

Living Amazing



Winter guide

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A glowing Christmas tree in a snowy forest at night. The tree is covered in warm white lights and snow, standing on a snow-covered hill. The background shows dark, snow-laden trees under a twilight sky.

let it slow...

As winter sets in and holiday lights begin to illuminate the streets and homes of our neighborhoods, we are reminded to slow down and to take comfort in the upcoming festivities. Oversized sweaters, heavy blankets and fuzzy socks become cold weather essentials and hot cocoa is the drink of choice for cuddling up to the fire. To help make your winter season extraordinarily bright, check out our Living Amazing Winter Guide for DIY projects, recipes, and this season's best-loved trends in home and fashion.

As 2017 winds down and we enter into the New Year, we want to graciously thank you and celebrate your support for the Goodwill mission. Your generous donations, both big and small, remind us that when we work together toward a common goal, we make a positive impact and do great things in the communities that we serve. We hope this year brings some holiday cheer and that you enjoy every moment of your winter season!



Trends

Sneak Peek

Embrace the season with these clothing and décor trends



Single Button Asymmetrical Hem Shawl

For a flattering yet comfortable look this winter, grab an asymmetrical hem shawl. You can pair the shawl with a simple tank, jeans, and tall boots and then dress up your look by shopping for one with buttons or tassels.

Photo: <https://www.chicnico.com/>



Corduroy Pants

Corduroy pants are back and if you're looking for a serious retro look with a nod to the '70s, look for a pair with a low waist and wide-leg fit.

Photo: <http://www.elle.com/>

Sterling Silver

Talk about futuristic! This shiny metallic is making its way this winter in quilted jackets and floor-length maxi skirts. If you want to make a powerful statement, silver is your go-to.

Photo: <http://en.vogue.fr/>



Draw-String Clutch

Gone are the days of oversized totes and purses, the mini bag trend is here to stay! For a vintage throwback that transitions easily from day-to-night, use a mini drawstring clutch in leather or velvet.

Photo: <http://www.refinery29.com>



Marble Wallpaper

Want classy and luxurious without the price tag? Faux marble walls are taking over and the best part of this trend is that wallpaper prints are much more affordable and easier to install than the real thing!

Photo: www.lonny.com



Color Blocking

Got the winter blues? Warm things up with several contrasting shades and bold hues. Don't forget to add a few room accessories in neutral tones, like blankets or throw pillows, to keep the space looking balanced and comfortable.

Photo: <http://www.housebeautiful.co.uk/>

Wood Accents

For a natural and cozy impact in your home, wood accents and finishes are the perfect touch. If you want a more rustic or farmhouse feel, pieces made from reclaimed wood are essential.

Photo: <http://parisdesignagenda.com/>



Hygge

The Hygge (hoo-gah) movement is actually an old Danish concept which asks us to slow down and enjoy life's ordinary moments, to practice mindfulness, and to take pleasure in the little things. Within your home, capturing a sense of simplicity and coziness is necessary to create the Hygge vibe. Decorate with comfy quilts, candles, live plants, and make it a priority to de-clutter each room.

Photo: www.decorpad.com

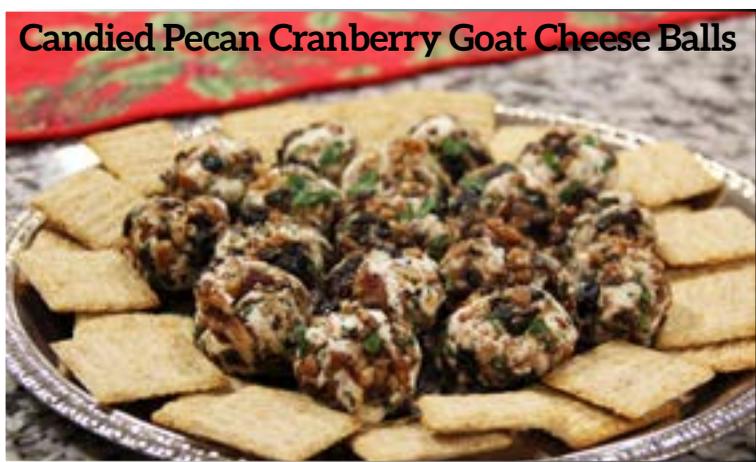


Winter Pot Luck

Our Goodwill Marketing Department
loves food, fun and great finds at Goodwill!

Holiday Traditions Pot Luck Recipes

When thinking about the upcoming holidays, family traditions and delicious food are such an important part. Gatherings with friends and family this time of year remind us to not just celebrate the present, but to appreciate old stories and reminisce about the past. This year, our Goodwill Marketing Team decided to throw a potluck, where each person cooked and shared their favorite holiday recipes. The spread included a wide variety of recipes from different cultures, a few of which are shared in the upcoming pages!



Candied Pecan Cranberry Goat Cheese Balls



**Turkey Chili
with Sweet
Potato**



**Holiday
Wreath Pizza**



Paleo Sweet Potato Pecan Casserole

Holiday Wreath Pizza

Ingredients

- Non-Stick Cooking Spray
- 4 Tablespoons refrigerated basil pesto
- 1 28-oz can Hunt's whole peeled plum tomatoes, drained and cut into ½ inch slices
- 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Directions

1. Place oven rack in center of oven and preheat to 450 degrees.
2. Make a hole in center of each tortilla by pressing out a circle with the unopened can of whole tomatoes.
3. Spray one side of each tortilla with cooking spray; place sprayed-side down on baking sheet.
4. Spread 2 tablespoons pesto evenly around each wreath.
5. For each wreath, top with half of the tomato slices and sprinkle with ½ cup cheese.
6. Bake 7 minutes or until cheese has browned lightly. Cut into slices and serve.



Candied Pecan Cranberry Goat Cheese Balls

Ingredients

- 10 ounces goat cheese
- 1 cup pecans
- ½ - 1 Tablespoon salted butter
- ¾ cup dried cranberries
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 Tablespoons fresh chopped parsley

Directions

1. Slice goat cheese into 15 discs. Set aside.
2. Melt your butter in a small pan under medium heat.
3. Once bubbly, add your pecans and brown sugar.
4. Cook for approximately 5 minutes, stirring often to avoid burning. Pour onto parchment paper and allow to cool. Chop pecans until minced.
5. Finely chop cranberries and add to pecans.
6. Add cinnamon and parsley to pecans and cranberries.
7. Press your goat cheese disc into the mixture, then roll into a ball and press into the mixture again.
8. Repeat with each disc.
9. Serve with assorted crackers, apple slices, celery, or pretzels.



Ingredients

3 ½ lbs sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped into 2" chunks or rounds

¼ cup milk, plus more as needed (I usually use unsweetened almond or cashew milk)

3 Tablespoons coconut oil, ghee or vegan butter (softened)

½ cup pure maple syrup

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 large egg (optional), lightly beaten

For the pecan topping:

1½ cups toasted pecans, roughly chopped

2 tablespoons melted coconut oil

2-3 Tablespoons pure maple syrup (depending on how sweet you want this)

2 Tablespoons almond flour (or all-purpose flour for non-paleo version)

½ teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon nutmeg

¼ teaspoon salt

Directions

1. Grease a large oven-safe casserole dish (about 9x13) and set aside.
2. Add the potato chunks to a large pot covered in water by at least 2-3 inches of water. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Boil until completely tender (potatoes will pierce easily with a fork) and drain well. Using an immersion blender, hand mixer or a potato masher, mash the sweet potatoes right in the pot.
3. Add the milk, coconut oil, maple syrup, vanilla and egg and mix well until combined. Add more milk (1/2 tablespoon at a time) if mash seems too thick.

Paleo Sweet Potato Pecan Casserole



Recipe from: <https://lifemadesweeter.com/sweet-potato-casserole/>

4. Transfer mash to prepared casserole dish and smooth the surface. (You can make the sweet potato casserole up to this point the day before serving, if desired. Just cover the baking dish and refrigerate).
5. Combine pecans, oil, maple syrup, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt and sprinkle over the sweet potatoes. Bake in preheated oven at 350° for 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to set for 5 minutes.
6. Serve warm.

Turkey Chili with Sweet Potato

Ingredients

1 lb. leftover Thanksgiving turkey

1 large sweet potato - chopped

1 can black beans - drained

1 can chili beans - mild

1 can tomatoes with chilies - mild

1 can tomato sauce

1 can tomato paste

1 can roasted tomatoes

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Directions

1. Sauté the turkey with 1 large chopped onion and 1 package of chili seasoning.
2. In a crockpot, mix all ingredients together.
3. Cook for 6 hours on low.



Winter Style

Goodwill's own style experts, Bjorn and Merri, share some ideas to fill the season with affordable style!



the Winter Wardrobe

By: Goodwill Fashion Expert, Bjorn Nasett



Good fashion advice never goes out of style, as you'll see by this article reprint from Goodwill's Fashion Expert, Bjorn Nasett from a previous issue of Living Amazing!

The best time of year for fashion choices
has to be winter!

When the holiday parties are in full effect we want to shine and glow in a special, out-of-the-ordinary outfit, right? But, at the same time, we want to make practical, yet fashionable choices for work that can give us some boost when the thermometer dips down. In this article you'll find some ideas of how to build a winter wardrobe using a few key pieces, as well as how to go for the glam without spending a fortune!



Photography:
Bjorn Nasett

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◀ Go for the Glam this New Year! ▶

Why not go for the glam when it comes to holiday and New Year's happenings? Our model looks like a movie star in this stunning ensemble featuring a vintage mink stole that will turn heads and win rave reviews from all who see her!



The pieces:

- Spiegel crochet gown with shimmering beading - \$5.99
- Bandolino gold pumps with ankle strap - \$4.99
- Gold-beaded hoop earrings - \$2.99
- Gold metal mesh purse - \$3.99
- Gold bangle - \$1.99
- Vintage mink stole with pockets - \$39.99



Found at Goodwill
for \$5.99!

◀ Work it! ▶

When you have the winter workday blues, nothing beats an arsenal of clothes that can be mixed and matched for great effect. Below you'll see pieces coordinated in different ways for work, as well as play! The stars of this mini-wardrobe are the fantastic suit and the red cigarette pants.

The pieces:

Seville two-piece window pane plaid suit - \$9.99

Croft+Barrow collared black shirt - \$3.99

Merona red cigarette pant - \$3.99

Black-with-gold heel pumps by Kayleen - \$6.99

Tortoise glasses - \$.99

Vintage patchwork cross-body bag - \$6.99

Fossil watch - \$14.99



Entire designer outfit for \$28.95

These winter looks would not have been possible without:

Angela Vincer / Fashion Stylist

Bjorn Nasett / Photos

Gina Marie / Model

Shenna Barrette / Hairdresser

The pieces:

- H&M black-with-sequin top - \$2.99
- Black bracelet - \$4.99
- Lord & Taylor gray/silver sweater - \$6.99
- Anne Klein silver snakeskin pump - \$6.99
- Coi+Egg earrings - \$2.99



This outfit for \$14.97

This outfit for \$20.96

Winter doesn't have to chill your fashion sense if you shop at Goodwill for items like those shown here. Remember, new ideas are yours for the finding when you visit one of our well-organized stores for all your winter needs. And, your purchase or donation will warm the life of someone who needs it!

Blue Christmas

Festive Holiday Tablesetting

By:
Goodwill Home Decór
Expert, Merri Cvetan



December is not only my favorite time of year but also the busiest time of year.

There is always so much to do in so little time: shopping, decorating, wrapping and entertaining. If it's your turn to host Christmas dinner, start planning your tablesetting early to make the day less stressful. Here's a time saving tip: set the table several days early so you can spend your time with family.

Although red and green are traditional holiday colors, this year I decided to change it up a bit and feature my favorite color combo of blue, turquoise, and aqua with red as the accent color.





I started with basic silver chargers (99¢) and beautiful Mikasa dinner plates (\$1.99). The pair are fine as is, but also rather boring. The light bulb went off when I found these glittery snowflake ornaments. I simply attached them to the rim of the charger with hot glue and voila, an instant update.



The touch of red came from salad plates, the napkin rings and place cards. Bring out your fancy silverware and blue glasses in a variety of shapes and sizes. Finally, the festive snowglobes (\$2.99-\$4.99), not only add height and whimsy to each placesetting, but serve as little gifts. Each guest has something to take home to remember the day.



Snowglobes \$2.99 - \$4.99

Winter

Do it Yourself

Embrace the bright side of winter with do-it-yourself projects!



Countdown to Christmas

By: Jessica Schoner, Interactive Media Coordinator for Goodwill

If you're like me and you're counting down the days to Christmas, an advent calendar is a must-have!

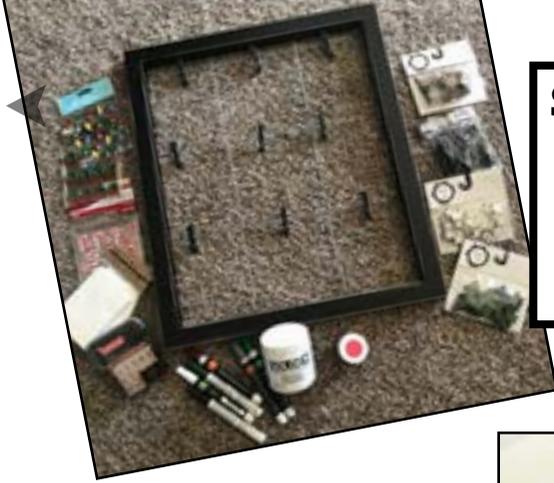
Now that we have a little one in our house, I just can't wait to watch his excitement as the holidays get closer. Okay, let's be honest; he's seven months old, so it'll be Mom being excited. Either way, I just can't wait!

When I spotted a unique frame at Goodwill I knew I had the perfect beginnings to a homemade advent calendar. You could even remove the countdown envelopes and use the frame in your home from January through November – bonus!



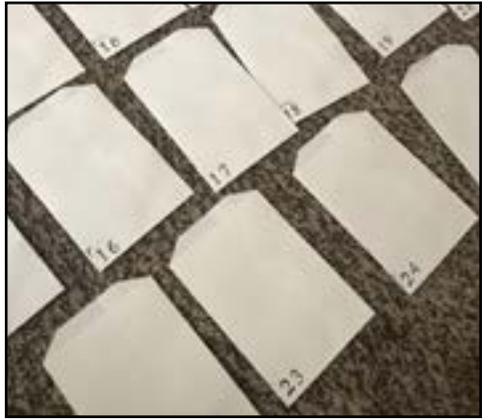
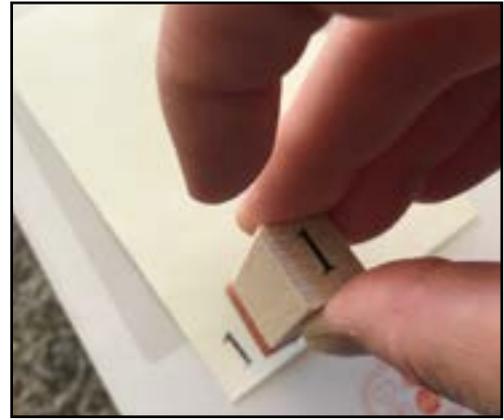
Supplies needed:

- Picture frame or window shutter
- Holiday stickers and decorative pieces
- Craft paint or paint pens
- Miniature closepins
- Small envelopes
- Number stamps(optional)



1.

Start by numbering each envelope. I used a rubber stamp for a rustic look, but you could easily write in the numbers on your own if you do not have a stamp.



2.

Once each envelope is numbered, start decorating them! I used scrapbooking stickers and small holiday themed wooden pieces to create a unique look on each envelope. I painted several of the wooden pieces, and left others in their natural state. I also added glitter to a few, because what's Christmas without a little glitter, right? Of course, December 25th had to stand out!



3.

To complete, use your miniature closepins to hang each envelope. Then fill with a fun little surprise to open each morning as you countdown to Christmas. I'll be filling mine with tiny chocolates, new ornaments, fun quotes and maybe even a Goodwill gift card!



DIY Wedding Guest Book Alternative – Advice Jar

By: Gazelle Arga, Marketing Coordinator for Goodwill

Winter weddings are becoming so popular! Here is my "something DIY" for my wedding! Planning a wedding is a big endeavor and with all of the little details to think about, adding a DIY project to the list may seem a little daunting. However, this wedding guest book alternative is so simple and easy and I love that you can display the jar in your home after the wedding! I found the glass jar and picture frame at Goodwill and since I already had card stock, twine, and paint markers, the entire project cost less than \$10.00. Another great thing about the advice jar is that you'll get some wonderful (or quite entertaining) advice from your family and friends that you can read after your wedding or even at your one-year anniversary!

Supplies needed:

- Glass jar or box
- Picture frame
- Card stock
- Twine or ribbon
- Paint markers
- Scissors
- Hole puncher



make it!

1.

Using any color paint marker, paint your initials, names, or any other fun details about your wedding on the jar. To make things easier, I drew what I wanted on a piece of paper first and then taped it to the inside of the jar so that I could trace over it and ensure everything would look the way I wanted!



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2.

Next, you'll want to print out advice cards that the guests will fill out at the wedding and drop in the jar. I found my template for free on Pinterest but you can design your own as well! Once they are printed, cut them out and you're all set!

3.

Next you'll need to print out the picture frame message, indicating to your guests to sign the advice jar. I kept my message simple, but you can try different variations such as, "Advice for the Mr. & Mrs."

4.

Use twine (or ribbon) and card stock to write a little note to your guests, telling them exactly what to do! We cut out a circle, punched a hole in it, and then wrote the directions. Our last step told our guests to grab themselves a drink! Feel free to have fun with it and make it silly. Next, tie the wine and note around the neck of the jar.



To finish the look, I used a faux flower bouquet from Eco Flower, but you can also ask your wedding florist to display some real flowers next to the advice jar as well. Again, this project is super easy and cost-effective. Your guests will have fun filling these out and you'll be able to preserve these messages for a long time. Don't forget, you can customize this so that it matches the vibe of your wedding so brainstorm different ways you can make it unique to you!

Leafing Out

By Jamie Klinger-Krebs, Interactive Media Coordinator for Goodwill

Because we have some gorgeous Autumn Blaze Maple trees around our home that give off some breathtaking color in the fall, my daughter and I decided to take a little time to collect and preserve some leaves and then attempt a few projects. Not all of the projects turned out, I assure you, but below is one that ended up on the “not-so-bad” list.

But, before we get into the project, we did use two different methods for preserving the leaves. Preservation is necessary if you don't want the leaves to dry-out, curl up, or crumble to pieces both while you're creating projects, or after they're completed.

This adds the perfect amount of fall jewel tones to the winter season!

Supplies needed:

- Mod Podge craft glue
- Wax paper
- Found leaves
- Wire coat hanger
- Cardboard toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls
- Scissors
- Hot glue
- Ribbon, bells, pine cones stuffed animals, etc. to decorate the wreath



I found this stuffed owl at Goodwill!



method 1:

The first method we used was brushing the leaves with Mod Podge waterbase sealer glue and finish (not to be confused with Mod Podge craft glue). This can be a little time-consuming and a little messy, but overall it is pretty effective. And, if you use the glossy waterbase sealer rather than the matte finish, the leaves come out with a little extra shine.

**method 2:**

The second method we used (which was faster and a bit easier) was the wax paper method. With this method, you simply put down a towel, then a piece of wax paper, and arrange your leaves on the wax paper.



Then, add another layer of wax paper on top of the leaves.



Then place another towel on top of that wax-paper layer and go over the towel using a clothes iron on high (with the steam turned off) for about 30 seconds. Then flip the entire thing over and iron the other side for another 30 seconds. When finished you remove the towels and carefully peel off the wax paper. If you did it correctly your leaves will have a nice flat look to them, with a little added shine.



So, once you're done preserving your leaves, it's time to move on to making some cool stuff with them, like the leaf wreaths on the next page (continued).

make it!



2. Using cardboard toilet paper rolls (or cardboard paper towel rolls), cut twelve 1.5" or 2" tubes. Then cut slits in the back of each tube and tape them around the coat hanger.



3. Using the largest leaves first, hot glue the leaves to the paper towel holders. Then add another layer of more colorful leaves and keep going until you have a wreath of leaves. My daughter added glitter to some of the leaves during the preservation process to make this project appear a little more festive.



4. After allowing the glue on the wreath to dry, add some ribbon, bells, maybe some pine cones, or even this stuffed owl (which we found at Goodwill and thought was pretty cute), and hang it on your front door, etc.



There's LOTS of DIY leaf projects out there, but this one was not only quick and easy, but my daughter and I had a blast making it. And, don't worry, if you don't have leaves left on the ground around your home, you can buy plastic leaves at just about any craft store, but don't forget, collecting real leaves is part of the fun!

Winter Décor

Our Goodwill Store & Donation Centers
are full of amazing holiday items!



Holiday Sneak Peek at Goodwill

Whether you're looking for the perfect "ugly sweater," hunting for Christmas décor, or shopping for gifts, Goodwill is the perfect place to go for budget-friendly holiday essentials! Here's a sneak peek of what we've got stocked in several of our stores!



Create your own ugly sweaters at the Goodwill Store & Donation Center in Downers Grove



Gifts, decorations and sweaters at the Goodwill Store & Donation Center in Batavia.



Looking for gifts
for the kiddos?

Take a peek at our
Goodwill Store &
Donation Center in
West Allis!



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Don't forget to stop by Goodwill's boutique in the Historic Third Ward - Retique!



Sweaters galore at the Goodwill Store & Donation Center in Bay View



Goodwill Store & Donation Center in Mundelein



Goodwill Store & Donation Center in West Allis



Our Goodwill Store & Donation Center in West Bend is stocked with holiday décor

We have 67 Store & Donation Centers in Wisconsin and Illinois all full of amazing finds!

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Winter FUN ❄️ FACTS

1. The Disney movie *Frozen* (2013) is the highest-grossing animated musical film of all time and the 9th highest-grossing film of all time with a worldwide box office gross of \$1.097 billion.
2. Chicago experienced its coldest winter in 2013–2014 since records began in 1872. Although it was the coldest winter overall, the coldest temperature ever recorded in Chicago was on January 25, 1985.
3. Around 12% of Earth's land surface is covered in snow and ice.
4. Chionophobia is the persistent fear of snow, especially becoming trapped by snow.
5. All snowflakes have 6 sides.
6. A single snowstorm can drop 39 million tons of snow.
7. Every winter, at least one septillion (that's 1 followed by 24 zeros) snow crystals fall from the sky.
8. The largest recorded snowman ever built was in Bethel, Maine, in February 1999. The 113-foot, 7-inch snowman broke the previous record held by Yamagata, Japan, at 96 feet and 7 inches.
9. The coldest winter on Earth occurs at the Polar Plateau in Antarctica. The average mean annual temperature is -72.9° Fahrenheit.
10. While it seems counterintuitive, Earth is actually closest to the sun in December, even though winter solstice is the shortest day of the year.

