

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SUMMIT COUNTY “EMPLOYEES OF DISTINCTION” REVEALED AT LUNCHEON** 43 NOMINEES RECOGNIZED AND 5 AWARDED WITH HIGHEST HONOR

**AKRON, Ohio—September 14, 2009—**Forty-three outstanding employees from Summit County were recognized and five individuals were revealed as winners of the “Employee of Distinction Award” at the 8th Annual Employee of Distinction Luncheon hosted by Goodwill Industries on September 9 at Guy’s Party Centre.

Congratulations to the 2009 Summit County Employee of Distinction Award Winners:

#### **Paul Howiler, Inventory Clerk, ASW Global**

*Paul’s innovative ideas help maintain a better work environment, and he is always willing to “pitch in” and help others outside of his job description of tracking deliveries and controlling inventory. Paul has a good heart and has helped with many “needy” programs, and he is a generous neighbor and friend. Along with some neighbors, he helps five elderly families on a fixed income by doing repairs such as electrical work, roofing, carpentry repair and yard work. The hard work and dedication he brings to work is the same way he lives his life.*

#### **Mary Lou Jyurovat, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services**

*Mary Lou gives 110% to her job every day. She has a gift – she can get practically any client to work with her, even the most difficult clients! She is open and honest with them and lets them know she values her working relationship with them. The level of compassion and support she shows to her clients is beyond the call of duty. She works with teens who most people give up on. Mary Lou gives them hope and encouragement that inspires them to better themselves.*

#### **Tammy Luhning, Caseworker, Summit County Children Services**

*Tammy is an excellent example of working with multiple systems and entities on behalf of the best interests of her clients. She works hard to ensure that all of her children are seen each month. She is extremely organized and thorough and takes care to exhaust all avenues to assist her clients. She worked on behalf of a client who is in custody to engage the client’s older birth sibling. She assisted in the sibling in obtaining housing to accommodate her sister and even picked the sibling up and drove her an hour away to visit her in a residential treatment facility. Once the adult sister had obtained housing, she borrowed her neighbor’s truck, took furniture and other household items, along with donated items, and delivered the items to the sister. Tammy and her 10-year-old daughter unloaded furniture by themselves on a weekday evening after work.*

#### **Jackie Pritchard, Database Administrator, United Way of Summit County**

*Jackie is recognized as one of the organization’s user “experts” for its campaign database, and routinely upgrades, trains and teases performance out of equipment that was never thought possible. With over 34,000*

*names to manage, her efficiency and accuracy are responsible for producing the means for more resources for community programs, and helps donors feel delighted with their giving experience. For over 25 years, Jackie has had to reinvent herself as new iterations of hardware and software have been acquired and implemented to keep our technology ahead of the curve.*

### **Joanne Waters, Administrative Assistant, American Red Cross of Summit and Portage Counties**

*Joanne works in the Department of Program and Services, supporting staff members who handle all programs – everything from disasters to aquatics, from CPR to medical transportation. No matter how hectic the day may be, she greets everyone with a smile and a wealth of patience, even for the most challenging customers. She volunteered to be the chief cook and organizer for the community dinners that are held every Sunday, when 200 people come for a free, hot meal. She gives up precious weekend time to see people who have no other means to get a hot, nutritious meal can share food and fellowship. Once the meal is served, Joanne welcomes newcomers and greets regulars as old friends.*

The luncheon is an employee recognition event for Summit County where stellar employees (from Summit County employers) are recognized for their efforts. Nominations were reviewed based on Quality of Work; Dedication to the Business; and Extraordinary Efforts. Individuals with the highest average rankings received an "Employee of Distinction Award," and the winners were kept a surprise and revealed at the luncheon.

At the luncheon, emcee and radio personality Sandra Miller from 97.5 WONE read highlights from each of the 43 nominees' nomination forms as they received a certificate commemorating their nomination and two free tickets to a performance at Akron's historic Civic Theater. In addition, the five winners were given an engraved Bulova clock from Shulan's Jewelers.

The luncheon also featured a keynote address by Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry, titled "The Growing Need for Collaboration in Uncertain Economic Times." Pry engaged the audience in a thought-provoking discussion on the importance of future collaboration in today's economy and share successes of past collaborations.

"We are truly inspired by the nominees' work ethic and dedication. They are all such wonderful role models for their co-workers and all those around them. Goodwill is pleased to once again help Summit County employers showcase their top-performers and their Shining Stars," said Nancy Ellis McClenaghan, Goodwill President & CEO.

### **2009 Summit County Goodwill Industries Employee of Distinction Nominees & Award Winners**

1. Jackie Abrams-Rodkey, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services
2. Leanne Beavers, BSN, R.N., Director of Nursing, Barberton Health District
3. Pat Bond, Licensed Practical Nurse, Cambridge Home Health Care
4. Lynne Brady, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services
5. Lauren Clark, Intake Social Worker, Summit County Children Services
6. Mary Crew, Café Manager, Hattie Larlham
7. Victoria Diamond, Visitation Program - Social Service Aide, Summit County Children Services
8. Rick Hardesty, Facilities Associate, Hana Microdisplay Technologies, Inc.
9. Jennifer Hertzog, Marketing Coordinator, BCG & Company
10. Lindsey Hindel, Greeter, City of Tallmadge Recreation Center
11. Paul Howiler, Inventory Clerk, ASW Global **\*\*AWARD WINNER\*\***
12. Rodney Hunt, Executive Chef, Robert J. Events & Catering
13. Shirley Josett, Site Specialist at Twinsburg Senior Center, Mobile Meals, Inc.
14. Mary Lou Jyurovat, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services **\*\*AWARD WINNER\*\***

15. Andrea Kidder-Leek, Senior Employment Counselor, Summit County Youth Employment for Success
16. Ann Kramer, Legal Secretary, Roetzel & Andress
17. Jeanette Laser, Registered Nurse, Cambridge Home Health Care
18. Paul Leibold, Verifier/Zoner, ASW Global
19. Peggy Long, Registered Nurse, Cambridge Home Health Care
20. Tammy Luhning, Caseworker, Summit County Children Services **\*\*AWARD WINNER\*\***
21. Cindy Mitchell, Tax Supervisor, Bober, Markey, Fedorovich
22. Marion Mitchell-Atkins, Senior Care Specialist/Home Health Aide, Cambridge Home Health Care
23. Lon Monday, Shear Crane Operator, City Scrap & Salvage Co.
24. Jennifer Nichols, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services
25. Margaret Nicolino-Cargill, Director of Operations, Robert J. Events & Catering
26. Lynn Palmer, Account Service Representative, EASE@WORK – Center for Families & Children
27. Susan Paserba, Vice President of Sales, McKay Insurance Agency, Inc.
28. Emil Patrascu, Programmer/Analyst, ASW Global
29. Kathy Predieri, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services
30. Jackie Pritchard, Database Administrator, United Way of Summit County **\*\*AWARD WINNER\*\***
31. Katherine Salzman, Home Health Aide, Cambridge Home Health Care
32. Marsha Schofield, Program Director - Access to Care, Healthy Connections Network
33. Ann Shuki, Registered Nurse, Cambridge Home Health Care
34. Kathy Snavelly, Office Assistant, The Village of Lakemore
35. Renee Stephens, Home Health Aide, Cambridge Home Health Care
36. Toree Stokes, Executive Director, Mustard Seed Development Center
37. Gene Taylor, Job Foreman, The Village of Lakemore
38. Joanne Waters, Administrative Assistant, American Red Cross of Summit and Portage Counties  
**\*\*AWARD WINNER\*\***
39. Gale Williams, Financial Center Manager, Fifth Third Bank
40. Larry Wix, Laborer, The Village of Lakemore
41. Michelle Woodard, Administrative Assistant, ASW Global
42. Michael Young, Protective Services Social Worker, Summit County Children Services
43. Denise Zechman, Caseworker, Summit County Children Services

### **About Goodwill Industries**

Goodwill Industries of Akron is a not-for-profit corporation that helps individuals prepare for, find, and retain employment. Operating in the five-county region of Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland, and Richland, the Akron-based agency was established in 1927. It is a private, independent organization, operating as an affiliate member of Goodwill Industries International, and a United Way agency in Summit and Medina Counties. Goodwill helps to directly strengthen the region's workforce through its employment programs and indirectly through the net proceeds from its retail outlets and contract services division. For more information about Goodwill, visit [www.goodwillakron.org](http://www.goodwillakron.org) or call 800-989-8428. ###