



Take the  
**Wheel...**



**Positioned for Success**

## Patricia Summers: *In the driver's seat*

Patricia Summers knows what it's like to live without direction. She knows what it's like to be facing the enormous challenge of rebuilding a life from the ground up.

And more than two years ago, she knew to come to Goodwill for help, to get her bearings, and get back on the right road.

Patricia is a graduate of Goodwill's Parent Employment Program (PEP), and by working with case manager Randy Tisdale, she found her way.

"Randy talked with me and helped me see that there's a different way of life," Patricia said in a recent phone interview. "He believed in me, even before I believed in myself."

Patricia said, "I was out of work for two-and-a-half years because of my addiction." Through her work at Goodwill, and the help of Goodwill programs, Patricia found a job at the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA), and now works there 30 hours per week.

She has also recently completed her training, and is now a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist. She's had several public speaking engagements over

the past year, including at United Way and Horizon Goodwill Industries events. Patricia earned the "Graduate of the Year" award of Horizon Goodwill Industries in 2013.

While many of us might cringe at the thought of public speaking, Patricia sees it as an opportunity. "Public speaking is an honor and a privilege," she said. "I hope to help someone else by telling my story. Anyone can change."

Patricia's 12-yr-old daughter also has benefitted from her mother's commitment to recovery.

"She's had to fend for herself during my addiction," Patricia said. "But she's also lived my recovery. Academically, she's doing excellent, all A's and B's."

Goodwill assisted Patricia in getting her daughter involved in Girls, Inc., which has been helpful in providing structure.

Of her life the past couple of years, Patricia says, "Slowly but surely everything was changing, which can be frightening at times." But, she says, through the support she's received from Goodwill, her church, and others, she's determined to continue this healthier journey of recovery, accomplishment, and providing direction for others.



**"It is time for all of us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever — the one who recognizes the challenges and does something about it."**

**— Vince Lombardi**

