



# Goodwill News – June 2021

Dear Friends and Partners:

We have been separated for the better part of 15 months now, and with the end of that isolation in our sights, we wanted to share some of our news and update you on recent events at Goodwill Amity.

## Not-for-Profit of the Year in Outstanding Business Achievement Awards

The month of June began with the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Business Achievement Awards and we were thrilled to be the winner in the Not-for-Profit category. Criteria for the award included demonstrated innovation, entrepreneurship, and strong employee and community relations. To read about all the winners visit the link below. ■

### Awards Announcement



*WINNER OF: NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION AWARD*

# Growing our Mission and Impact

## Employment Services

has been recognized as an essential service throughout the pandemic, so we have continued to serve job seekers and employers, though only virtually during lockdowns and with virtual and in-person options when possible.

In addition to our ongoing funding to provide free Employment Services that help people enter or re-enter the workforce and employers hire the talent they need, we are pleased to be expanding our Skills Advance Ontario program, which provides hands-on skills training in food manufacturing, into Halton as well as continuing to offer it in Hamilton. If you know anyone looking to explore this career path, or if you are an employer seeking job-ready candidates, more information can be found at the link below.

[\*\*Skills Advance Ontario\*\*](#)

**Stairways**, our food service division, has, of course, experienced a dramatic decline in café and catering business during the pandemic. With funding from the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Community Foundation, and the United Way Halton and Hamilton we were able to transition our industrial kitchen to provide boxed lunches for those experiencing food insecurity at this time.

In partnership with St. Matthew's House, CityHousing Hamilton, and St. Patrick's DeMazenod Door street outreach program, we had provided over **25,000 lunches** by the end of March.



**HAMILTON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

 **Hamilton**



**United Way  
Halton & Hamilton**

*continued on page 2*

We are grateful now to have received **Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities** funding to make capital improvements to our industrial kitchen that will enable us to provide hot meals – 550 a week for a year – as well as provide 70 microwaves to

recipients who wouldn't otherwise be able to reheat their meals. This project will also enable us to train job seekers on hot meal preparation, kitchen health and safety, and packaging – skills that will give them a leg up when they seek community employment.



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**Making a Difference**

*Our work is made possible through the support of our funders and supporters. If you would like to contribute to helping people get back to work or to addressing food insecurity, please consider donating at the link below.*

**Donate Goodwill**

**Our Goodwill stores in Burlington and Oakville are now open again** and we have thousands of treasures to be found. As curbside has been permitted for most of the last 15 months, we have gratefully accepted donations throughout the

pandemic – and everyone has been home cleaning out closets! That wealth of donations translated into 4.65 million pounds of textiles and other goods that have been reused, recycled, or repurposed through Goodwill over the last year! ■



# New and Accessible Website

The links above are all within our brand new website, just launching this week. In addition to being more welcoming, modern, mobile-first, and user-friendly, the new site is accessible to people with disabilities exceeding both AODA and WCAG 2.0 standards and includes the ability to view the content in a range of languages. Please check it out at

[www.goodwillonline.ca](http://www.goodwillonline.ca)

We'd love your feedback! ■



# Board of Directors Announcement

At our AGM on June 9 Indira Naidoo-Harris was elected to a first term on the Goodwill Amity Board and Linda Nazareth was re-elected to a second term.



**Indira Naidoo-Harris** is currently serving as the Associate Vice-President of Diversity and Human Rights at the University of Guelph. She is a former MPP for Halton and has held several cabinet posts, including Ontario's first ever Minister of the Status of Women. Before entering politics, she was an award-winning journalist.



**Linda Nazareth** is an economist, broadcaster, consultant, and speaker. She is a Senior Fellow for Economics and Population Change at the MacDonald Laurier Institute and a *Globe and Mail* columnist on economics and the labour market. She is also the author of four books including *Work is Not a Place* and the host of the podcast *Work and the Future*.



**Andrea Donlan** was re-appointed Chair of the Board. Andrea is currently Vice President at MacMillan Vantage Policy, engaged in public affairs and strategic communications with a particular focus on corporate purpose and social impact.



**Glen Norton** was re-appointed Vice-Chair. Glen retired in February 2020 from his position as Director, Economic Development at the City of Hamilton and worked in commercial banking earlier in his career. Glen has volunteered with many community organizations including the United Way.

To read the full announcement and see bios of all Directors visit the link below. ■

[Board Announcement](#)

## Annual Report

Our interactive, digital Annual Report for the fiscal year 2020/2021 is now available at the link below. Please check out our activities and impacts and the ways we both continued and shifted our operations during the pandemic.

There may be some familiar faces in the many, though modified, ways we marked our 85th anniversary last year, profiled in the Annual Report.

Our funders, sponsors, donors, and community partners are acknowledged for their invaluable support in an unprecedented time. ■

[Annual Report](#)

# A Hope for Healing

While we have a lot to celebrate, we know how many people are struggling even as the end of the pandemic seems to be in sight. We keep in our thoughts those whose health, mental health, employment, families, education, and social connections have all been impacted during COVID.

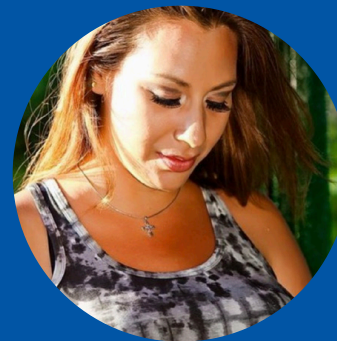
As everyone has been, we have also been shaken by horrific events, including the killing of four members of a Muslim family in London and the confirmation that 215 young lives ended at the Kamloops residential school.



**Burlington Indigenous artist Amber Jane Ruthart is creating an art installation, A Hope for Healing, which will be displayed at Spencer Smith Park June 19 to 21.**

With full but heavy hearts, we will be providing many of the 215 children's shoes and red and green children's clothing from our Goodwill stores that Amber will use in her installation, which will include a strawberry.

These tragedies and the pandemic call us to redouble our efforts to support each other and do everything in our power to effect a just, equitable, and inclusive recovery. ■



**Amber Jane Ruthart**  
*Burlington Indigenous Artist*

*Amber writes*

*“June is the sixth month which is the strawberry moon, the moon of healing. The strawberry itself has a very important role in Indigenous teachings because it resembles a heart when cut open. The strawberry is a symbol of healing.”*

We'll keep in touch. Warm regards and stay safe,

**Kelly Duffin**  
*President and CEO*