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GOODWILL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MARKS SECOND CHANCE MONTH
Reentry Training Programs Highlighted During April

LOS ANGELES, CA, April 17, 2019— Goodwill Southern California is doing its part during Second Chance Month to help people transition from incarceration back into society, as it does all year long. In April, Goodwill® is highlighting its job training and social service offerings that help people who have criminal backgrounds find jobs and support their families when they return to their communities.

Stemming from the Second Chance Act, which Congress passed in 2008 as a means of providing support to workers and prevent recidivism, Second Chance Month is commemorated each April. The Second Chance Act legislation, which Congress reauthorized in December 2018 with bipartisan support, created the National Reentry Resource Center and funds work to improve reentry outcomes nationwide.

“When people return from jail or prison and then find and keep good jobs, they do more than just help themselves,” said Patrick McClenahan, President & CEO, Goodwill Southern California. “They also build brighter futures for their families and strengthen their communities. As always, Goodwill Southern California is proud to do its part to help individuals overcome challenges and find employment.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, at least 95 percent of all state prisoners will eventually be released from prison. Each year, more than 700,000 state prison inmates return to their communities after serving their time. Goodwill believes all of these individuals deserve a second chance and that the best way to help them be successful is to offer work-related programs that allow them to become self-sufficient.

“People with criminal records face their own sets of unique and complex obstacles to successful reentry,” said Steven C. Preston, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries International. “Fortunately, Goodwill organizations around the country — including Goodwill Southern California — have been helping people navigate past those obstacles through the power of work. I urge anyone who has had trouble getting or holding onto a job to reach out to their local Goodwill organization for support.”

Goodwill Southern California’s programs offer vocational training targeting high wage and high growth sectors. Some programs connect directly with community colleges and other educational opportunities. Supportive services, training stipends and a host of services are provided to support participants in reaching program milestones and achieving employment. The initiatives are impacting the community by helping to restore dignity to program participants and helping individuals live out their goals.

Among the Goodwill programs and training opportunities available to local residents who are reentering the community, Goodwill Southern California offers programs such as LA:RISE. LA:RISE provides participants assistance in the following areas; one-on-one career coaching, career and personal skills

assessment, pre-employment workshops (a step-by- step plan to find and keep a great job, resume writing, interviewing skills) and training opportunities.

Media outlets interested in more information or conducting an interview with Goodwill SoCal representatives may contact Marla Eby, Director of Marketing & Media Relations, at meby@goodwillsoocal.org.

About Goodwill Southern California

Transforming lives through the power of work, Goodwill Southern California (GSC) serves individuals with disabilities or other vocational challenges by providing education, training, work experience and job placement services. Each year, GSC prepares and places thousands of individuals into sustainable employment through programs and services offered at three campuses, Career Resource Centers, WorkSource Centers, Deaf, Youth and Veteran Employment Programs throughout Los Angeles (north of Rosecrans Ave.), Riverside and San Bernardino counties. GSC supports its mission with proceeds generated from more than 80 stores and over 40 attended donation centers. GSC spends 95 percent of its budget on programs and services. Committed to caring for the earth, last year GSC diverted over 100 million pounds of reusable or recyclable goods from landfills. Goodwill is GOOD for Everyone!

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