



LWS alums Kim Shufran of iCan House (left) and Galyn Shivers of Goodwill Industries.

## ALLIED FORCES

*LWS has led to numerous collaborations over the years. Here is a recent example.*

Galyn Shivers says that even though she was born and raised in Winston-Salem, Leadership Winston-Salem taught her more behind-the-scenes information about her community than she had ever known.

“At the end of every class day, you leave mentally exhausted,” says Shivers, who is director of workforce development services for Goodwill Industries of Northwest N.C. “You’re very full, but you leave a little disturbed or touched; you’re really thinking. You just cannot sit back and say, ‘What’s going to happen is going to happen.’ You have a voice.”

During Leadership Winston-Salem’s day focused on “Government and Criminal Justice,” class members hear from city and county officials, law enforcement officers, and other members of the criminal justice system. Shivers was especially interested in criminal justice issues because one of Goodwill’s roles is to work with people who have criminal background barriers and to help them re-establish themselves and move forward. She says learning about the challenges related to mental health issues was particularly impacting. “It was an ‘aha’ moment. It just gave me a whole new perspective.”

In 2014, she began serving on the committee that plans for the “Government and Criminal Justice” day, one of several planned days during the nine-month LWS course. She says that connections she made during this time have resulted in several positive collaborations in the community. One such collaboration is with Kim Shufran, executive director of iCan House, which provides social and learning opportunities for children and young adults with autism and other social disorders. The women discussed the possibility of forming a partnership between Goodwill and the iCan House to train the public on how to interact with those living with autism.

“Galyn and I share a passion for making Winston-Salem a better community for those with differences,” Shufran explained. “We’re

committed to bringing accurate, timely, and helpful info to the public. In our new collaborative partnership, we wanted to bring together iCan House and Goodwill expertise and skills to better meet the needs in our community, especially for those with differences.”

The Winston-Salem Police Department later joined in the discussion thanks to WSPD Police Chief Barry Rountree, who was also on the LWS planning committee with Shivers and Shufran. These collaborations would eventually lead to a new training course, Autism Risk & Safety Management, which is now being offered at Goodwill. Two sessions of the course were held in February; the first was for community members and the second was for local law enforcement and first responders. The sessions were sponsored by the Autism Society of Forsyth County, CenterPoint Consumer & Family Advisory Committee, Mental Health Association in Forsyth County, Goodwill, and the iCan House.

Ultimately, the training course demonstrates the power of collaboration within the Leadership Winston-Salem community. It’s just one of the countless partnerships LWS has helped foster throughout its 30-year history.

As Shivers concludes: “Leadership Winston-Salem, for me, helps you see. It opens up your whole perspective. It’s more of a holistic approach to living in your community. It just made me a lot prouder. It made me more aware of the people here that are really working hard to better the community.”

—KATHY NORCROSS WATTS

*This article is the 10th in a yearlong series on Leadership Winston-Salem as the program celebrates its 30th anniversary. For more info on LWS, go to [leadershipus.org](http://leadershipus.org).*