

GOODWILL



EACH YEAR, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DONATE ITEMS TO COMMUNITY-BASED GOODWILL ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUING A MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEAR-OLD PROCESS TO ASSIST THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN RECEIVING EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT, TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

THE IDEA OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES WAS BORN IN BOSTON IN 1902 WHEN METHODIST MINISTER REVEREND EDGAR J. HELMS WENT DOOR TO DOOR TO BOSTON'S WEALTHIEST CITIZENS WITH A BURLAP SACK AND ASKED NOT FOR MONEY BUT FOR CLOTHES IN NEED OF REPAIR.

HELMS EMPLOYED PEOPLE FACING CHALLENGERS TO MEND THE CLOTHES FOR A DAILY WAGE. HE THEN SOLD THOSE CLOTHES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE MISSION OF GOODWILL WAS BORN. THROUGH HIS EFFORTS HELMS LEARNED THERE WAS MORE DIGNITY IN RECEIVING A HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT. WHEN PEOPLE LEARN SKILLS TO EARN THEIR OWN PAYCHECKS THEY HAVE THE POWER TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES. HELMS BELIEVED IN GIVING PEOPLE A CHANCE, NOT CHARITY.

GOODWILL HAD GROWN FORM HUMBLE ORIGINS INTO AN INTERNATIONAL, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT, JOB TRAINING SERVICES AND OTHER IMPORTANT SERVICES TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.