



Celebrate the  
**POWER**  
of **WORK**  
Virtual Event  
4.14.21

## PROGRAM BOOK 2021

*“Creating Better Futures Together”*



**Goodwill**

Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County



# Making a difference

We celebrate & support creating better futures together!

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# PROGRAM

*5:30 pm*

*Pre-Event Entertainment*

*Virtual Silent Auction*

*Open until 8:00 pm, presented by ShopGoodwill.com*

*6:00 pm*

*2021 Celebrate the Power of Work Awards*

*Welcome*

*Anitra Dempsey, Goodwill SOLAC Board Chair*

*Event Overview*

*Pat Prescott, Master of Ceremony*

*Award Recognitions*

*Johnny Sullivan, Achiever of the Year*

*Emily Hernandez, C.N.A., Graduate of the Year*

*Matthew Caro, Achiever of the Year*

*Special Musical Performances by*

*Dave Koz*

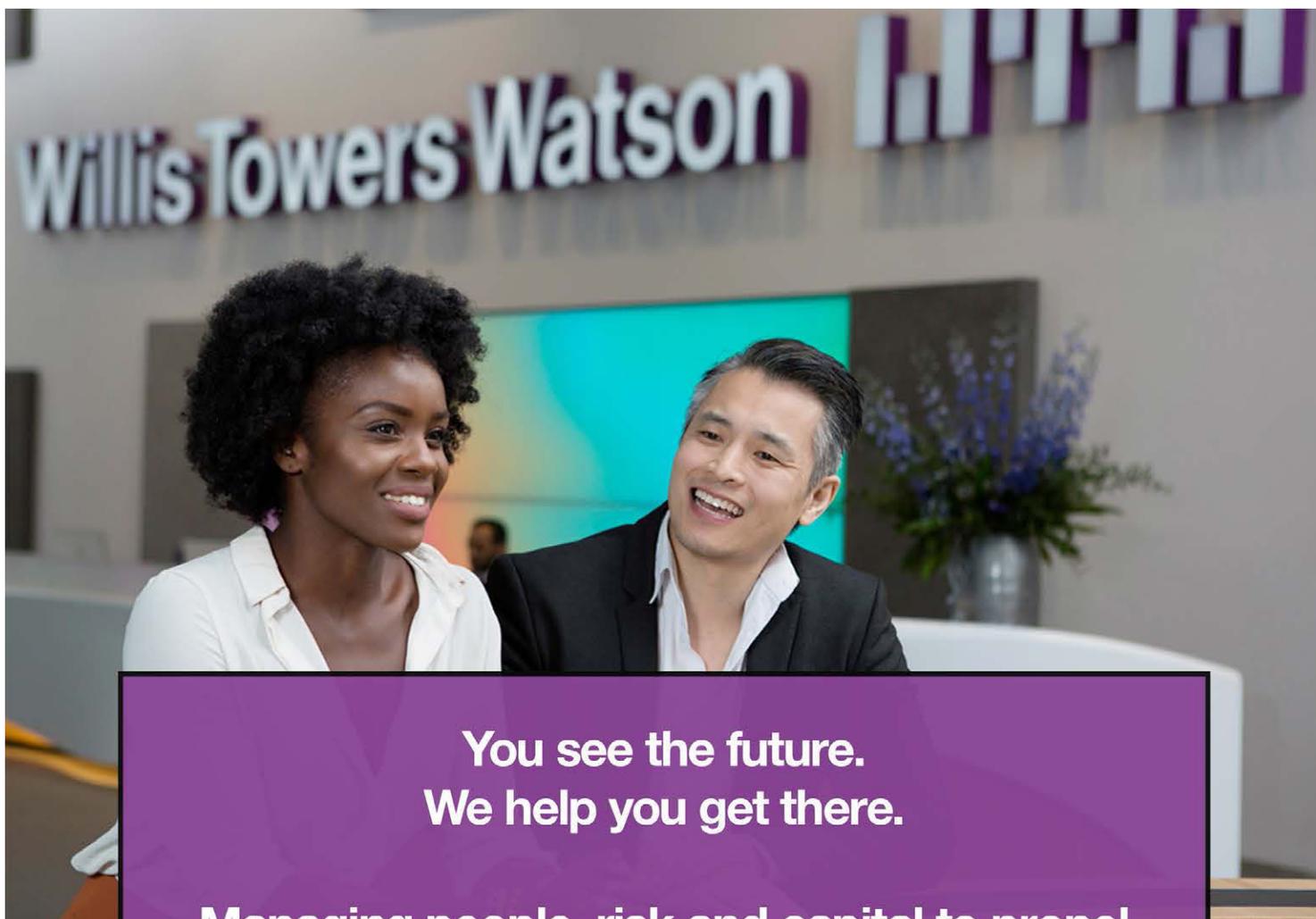
*Eric Darius*

*Erin Stevenson*

*Jeff McCarthy*

*Closing Remarks*

*Janet McCarthy, President & CEO, Goodwill SOLAC*



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tonight's honorees for their outstanding  
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# EMILY HERNANDEZ, C.N.A.

## *Goodwill Graduate of the Year*



**E**mily Hernandez was born with a condition called Vater Syndrome, resulting in over 20 corrective surgeries by the time she was 13. This was a very dark time for her as she contemplated her future; she was also told she would never have children or be able to sit in a college classroom like her peers.

This experience put a tremendous financial strain on her mother who worked 3 jobs as a single parent to cover the cost of Emily's medical bills and the family's living expenses. Emily's mother spent many long hours at work, and Emily would often stay all day with her grandmother in her skilled nursing facility. Emily stated, "you could say I grew up in a hospital."

Emily's heroes are her mother and grandmother, along with her stepfather who came into their lives when she was 8 years old. Emily credits all three for shaping the woman she is today, and why she feels comfortable talking about her experience without fear or shame. They helped her remain positive, and made sure her sense of self-worth was never diminished.

It is because of the amazing team of experts that helped Emily that she chose a career in healthcare, and was accepted into Goodwill SOLAC's Certified Nursing Program in October 2019. Emily stated, "Getting to meet the incredible staff of Goodwill only reinforced that I was on the right path. I know this is my calling and Goodwill has been so instrumental in my success. The instructors were the best anyone could ask for, truly inspirational and a continued source of support." Emily holds a much sought-after position as an Acute Care CNA at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. She loves her new position and all the benefits it offers, such as continuing education and career advancement programs.

Emily added, "Probably the biggest gift through all of this is that my loving husband and I were able to have a happy and 100% healthy daughter 8 years ago, a completely unexpected miracle that I had never thought possible! Everything I have gone through has put me in the position to be the very best mother, wife, and employee I could be. Thank you to Goodwill!"

# Celebrating those who strengthen our community

Dignity Health – St. Mary Medical Center wishes to congratulate Goodwill SOLAC on their 2021 “Celebrate the Power of Work” Awards. Thank you for helping to build a united community.

[dignityhealth.org/stmarymedical](https://dignityhealth.org/stmarymedical)



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# JOHNNY SULLIVAN

*Goodwill Achiever of the Year*



Johnny Sullivan has overcome many obstacles in his life, including losing his house to a fire. Johnny had no support system and has battled alcohol addiction for many years. He is now sober, yet struggles with the stress of a potential relapse. Johnny cared for his ill mother until she passed away in 2020, while dealing with his own health problem of diabetes.

He was a supported employment participant at Arconic Fastening Systems, an aerospace company in Carson, CA where he worked 10-hour days, and often 6 days a week.

From the beginning, it was known that if Johnny was at work, all Arconic deadlines in his work area would be met. Johnny was extremely patient with his co-workers, and often completed the work many could not finish.

Soon after Goodwill staff met Johnny, he was laid off from Arconic. Goodwill staff worried about how he would be able to assist his mother, buy food, pay rent, pay car insurance, all with the normal day-to-day struggles and having no job. Goodwill's Workforce Development Team quickly sprang into action and placed Johnny at Smart & Final in a 90-day internship. Johnny was told that being placed in an internship does not mean there is a job at the end of 90 days, yet after the internship was finished, he was quickly hired, and even recognized several times in the company newsletter!

Andre Davis, Assistant Manager at Smart & Final wants everyone to know that "Johnny is a hard-worker and goes beyond what you ask him to do. He has the best customer service and customers love him! Johnny was featured twice in the "Customer Service Surveys" in the Smart & Final Newsletter. We love having him as an employee."

# Congratulations



At the “Celebrate the Power of Work” Virtual Event, we congratulate Goodwill Solac for community outreach that’s making a lasting difference in people’s lives. We’re proud to share our goal of improving lives with you.

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# MATTHEW CARO

## *Goodwill Achiever of the Year*



**B**orn with Cerebral Palsy, Matthew Caro never let that stop him from pursuing a career and continuing his education. Matthew doesn't allow his physical disability to define his abilities, and was determined to provide for his family.

He was referred to Goodwill by the Harbor Regional Center for Supported Employment Placement Services and began a position at Arconic Aerospace in Carson, CA. He was then selected to be a groundskeeper at the US. Coast Guard in San Pedro, and completed daily landscaping duties for 2 years. Cerebral Palsy made his job a struggle, yet he never complained. Working 40 hours a week, he was able to build up the physical strength to complete his responsibilities without assistance.

With his deep faith guiding him, Matthew yearned to do more with his life and put much thought into his long-term goals. His Goodwill SOLAC job developer brought up the idea of completing a food service internship at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. To do so, he would be giving up the security of his current job and risk a pay cut in the hope of a better life for his family.

It was emphasized to Matthew that there was no guarantee the internship would be a good fit or that a job would be offered to him. Matthew was confident and Goodwill arranged the interview for him. The Torrance Memorial staff was sold on his determination, confidence, and positive attitude. He quickly began his internship and was hired once his 90-days internship was completed. Once hired, he was quickly promoted.

TMMC's Director of Food Service Johanna Johnson-Gilman states, "Matt is a remarkable individual. From the day of his interview for his internship he demonstrated a thoughtfulness, resilience and tenacity that is extraordinary. He is clearly driven by his faith, dedication to his family and desire to face obstacles in a forthright manner, not to be overcome by self-doubt or defined by preconceptions of his aptitude for growth and success. Matt easily became a part of the Torrance Memorial family and we are fortunate he decided to join our team!"

Matthew's success doesn't stop there. He also has an ANSI Food Handler's Certificate and has completed the following college degrees: A.A in Theology (The Latin University of Theology), A.S. in Information and Technology, and B.S. in Cyber Security (ITT Technical Institute)!

This is truly just the beginning of his bright future. Matthew, his wife, and young son welcomed a baby girl into their family in 2020, and has already demonstrated to her what strength is.

# PAT PRESCOTT

*Master of Ceremony*



Pat Prescott is a native of Hampton, Va. and a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. After teaching junior high school for five years, she started her radio career at WYLD-FM in New Orleans.

Pat is a veteran broadcaster who spent most of her career in New York, beginning with a stint as music director and midday announcer at legendary jazz station WRVR. She held a number of positions at WBLS and WLIB, including morning show host, news announcer, talk show host and public affairs director. For thirteen years Pat was the morning show host at New York's smooth jazz station CD 101.9.

Along with her on-air work, Pat appeared for 8 years in the New York company of the hit Off Broadway play "Mama I Want to Sing". She is also a popular voiceover artist who for 10 years was the voice of the USA Network's award winning late night program "Night Flight". In addition, she is the voice of Time Warner Cable New York. For six years Pat co-hosted the morning show on 94.7 The Wave with popular jazz artist and radio host Dave Koz and then for three years with Grammy nominated singer/songwriter Brian McKnight. Currently, Pat can be heard every weekday morning as solo host of the Wave's morning show.

Pat is very active in the community and has received numerous awards and citations for her contributions. She was the recipient of Radio and Records' Smooth Jazz Personality of the Year Award for six consecutive years and was honored with the 2016 Genii Award for Excellence in Radio from the Alliance For Women In Media.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
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Vocalist

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The background of the entire page is filled with a dense, scattered pattern of small, multi-colored squares in shades of teal, yellow, orange, pink, and light blue, resembling confetti.

*We Are So Proud of You!*

# *Congratulations*



*Emily Hernandez*

*Johnny Sullivan*

*Matthew Caro*



*Goodwill SOLAC*

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# Congratulations!

Emily Hernandez  
Johnny Sullivan  
Matthew Caro



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**at 94.7 The Wave**



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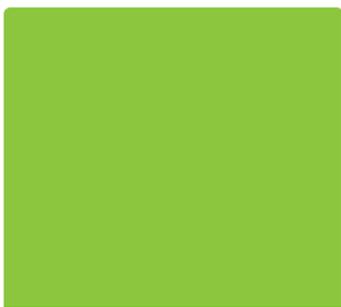


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