

# Learn About...

## Passages Program

### What is the Program?

The Passages program focuses on *Providing Autism Support Services to Achieve Gainful Employment*. Goodwill provides assessment, job readiness, job search activities, and job placement and support to the individuals. Subjects include resume and interviewing skills, as well as appropriate social skills to get and keep a job! Individuals are also given the opportunity to put their new skills into practice in actual social interactions at work, mock interviews, and work tasks.

### Who Does the Program Serve?

Services are provided to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder who have a goal of obtaining competitive employment. Passages is currently serving eight individuals who were referred through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and have completed the Job Readiness portion of the program. Other individuals are waiting to be served with the new class in November. Goodwill is also preparing to serve individuals from other sources such as the Bureau of Autism Services or private individuals.

### How Does the Program Benefit Participants and the Community?

The Passages program wants to help adults with Autism gain competitive employment by teaching the following skills: Understanding Environment Demands, Mechanics of Social Interaction, Understanding Work Culture, Adapting to Organizational Demands, Utilizing Alternate Ways of Expression and Behavior, Self Advocacy Skills, Self and Time Management, Adapting to Hiring Practices, Creating or Modifying Resumes, and Interviewing Skills. Obtaining and maintaining competitive employment can improve the quality of life for the individual and for his or her family and surrounding community!

### A Personal Story:

Donald is a quiet, pleasant, 29-year old with a desire to work, but little opportunity and exposure to do so. He is a high-school graduate, and has completed several college courses with an undeclared major. Donald entered the Passages program unsure of his overall goals, interests, and abilities, but has shown tremendous growth in many areas. At the completion of the class portion of the program, Donald participated in work experiences with two different administrative assistants within Goodwill. Donald looked professional, wearing business casual attire which he had learned about in job readiness classes. Donald recently communicated effectively on a phone screening with a potential employment recruiter, and is now preparing for an upcoming interview!



### Special Program Accomplishments:

One of the most rewarding aspects of the program is seeing individuals develop and enhance their social awareness and skills. A young lady took “confidence walks” to improve her confidence and posture. Another young man was initially quite withdrawn, but by the end of the program was able to eloquently describe the program to interested parties. Little victories and accomplishments are seen as each individual works on his or her own passage from one stage of life to another.