

Chet Perry Achiever of the Year

Cindy Velez

Senior Community Service

Employment Program

Administrative Assistant

When Cindy Velez needed work two years ago, she turned to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Today, Cindy is an administrative assistant, helping other seniors in the same situation.

After taking three years off to care for her ailing parents in Puerto Rico, Cindy moved to Southwest Florida to be closer to her daughters. She says it was hard to find work after she moved to the Sunshine State. "I used to drive my granddaughter to school in the mornings and then go straight to the Career and Service Center to look for a job."

At the Career and Service Center, Cindy learned about SCSEP and Goodwill through Program Manager Jerry Gavin. Her first assignment through the program was as a receptionist and greeter.

Fluent in both English and Spanish, Cindy's bilingual talents make her a valuable asset—and her skills didn't go unnoticed by Goodwill. When SCSEP became part of Goodwill in May 2007, Goodwill decided to expand the SCSEP staff. Cindy was the perfect candidate for the new administrative assistant position.

Cindy was introduced to Goodwill as a senior citizen looking for a job—now, she's helping other seniors find a way to supplement their incomes and obtain permanent jobs.

"I like doing my job at Goodwill because I'm able to help other people. I can relate to their situation."

