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If you do choose to drop off items in one of these bins, please research the company listed on the bin. New laws have been put in to place to protect you, the donor, from falling prey to the scam of nonprofit bins that are actually fronts for for-profit businesses. Unlike Goodwill Manasota, not all thrift stores are nonprofits. It's always a good idea to check out charity-rating agencies such as Charity Navigator and GuideStar, as they list the legitimacy of the organization.

At Goodwill Manasota, we believe in the pride and self-worth that comes through work, and we are honored to utilize donations of clothing and household items in order to enable individuals with challenges so they can achieve self-sufficiency. We appreciate our donors and supporters, because you help us change lives through the power of work.

**Goodwill**  
MANASOTA

For more information about donations, or to learn more about our programs and services, visit us online.

## SRQ Story Project THINK BEFORE YOU DONATE

MEDIA THAT ENGAGES AND TRANSFORMS

When people in Sarasota decide to give back to the community, they are faced with a challenge: with more than 2,500 local non-profit organizations to choose from, residents certainly have a myriad of questions that they want answered. Which organization do you choose? Who actually gives back to the community, or the cause they claim to help? At Goodwill Manasota, we hear the same questions every year around this time. Who owns Goodwill? When you donate items to Goodwill, and we sell them, where does that money go? Are we really a non-profit organization? We welcome questions, because we want you to be informed and research before you give back. If you're taking the time to donate your unwanted items, your time, money or resources, you should feel confident that the organization you trust is putting your donations to good use.

Goodwill is an industry-leading, 501 (c)(3), not-for-profit organization with the mission of changing lives through the power of work. We sell donated goods, and that revenue, along with

philanthropic donations, goes directly towards programs and services developed that help assist people with disabilities and barriers to employment. We provide job skills training and employment opportunities to employees and people in the community for free, and that is only possible because of shoppers and donors.

We like to say, "When you shop and donate to Goodwill, you help us place people in jobs," and that's completely true. Our mission is employment – we believe that opportunities for success in life stems from having, and keeping, a job. We provide our employees with countless opportunities to help them use employment at Goodwill as a springboard – leading them to bigger and better things. We also provide free job services and one-on-one case management, through our Job Connection offices – and that is available to everyone, regardless of how much, or how little, education you have. Employees at Goodwill Manasota are paid above minimum wage, and this is especially true for employees who

are part of our Supported JobsPlus (SJP) Program. These participants typically have some type of disability, whether it's a mobility or visual impairment, mental or physical disability, and we cater the job to their needs. This past year, we reached a milestone of 100 jobs created for this program, and we are continuing to find innovative ways to prove that everyone deserves a job. In 2014, Goodwill Manasota invested 17,000 hours of education and training, and that is all because of our commitment to self-improvement.

It is important for people in our community to understand that because Goodwill Manasota is a non-profit organization and it is not owned by anyone. There is a rumor that a man named Mark owns Goodwill, makes \$3 billion a year, and owns three speedboats, two jets, and lives in Miami. We've never met Mark, and we certainly don't own any speedboats! Goodwill Manasota belongs to you, the community. The President and CEO of Goodwill Manasota is Bob Rosinsky, who lives in our community and reports to a Board of Directors who also all live and work right here in this community. Through the dedicated leadership of our Board of Directors, and our President and CEO, decisions are made that improve our reach and our impact in the community, and our numbers prove it.