

To the Goodwill Team,

This year has been a period of change at Goodwill of Western & Northern Connecticut. For nearly three months our stores have been closed, our career centers reoriented to a virtual format, and our Human Services seriously challenged - all from proactive measures to the pandemic. I am so thankful to our entire team for your flexibility, patience, and loyalty during these trying times. As of June 1, all of our stores have reopened, and I had a great chance to meet many of you during the openings of the 21 stores. While we celebrate the return of some team members, we still wait for others from our Career Centers and Human Services teams until more guidelines are presented from the State.

But, I want to take a minute to recognize the unrest around the country due to racial injustice. The outrage following the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, is bringing a long-overdue conversation to all of us. It is important to me to recognize that Goodwill wants to be a part of that conversation.

We are a diverse group of team members – more than 50% of us are people of color, and we serve a diverse group of people as well. This means that what is happening around the country affects us all - the people we work with, the people we work for, and the people we care about.

I encourage all our team members to participate in the dialogue. I am asking that we all assess our current position within this organization and speak openly with managers and supervisors about ways Goodwill can advance the conversation. How can you, we, be an ally for racial equity here at Goodwill?

To assist in moving us forward, I have tasked our External Affairs Team with the next steps of reaching out to Directors and Managers across our organization. With your help, our organization can be an ally for our colleagues, their families, and the communities of color we serve.

Thank you for being an important part of Goodwill.



Jeff Wieser
Interim President