



# SPECIAL EDITION: President's announcement of BOB Award

September 2021

Earlier this year, I announced and then requested nominations for the first Annual BOB Award. Bob Adamson was with Goodwill for 25 years and passed away in 2020. He impacted the lives of so many employees through storytelling, listening, mentoring, and caring about Goodwill and its employees in a special way that only Bob could. He loved watching other succeed and grow. Bob made such an impact on this organization that we knew we had to keep his legacy alive. So, an award was created in his honor – The BOB award.

The process of selecting a winner was overwhelming as we received nominations for 23 Goodwill employees, many of whom were nominated multiple times, all who act in the spirit of Bob on a daily basis. The committee had the honor to work with members of Bob's family in determining the winner of this first annual award. In order to be nominated for this award, an employee must have demonstrated excellence in one or more of the categories that embody the things Bob felt were important at Goodwill: Selfless acts at work, bettering oneself and overcoming challenges, extraordinary attitude towards work, lending a helping hand to improve another's life, and living the Goodwill values and embracing Goodwill in many aspects of one's life.

It was a hard decision, but in the end, one candidate stood out. She checked a lot of boxes in the nomination – from her care for others, her desire to improve herself by getting her GED to receive a long sought after

promotion, and then this year becoming the Assistant Manager of the Freeport store. The first recipient of the BOB Award is Michelle Parsons. Her nomination talked about her work in the Future Leaders Program and that she was mentored by Bob. This was touching to the committee as we saw Michelle's successes that followed the Future Leader Program. Michelle has worked hard and her desire to be better and give more to others has led to her professional successes. She leads by example and is beloved by her team. It was my distinct honor and pleasure to give Michelle the first annual BOB Award last week at our recognition event. A picture of Michelle receiving her award is included in this e-mail.

To the other 22 nominees, you have my respect and gratitude for what you do every day. Each of you should have received a letter of recognition for your impressive nomination.

The process of requesting nominations for this award was extended due to COVID and our recognition event being postponed a couple times. We will seek nominations again in 2022 – on a timeline to be determined based on when we feel we will be able to do our 2022 recognition event.

Thank you to Michelle, our nominators, our nominees, the BOB Committee, and Bob's family for the various roles played in making the first annual BOB Award a memorable and successful event.



**Left:** President Ben Bernsten presenting Michelle with award.  
**Below:** Bob Adamson's wife Shirley along with family and friends of Bob.  
**Right:** Michelle's reaction after realizing she was the recipient.





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September 15th was an exciting day, as it was the opportunity to honor employees that contribute to what makes this organization so special at our Annual Recognition Dinner. The evening marked the seventh year of hosting the program. Sadly, COVID deprived us of the celebration in 2020. While we recognized those employees in person last year we wanted to still include them in the dinner. Thirty-two honorees from 2020 and 2021 were present to be honored. These employees exemplify our

values every date.

Finally we debuted our first ever BOB Award as highlighted in the previous page.

Great company and food filled the tent at Klehm Arboretum as our employees, in the presence of their guest and colleagues, were recognized in an event that we were so grateful to be able to host. We look forward to recognizing more employees in the coming years.

Congratulations, honorees!





## 5 Year Anniversaries

### MISSION &

### ADMINISTRATION

Brooke Henderson

Toni Morgan

### BELOIT

Noah Olivas

Kimberly Roehl

Brandy Smith

### CRYSTAL LAKE

Monica Anaya

Brandon Jameson

### DeKALB

Brandon Jameson

### E-Commerce

James Cohlmeier

Jessica Erdman

Dawn Johnson

Cameron Larsen

Autumn Rather

Nancie Vaughan

### FREEPORT

Adam Clark

### HUNTLEY

Donna Proffitt

Lisa Taylor

### MACHESNEY PARK

Angelia Craig

### McHENRY

Charneice Burns

Sydney Jacobs

Deborah Loporchio

Daniela Zamarripa

### OTTAWA

Emily Brandt

Janice Davis

Patricia Haag

Ashley Hanson

Stephanie Kosteba

Corrine Throneburg

### ROCKFORD

Leopoldo De La Mora

### STERLING

Bonnie Boucher

Samantha Fletcher

Armando Garnica

Susan Kinnaman

### WAREHOUSE

Nicodemus Arnold

Jimmy Fricks

James Williams

## Wall of Fame Honorees

Ramona DeSantis

Dana Flores

Gina Koepke

Katrina Lisk

Colin Sansonetti

Christian Tinajero

## 10 Year Anniversaries

Michele Mayfield—Beloit

Randall Johnson—Crystal Lake

Ruth Shaw—Crystal Lake

Ginnie Weckerly—Human Resources

Patricia Rychlik—Huntley

Paula Rogers—McHenry

Shane Printz—Mission Services

Rachael Spence—Ottawa

Jeffery Aquino—Retail

Kathleen Gorman—Retail

David Ford—Sterling

## 15 Year Anniversaries

Jennifer Howard—ADC

Courtney Geiger—Mission Services

## 25 Year Anniversaries

Darlene Foster—Rockford