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For Immediate Release

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Goodwill of Central Arizona honors local businesses for advancing Arizonans with vocational disadvantages

(March 5, 2007, PHOENIX, Ariz.,) Goodwill of Central Arizona hosted its annual awards program to honor outstanding employees and community partners who help individuals with vocational barriers gain job skills, find jobs and achieve self-sufficiency.

Among the local business honored were United Parcel Service (UPS), Yuma Private Industry Council and Park&Co in tandem with Olson Communications. Kurt Bunney, chief executive officer and president of Ensynch, was also honored for his seven years of committed service as a member of Goodwill's Board of Directors to further Goodwill's mission to "Put People to Work."

"The local businesses honored have shown unwavering commitment to give persons with vocational barriers a hand up, not a hand out," said President and Chief Executive Officer of Goodwill of Central Arizona, Keith Mason. "We witness their tireless efforts on a daily basis and now we want Arizona's communities to know, too."

UPS was honored with the Employer of the Year Award in recognition of their steadfast participation in recruitments at Goodwill's career centers and for hiring clients who have successfully navigated job training programs. "Goodwill's job-training programs make it easy for us to hire good people – it's a win-win situation," said David De La Ossa, UPS Human Resources representative.

Winning for Community Partner of the Year, the Yuma Private Industry Council has worked in tandem with Goodwill to train, recruit and employ persons with disabilities since 2002. They continue to augment competitive training programs at Yuma's One-Stop Career Center to help individuals learn competitive skills and work toward independence.

Another Community Partner of the Year, Park&Co, a full-service advertising agency, was honored for helping Goodwill of Central Arizona nearly double its revenue – and therefore its

programs - over the past three years. Their strong, fun and creative advertising has been instrumental in supporting Goodwill's outreach efforts. They shared the honor with Olson Communications for their outstanding public relations efforts to carry forward the Goodwill mission of "We Put People to Work" into Arizona communities.

Goodwill of Central Arizona is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit agencies in Arizona. Our mission is to "Put People to Work" throughout Arizona by providing job training and career services to those with vocational barriers that can include physical and emotional disadvantages, welfare dependency, illiteracy and age. In 2006, we served 10,000 youth and adults on their quest toward self-sufficiency and placed more than 2,300 into competitive employment. For more information on Goodwill of Central Arizona visit www.goodwillaz.org.

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