A tribute to Joy

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Goodwin’s longest-serving leader, Joy Goodenough, passed away at the age of 85. She began attending events with her mother when she was a young girl and has remained one of our organization’s cause-related contributors through her lifetime.

Joy became a member in 1959 and began the beloved Katherine B. Friele Circle. Over the years, she introduced many of her cherished friends and neighbors to the organization. A consummate leader, she would often mentor other women, who pursued her dreams—and that I was able to accomplish them.

For my sons, their education is really important. I never had easy access to education, and I think it opens doors like nothing else does. I want them to go to school and learn and socialize with other kids, and then have the opportunity to work or do my homework and my son gets to go to school and have that support. And now, with the support from Goodwin, it has been tough at times, but my husband is a huge help and he brings that back and teaches his little brother. It’s a big peace of mind to me and my husband.

Joy was sooo fun! She was my mentor during my time as the Board President. Every Christmas, she would take me out to tea. We loved to have time to celebrate our friendship.”

Carolyn Baker, past Board President

Our student parents inspire us every single day. Each year, 96% of student parents in our program stay on track to graduation. Their personal courage and love for their children matched with their persistence and resourcefulness keep them focused on building brighter futures for their families.

Twice a year, we welcome new student parents into our program, and every quarter, we address parents graduating college and embark on their new careers. The coordinated staff and team of our program keeps us in a positive forward motion—welcoming new families and celebrating the triumphs of our pilots as they finish their degrees and land new jobs. Throughout the 2021 calendar year:

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{33 students graduated and launched new careers} \\
\text{88 student parents made progress towards their goal of earning a degree} \\
\text{165 children got a great start to their educational journeys}
\end{align*} \]

We are often asked, “How do student parents do it all?” The truth is, each one possesses a unique skill-set and determination that contributes to their success. To get a sense of what drives them, we ask our parents as they enter our program: “What are your strengths?” Here’s how some parents see themselves in their words...

Strength in their words

Our Program

D vaccine academically, Goodwin’s program supported, or average

2020-21 By the numbers

Dynamic Board Presidents

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Dear Friends of Goodwin Connections,

This year’s Impact Report is more than just a review of our last fiscal year—it’s a milestone and reflection of what this organization has come to mean in the 115 years it’s been serving the greater Seattle community. In addition to our legacy of always helping families get ahead, we’ve become a vital community resource, supporting our essential workforce of childcare providers who nurture and care for our young ones, and connecting parents to local colleges and universities that open doors to all of higher education’s possibilities.

Goodwin exists today because of the power of human connection. Our organization began in 1907 as a way for women to come together to make a difference. Women gathered in giving circles, forming brands that have lasted for decades. And through those many meetings and conversations, they have been able to work towards change and progress to meet the emerging needs of the community.

As we celebrate our 115th year, I ask you to reflect fondly on the networks you have built and the connections you have made—and how they’ve sparked the next great thing, either for you or the person on the receiving end.

This organization has faced challenges and navigated turning points for over a century. Now, if the pandemic has given us anything, it’s the opportunity to be even more flexible in learning to meet student parents where they are and support them in where they want to go.

Prospective changes in childcare policies at national and local levels may bring Goodwin and our partner agencies to a new juncture. As we arrive at a clearer picture of how we’ll be impacted, we’re taking steps to ensure Goodwin Connections offers valuable, life-changing connections and support for student parents. And, as we look to our organization’s future, we feel strongly considering what our program’s next best connection point will be. We expect that as our families and economy recover from the pandemic, we will extend our impact in ways that carry on beyond graduation day and help build parents’ social capital and career prospects.

More to come soon. For now, we remain grateful for the outsourcing of support you continue to show Goodwin and our student parents and their children. As an organization with a lot of history under its’ belt, we know that change can take time. And, we also know from experience that when it’s time to change, we’ll be there for our families in the ways they need it most.

Wishing many heartfelt connections for you in the New Year,
Maggie Skinner
Executive Director

Meet Elena: Thanks for support from her loving family and the Goodwin community, Elena is on her way to achieving her dream career in construction management. It’s a journey she started years ago, in her home country of Colombia, and is now within reach as she looks to complete her associate degree in Spring 2022.

We sat down with Elena to learn more about her journey so far and what’s on the horizon.

Goodwin Connections: Thank you so much for taking time to chat with us—we know you’ve got a lot going on and you are really involved with everything you’re doing. What originally motivated you to go back to school as a mom?

Elena: When I was growing up in Colombia, my mom was a teacher. I always loved to learn, so I knew when I would want to have a career. I tried many times, but I was never able to finish—so didn’t have the same opportunities in Colombia that we have here in the United States. Then, when my first child arrived, I changed my life, my personality, and my perspective of the world. I feel a responsibility to be the best person I can be, to be an example for my sons. They make me want to be a better person every day.

Elena: When I came to the U.S. as an adult in 2015, I had to start everything over again for my new life. I went back to school hoping it would take me back to where I was in Colombia, but now I realize that I need to be stronger, and I do not want to rely on my family. This is why I decided to study energy management.

I chose my concentration as Sustainable Power Systems. I truly believe my GPA was because of this program. Having the childcare stipend helped make it possible for my toddler to be in childcare full time and that gave me the time to focus on my studies and self-care, so really, THANK YOU!!!

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Maggie Skinner, Executive Director

Board Members, as of December 2021

Terry Dessert, President
Yvonne Hunoch, Vice President
Brooke Van Eyk, Secretary
Caroly Banks, Treasurer
Bill Benchum
Robyn Duckett
Vicky Gannon
Melissa Lewis
Aroni Nadkarni
Annabel Quintana
Rocky Torres
Cheri Zehner

Visit our website, GoodwinConnections.org/supporters, to download our 2019-2020 Impact Report and 2020-21 Impact Report sing!

“Thank you, Goodwin Connections, for all you do and the love throughout this journey. Thank you for the support you provided throughout the year, all the cards, and for all the support from all of you. I can see that you are one of the best resources and I am able to continue my studies and be a better person.”

Cindy, Nonprofit Fundraising

“I am so grateful because you believed in me and when I didn’t. It’s amazing that people like you all exist and whelp other students to achieve their dreams and keep going, and now I want to work at a college helping immigrants and people just like me.”

Teresa, Social Work, Everett Community College in Snohomish County

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