Middle School
2120 Trafalgar Pkwy, Cape Coral

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

VA Healthcare Center
2489 Diplomat Pkwy E, Cape Coral
(For veterans and veteran families only)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Presbyterian Apartments
1925 Virginia Ave, Fort Myers

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Bonita Springs YMCA
27200 Kent Rd, Bonita Springs

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Cape Coral Technical College
360 Santa Barbara Blvd N, Cape Coral

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Island Coast High School
2125 De Navarra Pkwy, Cape Coral

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

North Fort Myers Regional Park
2000 N Recreation Park Way,
North Fort Myers

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Mariner's Landing
2120 Carrell Rd, Fort Myers

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Pine Manor Community Center
5547 Tenth Ave, Fort Myers

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

VA Healthcare Center
2489 Diplomat Pkwy E, Cape Coral
(For veterans and veteran families only)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Lehigh Senior High School
901 Gunnery Rd. N, Lehigh Acres

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Veterans Park Lehigh Acres
55 Homestead Rd. S, Lehigh Acres

Limit ONE mobile food pantry per month per household address.

ID is required and bringing your own bags is encouraged.

Thank you for your cooperation!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Questions? www.CommunityCooperative.com or call 239.332.SOUP.



GIVING TREE FUNDRAISER

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE THE HOLIDAY GIVING SPIRIT
BY TAKING A TAG FROM OUR PTO TREE TO BLESS
PARTICIPANTS WITH NEW, UNWRAPPED GIFTS**



OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 16

**JUST PURCHASE THE GIFT, SECURE
THE SELECTED TAG TO THE GIFT AND
RETURN TO PTO OR A TEAM MEMBER
BY MONDAY DECEMBER 16, 2024**

**GIFTS WILL BE HANDED OUT AT OUR
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

FOR MORE INFO CALL (239) 823-1625

Thank you for being the difference!

**SCAN TO SHOP VIA THE
AMAZON WISHLIST**



Shine Bright, Do Good

JOIN US FOR A KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT

Friday, December 13TH from 12-2pm
KENDRA SCOTT, WATERSIDE SHOPS

ENJOY SIPS, SWEETS AND
20% OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

Pathways to Opportunity

CAN'T MAKE THE EVENT?
SHOP ONLINE 12/13 & 12/14 WITH CODE:

GIVEBACK-HWYGC



KENDRA SCOTT



DESIGN YOUR PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY BRACELET



COLOR BAR™

by KENDRA SCOTT

STEP 1: CHOOSE A CATEGORY

OUR DESIGN OF CHOICE IS THE ELAINA
AVAILABLE IN GOLD, ROSE GOLD OR RHODIUM

STEP 2: SELECT YOUR STYLE

OUR STONE OF CHOICE IS THE LILAC ABALONE
(3RD STONE IN 3RD ROW)

STEP 3: CUSTOMIZE IT

NOW YOU OWN A PTO
"CROWN OF OPPORTUNITY" BRACELET

20% OF THE PROCEEDS WILL COME BACK TO PTO IF PURCHASED
IN STORE OR ONLINE ON 12/13 (CODE COMING SOON)

DESIGN & PURCHASE IN ANY KENDRA SCOTT STORE OR ONLINE AT KENDRASCOTT.COM



DID YOU KNOW?



**WE OFFER DISABILITY
NAVIGATION SERVICES**

**Need assistance applying for
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
(APD) services?**

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



CONTACT US

SCAN ME



WWW.PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY.COM



239-823-1625 OR 239-995-2106



PTOADMIN@GOODWILLSWFL.ORG



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FACEBOOK.COM/PATHWAYSTOOPPORTUNITY



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