Perseverance Pays Off

LaTanya Powers

When LaTanya Powers applies for jobs, she is often told she is over-qualified. LaTanya has a master’s degree and plenty of marketable skills. She is also part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. “That’s one of the reasons why it was hard for me to find a good paying job,” she said.

LaTanya has a master’s degree in Information Technology with an emphasis in website design, and a bachelor’s degree in Information Technology, multimedia and visual communications. She has advanced skills, including coding and website development. She is bilingual in English and American Sign Language. “It was frustrating and I felt bad when I couldn’t find work, especially when I know I have the skills, education, experience and knowledge,” she said.

She learned about Goodwill SoCal’s career services in Victorville from the Department of Rehabilitation. Goodwill staff helped her with her job hunt, from creating a compelling resume to locating suitable job openings and providing interview accommodations. “I was informed that it was a little harder to place me because I have both hard and soft skills, a lot of education, knowledge and my disability,” she said.

“The training center helped me with providing interpreters for my interviews,” she said. “That was the hardest part for me, trying to understand all of the members of the interview panel.”

Her perseverance paid off. In August, LaTanya relocated with her two sons to Chula Vista, where she is the IT/Web Communications Specialist for the Chula Vista Elementary School District. “I handle the main website, 48 schools’ websites, social media, and school messenger,” she said.

She has plenty of dreams for the future. “I love education. I would like to obtain my doctorate degree,” she said. “I have always wanted to be a teacher, so maybe faculty or professor at a college part-time. I look forward to being able to own my own house.”

She is grateful for the help she found at Goodwill in Victorville. “I would recommend Goodwill to others to help them get a step up.”

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The Fabric Of Our Community

In partnership with the American Sewing Guild (Los Angeles), Darren “Drx” Romanelli, artist Spencer Lewis and the Dream Crew, Goodwill Southern California has participated in a unique art-making collaboration. Using unsold clothing donated to our stores, the sewists constructed one-of-a-kind canvases for Lewis to use in his large-scale paintings.

Each canvas tells a story of charity, creativity and the inspiration of imaginative reuse of everyday items. Pictured here is a preview of the artwork as it is prepared for framing. The artworks will be on view at Goodwill Southern California in the near future.

Learn more at DoGoodwill.com.