

*Important pieces...*



## Selena Moore Lloyd Auten Achiever of the Year

It was last Thanksgiving when Selena became homeless. Having been unexpectedly laid off from a good job in Spartanburg, Selena soon realized her money would run out well before all the bills were paid. Facing eviction, she packed up her two teenage sons and headed to Greenville, hoping to reside in an emergency shelter until she could get work and find a place to stay. However, because her boys, age 17 and 15, exceeded the age limits to be allowed to stay with their Mom at any of the local shelters for women, the only recourse was to stay with family and friends. Space was tight, food was scarce, and Christmas was grim. More than once Selena spent the night in a car so her boys could sleep on the floor at the home of a compassionate friend.

Facing near despair, Selena called GAIHN, Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network. A host of volunteers sprang into action, welcoming Selena's family to one of the twenty Greenville area congregations who share hospitality, home, and hope with homeless families who have children in their churches.

Referred to Goodwill, Selena entered the Retail Training program. Selena completed the program earning the Trainee of the Month award for outstanding work ethic and reliability. With no transportation, Selena never missed a day of work. She excelled so much in all aspects of her job that she was hired as a Goodwill employee. Selena's determination to keep her family together and be a role model to her children is strong. Her proudest moment was the graduation of her daughter from high school; one of the goals Selena has

yet to achieve. Her daughter starts college in the fall. Her sons are doing great in school and are staying out of trouble.

Selena and her boys are now living in a duplex apartment, awaiting placement in permanent housing. Selena made the ultimate commitment to her boys to stay together. Through a life that would have left a lesser person devastated, Selena's unflinching determination to succeed earns her the recognition as the Lloyd Auten, Achiever of the Year.