

## **Mother of Groom on a Budget** **Finding the Perfect Dress for the Wedding**

For Ann Pasquariello, the search for the perfect dress to wear to her son's wedding had been exhausting. She didn't want to spend a lot for her dress because her husband had been unemployed for a number of months and they had the expense of the rehearsal dinner to plan for.

"I had a hard time with the thought of spending several hundreds of dollars for a dress," she said.

And then she stopped in at her local GCF Donation Center & Store®. It took two thorough searches through the racks of dresses before she found one that she wanted to try on.

"The dress seemed to fit well, so I checked out with my favorite cashier. I knew by her look, when she saw the dress, that I had made a good choice," she explained.

"The bodice of the dress was not lying flat to my chest," she continued, "so I purchased a narrow ruffle to fill the space."

Her seamstress added the ruffle and suggested that she also add a ruffle to the bottom of the dress. After some consideration, Ann agreed and the result, she said, was gorgeous. To complete her outfit, she once again ventured out to two different GCF Donation Centers & Stores where she found a black shawl in one and a white shawl in the other. She had her seamstress sew them together to make a two-sided shawl that was the perfect accompaniment to the dress.

"Never would I have imagined that I would wear one of the most elegant gowns at the wedding," she said. "My son, the groom, also loved how I looked. He had an unending smile on his wedding day because of my absolutely beautiful GCF Donation Center & Store® find and, of course, because of his gorgeous bride."

"I have been shopping at Goodwill for the past eight years, and I am truly one of the luckiest and happiest customers!"



*Ann and her son Nick, the groom*

The

# GCF

Goodwill Community Foundation  
Spring 2011

# Report™



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Mother of the groom finds the perfect dress at her local GCF Donation Center & Store.

## **GCF Donation Center & Store®** **New Location Coming To Leland In Late Spring**

The first of many new GCF Donation Centers & Stores scheduled to open in 2011 is nearing completion. Located in Leland, the store will begin operations on May 12 with a grand opening scheduled for 10 a.m. This is the first GCF Donation Center & Store® to be located in Brunswick County and residents in Leland have let us know that they are happy to have us.

"We are looking forward to serving the people of Brunswick County with this new store," said Dennis McLain, president of Goodwill Industries of Eastern North Carolina. "We are proud to have the opportunity to provide good, well paying jobs to people who live in this area."

Other areas in eastern North Carolina watching for new GCF Donation Centers & Stores include Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Garner and Holly Springs. No dates have been set yet for any of those openings.



*Making progress on construction of the new Leland store.*



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## **Talk to us ...**

It is a great pleasure to bring you our newsletter and to keep you updated with what is happening at the Goodwill Community Foundation. If you have questions or comments about our programs or if you would rather not receive the GCF Report, please call (919) 941-9600.

## **Our Mission...**

*To create and provide education, employment and life enrichment opportunities for people who desire to improve the quality of their lives.*



# Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina Benefits Year Round from Donations of Produce from the Nature Center

By the end of February 2011, the GCF Nature Center had already donated over 550 pounds of fresh produce to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. That’s over 400 pounds more than was donated in the same period last year.

What’s the difference? This year the Nature Center greenhouse is yielding a bumper crop of tomatoes for donation.

There are a number of advantages for using the greenhouse to grow produce, explained Kimi Dew, Nature Center coordinator.

“Of course temperature control is foremost in growing traditional summer vegetables during winter months,” she explained.

“But the greenhouse also provides protection from insects that can damage crops. You can see the difference in the tomatoes that come from the greenhouse. They are untouched and appear almost perfect,” she said.

She explained that most of the tomatoes being grown in the greenhouse are regular field tomatoes, with only a few being greenhouse tomatoes.

“These tomatoes taste very good,” she said. “It is unusual to find regular field tomatoes at this time of year, so that makes these tomatoes that we are donating very special.”

The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina has enjoyed receiving donations from the Nature Center



over the last several years and looks forward to continuing to provide its clients with good, fresh produce year round.

Other groups are also benefitting from the Nature Center. With the 4,500 square foot greenhouse, there is plenty of room to prepare seedlings to be planted in vegetable gardens. Often there are too many seedlings to use in the Nature Center gardens.

“We have identified a number of community gardens in our area to whom we can donate seedlings,” explained Dew. “All of these gardens help people in need by offering them free produce.”

“We are so happy that we can share more than just the produce that we grow at the Nature Center,” continued Dew. “With the seedlings, we are able to benefit to so many more people in eastern North Carolina.”



## [GCFLearnFree.org](http://GCFLearnFree.org) Entering the World of Apps for iPhone and iPod



vocabulary on their own at their convenience, wherever they are. Not only is the app helpful to people learning to read, it is also great practice for people learning to speak English.

GCFLearnFree is also launching apps based on the popular Office 2010 tutorials, with the first, a Microsoft Word 2010 available now. Additionally, apps for Androids and iPads are in the works.



GCFLearnFree recently released its first app for the iPhone and iPod Touch. The app is called GCF Vocabulary Videos, and it is adapted from the popular GCFLearnFree Adult Literacy training. Like GCFLearnFree, it’s free and the app is available for download through Apple’s app store.

The app includes 400 vocabulary videos that allow users to learn and practice some of the most common words in the English language. In each video, learners will be able to hear, view and comprehend



*Tomato vines are tied to twine suspended from the ceiling of the greenhouse to allow the plants to have ample space to grow upright. Each plant then has plenty of capacity to yield tomatoes that taste just like those that come from summer gardens. Nature Center participants prepare seedlings to plant in outdoor gardens.*

