

## Meet a Leader From Our Construction Training Program



**From** Goodwill Training and Promotions <community@goodwillsp.org>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Date** 2021-05-18 12:59

See how Braille is working in engineering again after getting certifications through Goodwill.

[View this email in your browser](#)



### Goodwill Success Story

Goodwill exists to help people see possibilities, seize opportunities and prosper. Here, it's not about finding a job—it's about starting down the path to something greater.

---

### Meet Braille: May's Success Story

Braille Ntouloulou has something to say – *"I'd like to address this message especially to those who (sic) English is not their first language. Don't let your foreign accent stop you from pursuing your goals. Don't underestimate yourself; you're capable enough."*

#### Braille's Background in Engineering

Since immigrating to the United States three years ago, Braille has studied English at Central Piedmont Community College and completed two courses with [Goodwill University](#). However, he's not done yet.

Braille worked as a civil engineer in his home country, Congo-Brazzaville, and wanted to do similar work in the U.S. He knew a little English upon his arrival but sought to learn more.

#### Enrolling in the Construction and Trade Skills Program

After taking English classes for a year and a half, he found Goodwill through the recommendation of his advisor and enrolled in its [construction and trade skills training program](#).

The road he traveled to get where he is now wasn't always smooth. *"Because I had to take Goodwill evening classes, I had to quit my job for about five months just to complete my training. I was working from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., and it was tough to attend the classes. In fact, I switched from a full-time job to a part-time job. It wasn't easy, and I struggled to pay my bills."*

Braille successfully completed Goodwill's FREE Construction Basics and Blueprint Reading and Estimating courses, and despite the challenges, is not looking back. *"Today, I cannot regret the decision that I made because I like my job and it fits best my need (sic)."*

### **Funding from the CARES Act**

Braille was one of a few Goodwill students to receive funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from the city of Charlotte. This funding paid for his OSHA certification.

### **Has the Experience But Needed U.S. Certifications**

His work in Congo-Brazzaville overlaps with the work he wants to do in the U.S. The principles are similar, but regulations and standard operating procedures vary country to country. *"I just needed a little training and a certificate to get back into the field."*

Believe it or not, Braille says his favorite part of taking courses was being tested. *"I like to be examined. I was waiting for that moment!"*

### **Resume and Interview Help from a Career Navigator**

Goodwill not only offers industry-focused training free of charge, but it also provides its participants with the social capital needed to break into a new field. *"My [career navigator](#) helped me a lot with my resume and mock interviews. I remember we had three mock interviews with her. That was very interesting and helped me a lot to get ready. I'm so grateful for her."*

### **Working as an Electrical Estimator**

Braille started work as an electrical estimator in December 2020 and now earns a sustainable living wage. In this role, he is responsible for calculating the quantity and cost of all of the equipment, wiring, and cables needed for a project, in order to win bids for the company.

*"So far, I like the job very much. I am very grateful for Goodwill because Goodwill has done so many things for me. If I didn't study construction basics and blueprint reading at Goodwill, I wouldn't get this job," he said.*

### **In the Direction Towards Being a Civil Engineer**

Braille's dream job is to be a civil engineer again. His current job is a major stepping stone in reaching that goal.

He's taken this advice, and wants to pass it along to anyone considering making a big change – *"I'd like to encourage people to make an effort, even a little, to invest in themselves in studying because the outcome will always be greater. More importantly, individuals don't have to let their shortcomings prevent them from pursuing their goals."*

Follow Braille's advice and sign up for [construction courses](#) today.  
You're worth it.



## **Changing Lives Through the Power of Work!**

See how you can make an impact today!

**DONATE**

**WORK**

**TRAIN**



Copyright © 2021 Goodwill, All right reserved.

You received this email because you are subscribed to our list from Goodwill.

**Our mailing address is:**

Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont  
P. O. Box 668768  
Charlotte, NC 28266

[Add us to your address book](#)

**UPDATE YOUR EMAIL PREFERENCES**

This email was sent to [sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont · P. O. Box 668768 · Charlotte, NC 28266 · USA