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ROXBURY

## Goodwill HQ kicks off first major renovation since 1986 opening

Posted October 15, 2010 12:17 PM

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(Courtesy Shane Godfrey)

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at Goodwill headquarters Wednesday.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Goodwill kicked off a \$4.6-million renovation of its nearly 25-year-old Roxbury headquarters and flagship store Wednesday morning.

The project will be the first major investment in the systems and infrastructure of the 102,000 square-foot building at 1010 Harrison Ave. since it was built in 1986, the non-profit [Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries](#) said in a statement. Work, which is expected to be complete in spring, will be done in several phases and will not close Goodwill's store or headquarters.

The most critical phase is the work beginning now to replace the facility's roof, heating and air conditioning units, insulation, and electrical system, the release said.

The building will get new paint and carpet, and restrooms will get a makeover along with the Goodwill store – which is the charity organization's largest store. Outside, the parking lot and sidewalks will also be repaired.

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However, within the building's store, construction will not be noticeable until around January, Goodwill spokesman James Harder said.

"These renovations will improve the experience of everyone who comes to Goodwill. It will also make for a better work environment for staff," the organization's president and CEO, Joanne K. Hilferty, said in the release. "Goodwill is an active and bustling place and these improvements will allow us to not only safeguard our most valuable physical asset but also reduce our environmental footprint. We are excited to get started and grateful to everyone who contributed their time, talents, and funds to enable us to move forward."

Richard White Sons Inc., which built the headquarters more than two decades ago, will return to the site as general contractor. Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, which designed the original building, will provide architectural and engineering services, and Leggat McCall Properties LLC is the project manager, the release said.

More than 40 percent of the work will be sub-contracted to minority-owned businesses.

Funding for the project comes through the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation, TD Bank, Wainwright Bank, the city and donor support.

The building is home to a job training center with classrooms and computer labs, a career center, administrative offices, a cafeteria, two stores – one of which is an outlet store, and a retail distribution center to send products to its other 10 locations in eastern and central Massachusetts.

The facility sees over 400,000 visits annually from participants in job training, career services and youth programs, along with business partners, donors, and shoppers, the release said.

The 115-year-old Goodwill organization employs around 300 and has an operating budget of over \$28 million to "serve individuals who face a variety of barriers to self-sufficiency, such as physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities; homelessness; low educational attainment; limited job skills; and welfare dependency," according to its [website](#).

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(Courtesy Shane Godfrey)

A group photo Wednesday from the building's roof which will be completely replaced during renovations.

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