

REAL STORIES, REAL IMPACT

[Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota](#)

Don't Get Hung Up on Challenges: Will's Story

Will was interested in cars from an early age, but it wasn't until later that he turned his fascination into a vocation. Growing up in north Minneapolis, Will completed his senior year at the Minnesota Business Academy charter school in St. Paul. He then attended community college and held many jobs from carpenter to roadside assistance manager. When the economy took a downturn, Will found himself under-employed and living with his sister for six months.

However, Will's mantra is: "Don't get hung up on challenges." He wanted to find a good job in the auto industry but needed additional training and certification. At a friend's suggestion, he enrolled in the six-week [Automotive Skills Training program](#) at Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota. Because he did not own a car, he took the bus and light-rail to the training center every day.



On graduation, Will worked with a Goodwill/Easter Seals Employment consultant, who provided him with employment readiness training. "Will worked hard and wanted something better than the life that his neighborhood friends had chosen," says the consultant.

In 2008, Will was hired as a lube tech for Jiffy Lube® in Eden Prairie. In less than a year, he was promoted to assistant manager then to general manager. Now promoted to manager of yet another store, Will gives back by hiring graduates from the Auto Skills Training program. "Goodwill/Easter Seals helped me to get a clear view of what I could do with my life," he says. "It's really about giving others a chance to get jobs and get back on track."

Total TC LISC support: **\$58,817** in grants and capacity building support since 2008

Our COACTION Fund grantees share real life stories about the impact of their community development work on local residents. [COACTION Fund](#) is a \$3.3 million capacity-building effort to support 15 high-impact, local community development initiatives. The Fund focuses on new and existing partnerships between Twin Cities organizations working to connect physical improvements in neighborhoods to economic opportunity for residents.

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