

Achiever *of the Year*



Joyce McDuff
Achiever of the Year
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Occupation: Sales Clerk
Goodwill Pine Ridge Store



An example of perseverance, Joyce McDuff has certainly had her share of ups and downs accompanied by barriers to overcome. Joyce has a developmental disability that always seemed to get in the way of maintaining employment.

Before entering Goodwill's Employment Program in June of 2002, Joyce and her sister Valerie searched for several months to find employment for Joyce. Despite combing the area and filling out application after application, nothing seemed available. Joyce's sister then decided to call Vocational Rehabilitation, where they met a counselor at the center. The counselor then set-up a meeting with Patti Warren, Goodwill's Collier County Employment Counselor. After Joyce officially qualified for the program, Patti began working with her immediately.

It still took several weeks before Joyce and Patti were able to find anything. Finally, Patti suggested to Joyce to fill out a Goodwill application. Soon after, Joyce was scheduled for an interview with the manager at Goodwill's Pine Ridge Store in Naples. By September of 2002, Joyce started work as a Sales Clerk at the store.

Joyce's manager, Michelle Brinkmeyer, states, "Joyce is a dependable employee that works very hard and always wants to see tasks through to completion. She is very friendly, prompt, and outgoing. It seems Joyce has found her niche here."

Joyce states, "It was so hard trying to find a job. It was very nice to have Patti and Goodwill there to help me. I also want to thank my sister Valerie. If it wasn't for her, I probably wouldn't even be working."