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**Goodwill SoCal's Apprenticeship Program Offers Innovative Solutions as California's Manufacturing Industry Recovers From The Economic Impact Of The Pandemic**

Los Angeles, CA, July 22, 2021 – Goodwill Southern California has announced a new Goodwill Apprenticeship Program (GAP) sponsoring Registered Apprenticeship with USDOL in multiple competency-based occupations new to the landscape of manufacturing apprenticeship. The program is now one of the largest advanced manufacturing apprenticeship programs in California.

The apprenticeship program is offered throughout Goodwill SoCal's three-county territory (Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino) in 11 manufacturing occupations:

1. CNC Set-Up Programmer
2. CNC Operator
3. Quality Inspector
4. Machine Operator
5. Industrial Manufacturing Technician
6. Manufacturing Production Technician
7. Tool & Die Maker
8. Stamping Press Operator
9. Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
10. Mechatronics Technician (fitter)
11. Mechatronics Technician (Installer)

The Registered Apprenticeship program offers career mobility and advancement to workers while providing employers tools for creating a culture of learning that can upskill their workforce. Through key partnerships, the program's goal is to close the learning GAP in today's manufacturing environment.

“Goodwill Southern California will continue to expand and provide capacity building to its stakeholders (employers, local government, training providers, partner organizations and jobseekers) in the workforce system, to build a structure and culture that supports learning,” said Simon Lopez, Chief Impact Office at Goodwill Southern California. “This in turn connects

and leverages partner resources to support career pathway pipelines for entry level and middle skill positions.

Goodwill Southern California has identified and implemented best practices from its long-standing sector intermediary work in manufacturing including:

- having the apprenticeship program sponsored by a nonprofit
- the use of virtual learning and management tools
- providing companies assistance with training and assessments to identify skills gaps
- tapping into existing local resources and programs from education partners

These practices are being used to create a replicable, sustainable model of apprenticeship that benefits all partners across the manufacturing training continuum with the goal of strengthening the workforce system to adopt Registered Apprenticeships.

“Goodwill Southern California's Apprenticeship Program will equip hundreds of manufacturing companies with critical local talent, said Sabrina Singh Kansara, Program Officer from the James Irvine Foundation. “The increase in their Registered Apprenticeships will lead to many more opportunities for SoCal workers and jobseekers to connect to career pathways with family-sustaining wages and upward mobility.

Goodwill SoCal's first experience with Registered Apprenticeship began in August 2017, and has since partnered with 18 small to mid-size manufacturing employers to host dozens of apprentices. To date, 28 individuals have earned their Certificate of Completion.

We are very excited that Goodwill Southern California has chosen MAK'S TIPM Rebuilders as an early partner in this bold initiative, said Mechael "Mak" Cabessa, MAK'S Founder and Chief Executive Officer. "We are always looking for 'win-wins' in our business. This program will allow us to contribute to the professional advancement of people in our community while bettering our own human capital development programs."

Media outlets that wish to film stories about the Goodwill Apprenticeship Program may contact Marla Eby, Goodwill SoCal's Director of Marketing & Media Relations at [meby@goodwillsocal.org](mailto:meby@goodwillsocal.org) or 323-246-3620 (cell) to make arrange for filming. Employers interested in participating in the Apprenticeship Program may contact Tracy DiFilippis at [tdifilippis@goodwillsocal.org](mailto:tdifilippis@goodwillsocal.org) or Daniel Wierman at [dwierman@goodwillsocal.org](mailto:dwierman@goodwillsocal.org) for more detailed information.

### **About Goodwill Southern California**

Transforming lives through the power of work, Goodwill Southern California (GSC) serves individuals with disabilities or other vocational challenges, as well as businesses, 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 an additional 25 freestanding 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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