



2023

Wednesday, September 6, 2023



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SCAN ME





Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Thank you for participating in the 22nd Annual Employee of Distinction Awards program.

We are pleased to honor the shining stars nominated by local employers.

As a workforce leader, Goodwill recognizes all the honorees as outstanding role models for area employees, including the people we serve.

Goodwill's mission is straightforward – to help individuals prepare for, find and retain employment. Our mission not only helps people, but it improves and strengthens the region's overall workforce and economy.

Our ability to continue Goodwill's mission is made possible by the support of the community, sponsors and individuals. We are pleased you could join us today and thank you for the generous support!

Agenda

2023 Employee of Distinction Awards

Welcome – Ray Horner, Radio Personality, WAKR

Introduction – Marc Servodio, CFP®, AIF®, Chair, Board of Directors, Goodwill Industries

Introduction of “Making a Difference” Honoree(s) – Marc Servodio, CFP®, AIF®, Chair, Board of Directors, Goodwill Industries

Introduction of Speaker – Pamela Crombie, Director of Programming, Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

Keynote Speaker – John Groce, Men's Basketball Head Coach, University of Akron

Introduction of Honoree Portion of Program – Chrissy Myers, CEO, AUI

Introduction of Honorees & Winners – Ray Horner

Special thanks to the event chairs:

- Pamela Crombie, Jobs for Ohio's Graduates
- Chrissy Myers, AUI

Closing Remarks – Nan McClenaghan, President & CEO, Goodwill Industries

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**Goodwill Industries Employee of Distinction
Keren Childers**

Congratulations Keren, and thank you
for your hard work and commitment to
IBH Addiction Recovery.



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Keren Childers
Human Resources Director



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Ilene Shapiro's Department
of Job and Family Services

SILVER PROGRAM PARTNER

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Choices

IN-KIND

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Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

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JOBS FOR OHIO'S GRADUATES

Who We Are

We are an award-winning non-profit serving people ages 16-24 in Medina, Summit, Stark, and Trumbull Counties. Since 1987, Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG), an affiliate of the nationwide Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) organization, has helped over 30,000 people with multiple barriers, to successfully complete their education and successfully transition to employment at a livable wage or post-secondary job training. For more information, please contact us at 330-374-9445.



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CELEBRATES OUR
2023 EMPLOYEES OF DISTINCTION
for their hard work and dedication to providing
hope and health for families:

Marsha Calalesina
Diana Esbenshade
Sandra Suppan

We extend our congratulations to all
2023 Goodwill Employee of Distinction Honorees.

cgfs.org



John Groce

Men's Basketball Head Coach

University of Akron

John Groce stepped into the Akron Zips head coaching position on April 6, 2017. He recently completed his fifth season at Akron with a 94-59 overall record, including a 63-25 mark over the last three seasons. In Mid-American Conference play, the Zips are 54-38 under Coach Groce and 40-16 over the last three years, owning the best winning percentage (.714) in the league!

Coach Groce has a long history of building championship caliber teams and all-around successful young men. The program's mission is "to be impactful", and the vision "One Akron" is embraced by everyone in the program, and Coach Groce is known for saying "it takes a village."

During his 27-year coaching career, he has helped coach teams to 19 postseason appearances in 24 opportunities, including six regular season conference championships, eight conference tournament championships, a National Runner-up, an Elite 8, an NCAA Sweet 16 and seven Round of 32 appearances. During his coaching career, his teams have not only shown consistent success on the court but have demonstrated sustained excellence in the classroom as well.

Prior to joining the Zips, Coach Groce served as head basketball coach at the University of Illinois for five seasons. In his first year, the Illini started 12-0 in 2013, the best start for a first-year coach in the team's modern history. Prior to moving to head coach of Illinois, he spent four seasons as head coach at Ohio University. In that role, he led the Bobcats to an 85-56 record as well as Mid-American Conference Tournament titles and NCAA Tournament appearances in 2010 and 2012.

Coach John Groce first began his career as an American college basketball coach at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. Born in Muncie, Indiana, Groce graduated from Danville Community High School then went on to attend Taylor University. He played basketball at Taylor University and began his coaching career in 1993 as an assistant for his alma mater. He currently resides in Richfield, Ohio with his wife Allison and their three children.

Did you know . . .

Job and Family Services case managers are available at United Way of Summit & Medina's Family Resource Centers located inside McEbright CLC, Helen Arnold CLC, Robinson CLC, Hyre CLC, and North High School.

JFS CASE MANAGERS CAN ASSIST YOU WITH:

- **Applying for, renewing cash, food or medical assistance**
- **Making copies** (e.g., birth certificates, Social Security cards, pay stubs, and other legal documents)
- **Case or eligibility questions**
- **Resources and more.**
- **Scanning documents and verifications**

Stop by a Family Resource Center located within the school for information about available resources or to schedule an appointment with a JFS case manager.

McEbright CLC

349 Cole Ave.
Akron, OH 44301



Stephen Crews

Case Manager
Summit County DJFS

Wednesdays
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Room 104

Schedule an appointment at:
calendly.com/stephen-crews
or scan the QR code



North High

985 Gorge Blvd.
Akron, OH 44310



Amber Subba

Case Manager
Summit County DJFS

Mondays
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Room 126A

Schedule an appointment at:
calendly.com/NorthJFS
or scan the QR code



Helen Arnold CLC

450 V. Odom Blvd.
Akron, OH 44307



Bernard Swain Sr.

Case Manager
Summit County DJFS

Wednesdays and
Thursdays
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Room 113

Schedule an appointment at:
calendly.com/bernard-swain
or scan the QR code



Hyre CLC

2385 Wedgewood Dr.
Akron, OH 44312



Latisia Washington

Case Manager
Summit County DJFS

Thursdays
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Room 105

For an appointment, visit:
calendly.com/latisia-washington2
or scan the QR code



Robinson CLC

1156 4th Ave.
Akron, OH 44306



Katharine O'Donnell

Case Manager
Summit County DJFS

Tuesdays
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Room 206

For an appointment, visit:
calendly.com/katharine-odonnell
or scan the QR code





2023 Employee of Distinction Honorees



**Akron Metropolitan
Housing Authority
Valley View Team —
Property Management,
Resident Services, Maintenance**

Randy Eppley
Team Member

Ashanti Hammond
Team Member

Dan Henry
Team Member

Francie Lambert
Team Member

Nichole Mullens
Team Member

Raemicah Rivers
Team Member

Cheryl Vincent
Team Member

Nominated by: *Heather Coughlin,
Self-Sufficiency Initiatives
Supervisor*

“The team has built and maintained relationships with community partners that have provided needed goods and services such as new bikes, new clothing and shoes, various services to prevent homelessness, and an on-site preschool.”

Nicole Argirakis
Performance Coordinator
Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates

Nominated by: *Bridget Crawford,
Performance Manager*

“Nicole is an amazing professional and has demonstrated exemplary leadership in the performance and compliance arena.”

Misty Arntz
HR Specialist
Clarity HR

Nominated by: *Chrissy Myers, CEO*
“Misty goes above and beyond in helping find capable talent for our clients. She provides peace of mind by simplifying the complicated and often overwhelming process of recruiting.”

Marsha Calalesina
Intake Specialist
**Child Guidance & Family
Solutions**

Nominated by: *Cassi Galloway,
Chief Clinical Officer*

“Marsha is organized, friendly, and always willing to go above and beyond to help the community. She embodies the definition of being a team player.”

Kalie Catterall
Distribution Office Administrator
**Akron-Canton Regional
Foodbank**

Nominated by: *Jennifer Dyer,
VP of Operations*

“Kalie Catterall is one of those rare professionals who is equally at home on a fork truck loading semis in the warehouse, in the office creating and analyzing data, or in the community shaking hands and winning friends for the mission of the Foodbank.”

Keren Childers
Human Resources Director
IBH Addiction Recovery

Nominated by: *Jess Rist,
Chief Operating Officer*

“Keren has worked diligently to create a better culture for our staff and therefore, our clients, at IBH Addiction Recovery. She has been influential in making our organization a great place to work, grow, and recover.”

Choices
Interim Co-Executive Directors

Sara Coberly
Interim Acting Co-Executive
Director

Trish Grimm
Interim Acting Co-Executive
Director


Nominated by: *Michael Bullock,
Chair, Board of Directors*

“Sara and Trish stepped up as the Interim Acting Co-Executive Directors. Through their dedicated leadership, Choices continued to offer support, activities, and resources to Summit County community members living with mental health challenges.”

Morgan Dent
Career Specialist
Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates

Nominated by: *Rochelle Mitchell,
Summit County Coordinator*

“Morgan’s dedication and commitment to her work has been nothing short of exceptional. She has the eagerness to want to learn and impact young people.”



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2023 Employee of Distinction Honorees

Delaney Dickey

Documentation Specialist
Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

Nominated by: *Cindy Lesneski,
County Coordinator*

"Delaney constantly goes above and beyond. She is always there to help out her team- whether it is training, covering a class, or working individually with students—she is there."

Lauren Eaken

Career Specialist
Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

Nominated by: *Cheryl Mason,
Medina County Coordinator*

"Lauren provides one on one case management services to her participants, online and in-person tutoring for all sections of the GED test, teaches in-person GED classes twice a week and attends many outreach events to reach those in our community who could use JOG services."

Diana Esbenschade

Billing Department Supervisor
Child Guidance & Family Solutions

Nominated by: *Andrew Perpetua,
Director, Revenue Cycle and IT*

"Diana demonstrates dedication, commitment and a positive impact on the agency's medical billing cash collection processes and billing team."

Sheri George

Assistant Controller
Hernandez Construction Services, Inc.

Nominated by: *Kevin Thompson,
Controller*

"Sheri has taken the reigns of a complicated sub and client billing process and made it as efficient as it can be for her."

Emily Gilanyi, RN

Nurse
Hattie Larlham

Nominated by: *Becky Martell MSN,
RN, CMTE, Director of Nursing*

"Emily is a team player who works hard at making sure the needs of the individuals served are not only met but also exceeded."

Brelinda Greer

Enrollment and Matching Specialist
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina, and Stark Counties

Nominated by: *Kyle Putinski,
Executive Director*

"Brelinda has gone above and beyond for our Golf For Kids Sake Fundraiser. Brelinda worked many hours to create unique signage and marketing collateral for Golf For Kids Sake, all while completing her regularly scheduled job activities."

Amber Homan

Tenant Accounting Supervisor
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Nominated by: *Cathy Watson,
Finance Director*

"While it is not easy tracking rent collections for 5,000 units and

dealing with issues from tenants, Amber does so in a manner that appears effortless and she never complains."

Paul Hulglin

Maintenance Worker
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Nominated by: *Jennifer Kollar,
Director of Operations*

"Paul is knowledgeable, helpful and dependable. He has the patience of Job and always has an upbeat disposition."

Kendal Kovacs

Lead Administrative Specialist
Community Support Services

Nominated by: *Doug Wagner,
Director of Administration*

"She regularly receives high marks from her supervisors and team leaders for all aspects of her job, including accuracy, collaboration, communication, dedication to our mission, and over-all positivity."

Stachia Lawson

Home Supervisor
The Blick Center

Nominated by: *Laura Pletcher,
Executive Director*

"Blick's Core Values are—kindness, integrity and commitment. Stachia truly marks her work with all three. She is a committed long term employee, who treats all with kindness and genuine care."



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We recognize Goodwill Industries' efforts to provide workforce development services to individuals throughout the Greater Akron Area. By providing career, employment, and individualized support, we applaud and remember that **Goodwill is more than a thrift store.**



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2023 Employee of Distinction Honorees



Toby Liechty-Clifford

Early Learning Program
Instructional Coach;
Teacher of the Year 2023
Akron Public Schools

Nominated by: *Mary Outley,
Executive Director, Elementary
Education*

“His exemplary leadership qualities inspire and motivate others, creating a collaborative and supportive work environment.”



Amy Marsteller

Reasonable Accommodation
Coordinator
**Akron Metropolitan Housing
Authority**

Nominated by: *Christina Hodgkinson,
Director of Resident Services*

“Amy’s disposition, grace and compassion goes above and beyond anyone I have ever worked with in any industry.”

John Milan

Employer & Community
Engagement Professional
Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates

Nominated by: *Terri Peterman,
Director of Operations*

“John’s infectious positivity and exceptional interpersonal skills have significantly impacted both the Stark staff and the employers he interacts with. John has genuine empathy and a commitment to making a difference.”



Alexus Miller

Resource Sustainability VISTA
**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Summit, Medina, and
Stark Counties**

Nominated by: *Kyle Putinski,
Executive Director*

“Alexus is always willing to pitch in with anything and everything at Big Brothers Big Sisters. From programming, marketing and fund development, Alexus has added value to all areas of the organization that she is involved with.”

Charlotte Morris

Finance Supervisor
The Blick Center

Nominated by: *Laura Pletcher,
Executive Director*

“Everybody loves Charlotte! She is upbeat and has a positive can-do attitude that encourages those around her. Even with multiple work sites, staff always turn to her for guidance, she is a great resource about all things Blick.”



Cheryl Owens

Training Specialist
**Hattie Larlham Center for
Children with Disabilities**

Nominated by: *Faith Folds,
Professional Development Manager*

“Cheryl is always willing to go the extra mile for new employees. She teaches multiple classes per month and is very flexible when a new hire has a specialized schedule.”



Julie Peteya

District Manager
Swensons Drive Ins

Nominated by: *Kelly Wolfe,
Operations Administrator*

“Julie is one of our most tenured employees and has the knowledge of 10 people in her brain. She is our go to person!”



Heidi Phillips

Career Specialist
Jobs for Ohio’s Graduates

Nominated by: *Mike McKinney,
Trumbull County Coordinator*

“Heidi is dedicated to her participants and works diligently with them to ensure they have the necessary skills and resources to remove barriers and develop a positive trajectory.”

Rita Putaturo

Executive Legal Assistant
Brennan Manna & Diamond

Nominated by: *Jeana Singleton,
Member; General Counsel*

“Over our 23 year history Rita has set the bar at a very high level for leadership of our legal assistants and the competence level we strive to hire.”

Christina Rhodes

HR Specialist – Payroll & Benefits
Administration
Community Support Services

Nominated by: *Doug Wagner,
Director of Administration*

“Christina is one of the leaders of CSS’s Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee helping our employees integrate these values into our workplace.”



2023 Employee of Distinction Honorees

Terri Shavers

CCBHC Manager

Community Support Services

Nominated by: *Kim Meals,*
CCBHC Director & Compliance
Officer

“Terri is a hard-working, passionate advocate for CSS’s mission and for our clients. In addition to being a tireless advocate for clients of the agency, Terri provides compassionate and supportive guidance to her staff.”

Kimberly Skelley

Social Work Coordinator

Hattie Larlham

Nominated by: *Dianna Miller,*
Program Director

“Kim has worked with countless families and guardians to assure eligibility and funding for their loved ones to receive both residential and respite services in our ICF program.”

Cassandra Smith

Receptionist

Kastner Westman & Wilkins, LLC

Nominated by: *Jim Wilkins, President*

“Cassandra’s cheerful personality lifts the office atmosphere for all employees and guests in the building with a contagious uplifting spirit.”

Melanie Smith, RN

Nurse Manager

Hattie Larlham

Nominated by: *Shannan Ritchie,*
VP, Business Development
& Chief Strategy Officer

“Melanie loves her work, and her compassion is noticeable to everyone. She is dedicated to the residents and

the staff and is a great teacher.”

Summit County Children Services

Client Rights & Quality Improvement Department

Jennifer Jones

Performance Management
Analyst Researcher

Elizabeth Mangon

Deputy Director, Human
Resources & Training

Jessica Miller

Department Director, Client
Rights & Quality Improvement

Emily Oyler

Coordinator, QI/Developer

Brady Stewart

Coordinator, QI/Developer

Nominated by: *Ann Ream,*
Department Director,
Community Relations

“This team has done an amazing job in making data understandable and applicable to outcomes and agency practice. The LOOP has sparked solution-focused discussions that will ultimately change and enhance the current practice-model for child welfare.”

Sandra Suppan

Outpatient Therapist, Sr. Clinical
Consultant

Child Guidance & Family Solutions

Nominated by: *Cassi Galloway,*
Chief Clinical Officer

“Sandi has demonstrated incredible growth in leadership this year. She has significantly improved our agency’s knowledge and ability to treat adults and transition aged youth.”

Cheryl Todd

Wellbeing Coordinator

Sandridge Crafted Foods

Nominated by: *Dr. Dale Fortner,*
Vice President of People Operations

“Cheryl has made dramatic differences in the lives of our employees, helping them reach their goals, assist with their personal life, and be a beacon of support when some employees have faced their darkest hours.”

Vicki Trettel

Senior Administrative Assistant

Apple Growth Partners

Nominated by: *Susan Burnoski,*
Principal

“Vicki is an amazing resource and is always willing to go above and beyond her normal work duties to help the team.”

Samantha Vetrick

Site Based Specialist

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina, and Stark Counties

Nominated by: *Kyle Putinski,*
Executive Director

“She seeks creative solutions to issues in our programs and goes above and beyond to ensure her matches have a quality experience at Big Brothers Big Sisters.”



Congratulations Employee of Distinction Honorees!

AMHA Board of Directors

Herman L. Hill,

Executive Director

Marco S. Sommerville, Chair

Roberta E. Aber, Vice Chair

John C. Fickes

Thomas L. Harnden

Grace D. Hudson

Congratulations to all the Employees of Distinction

ESPECIALLY OUR NOMINEES:

Kendal Kovacs | Christina Rhodes | Terri Shavers

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**COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
SERVICES**

2023 Employee of Distinction Honorees



Nykia Walker

Accessibility Manager

METRO RTA

Nominated by: *Meagan Greathouse, Mobility Specialist*

“Nykia is the definition of professionalism that strives to make an impact in people’s lives every day by providing them with equitable public transportation access.”



Laura Williams

Director of Construction

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Nominated by: *Herman L. Hill, Executive Director*

“Laura manages multiple, large capital fund budgets and projects with precision, meets deadlines and holds contractors to high standards.”

Kiersten Mayo

Match Support Specialist

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Summit, Medina & Stark Counties

Nominated by: *Karen Mitchell, Program Director*

“She takes her time to understand the processes and actively works to advocate for those on her caseload. She finds appropriate ways of dealing with conflict.”

Kaiya Watauchi

Career Launch Program Coordinator

Akron Children’s Hospital

Nominated by: *Patrice Russell, Director, Workforce Development*

“Kaiya is thorough, a great listener, and detail oriented. He relates with everyone and creates a true sense of community. Everyone can tell how much he cares.”



Judging Guidelines

Choosing a few individuals to receive an Employee of Distinction Award is a challenging responsibility. The panel of judges starts with a group of stellar employees, and then endeavors to find individuals nominated who have distinguished themselves among a truly outstanding group.

To make this difficult choice, Goodwill enlisted the help of area leaders in human resources. Each judge received the submissions



for the honorees, with their names and companies omitted. Judges were then asked to select their top choices based on quality of work, dedication to the business and extraordinary efforts.

Individuals with the highest average rankings receive the Employee of Distinction Awards.

Goodwill congratulates all the honorees and wish each continued success!



Thank You Judges

Bob Chess  Jim Gill  Greg Morton  Angela Oney  Julie Wheeler



The**Blick**Center
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Congratulations to

Stachia Lawson

Employee of Distinction for 9 years!

and

Charlotte Morris

Employee of Distinction for 12 years!

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Congratulations
Cassandra Smith
our Employee of Distinction!

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THE PARTNERS AND STAFF AT BMF
 proudly congratulate each of the


2023 GOODWILL EMPLOYEE OF DISTINCTION
Award Winners and Nominees

The contribution and dedication that you bring
 to your organization is inspirational!

CONGRATULATIONS,
Toby!

**APS 2023 Teacher of the Year
 winner and Goodwill Employee
 of Distinction nominee**

Toby is an exemplary teacher and APS staff member. He is warmly welcomed into every classroom and continues to go above and beyond for his students and peers. We are so proud to have Toby as a part of the APS family.


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Toby Liechty-Clifford
 Early Learning Program (ELP) instructional coach

Welcome, Dr. Robinson!

We're pleased to announce
Dr. Michael Robinson as the
new superintendent of
Akron Public Schools.



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*"The choices you make today, will dictate your destination
for your tomorrow." – Dr. Michael Robinson*

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CONGRATULATIONS!

to all of this year's

*Employee of Distinction
Award Winners &
Honorees*



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DANIEL HARRIGAN, MAYOR





Every day, you prove what being a good neighbor is all about.

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Thank you, Goodwill, for all that you do to help keep Akron moving forward.

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2022 Winners

Congratulations

TO TOP 5 & ALL EMPLOYEE
OF DISTINCTION HONOREES



Elaine Bowen, RD
Hattie Larlham

**Community Support Services,
Homeless Outreach Team:** Zach Brown,
Jennifer Canfield, Tina Clark, Michael
Harhager, Stephanie Hylton, Annaliese
Russell, Carl Slaton and Kay Wirth

Cheryl Richards
Barberton Office, Child
Guidance & Family Solutions

Adam Sharpless
The Blick Center

Richie Stefan
Speedway Mogadore

Sandra & Her Family Turn to Goodwill's Elizabeth Clark Emergency Fund for Help

Making a difference in people's lives takes many forms. Sometimes making a difference comes in literally small ways. A Goodwill Elizabeth Clark Emergency Fund recipient, Sandra, found herself making a difference in three small lives.

Selflessly, and at their own expense, she and her family had taken in three small children. The children needed someone to look after them and understand what they were experiencing. Having three more people to feed and clothe was a drain on their budget, but they were steadfast in their commitment to provide a safe, healthy home environment.

With almost no time to plan or prepare, it was imperative that the children have beds to sleep in. Goodwill's vocational services team member quickly collaborated with the store manager, and that night the children all slept securely in beds of their own. This is just one of the many small ways Goodwill's Elizabeth Clark Emergency fund can make a big difference in someone's life!

The Elizabeth Clark Emergency Fund provides gift cards to individuals and families in crisis. Last year, more than 2,000 individuals and families received assistance with much needed clothing and housewares through this fund.

Proceeds from today's event support Goodwill's Elizabeth Clark Emergency Fund.

On behalf of The 330,
Akron Life magazine says

Thank you & Congratulations

to all of this year's Employee of Distinction Award winners!

In celebration, we're offering everyone subscriptions for

\$1 per issue for 12 months.

Go to akronlife.com/goodwill to get this limited-time offer.



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Community is the commitment we make to each other

When a community is strong, it's more than a collection of streets and buildings. It's a place that nurtures and helps its residents thrive. That's what happens when people share the commitment to make things better together. That's why we're proud to support The Goodwill Industries of Akron, Ohio.



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