



For Immediate Release

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Goodwill of Central Arizona receives \$955,000 through U.S. Department of Education's Projects With Industry Program

Goodwill of Central Arizona

Overview

Provides job skills training and career services for those with vocational disadvantages—including physical and emotional barriers, welfare dependency, illiteracy and homelessness

One of 184 independently operating Goodwill organizations worldwide

Serves Maricopa, Yuma, La Paz, Gila and portions of Pinal and Yavapai Counties

Positively impacts the community and individual lives by helping those with disadvantages obtain self-sufficiency and economic independence

2007 Highlights

Almost 11,000 youth and adults benefited from career and training services

4,600 employment opportunities were secured

\$60 million in total revenue

39 retail stores operating throughout central Arizona

850,000 donors

PHOENIX (October 28, 2008) — Goodwill of Central Arizona, a nonprofit committed to helping individuals overcome barriers to employment, announced today that it received one of 66 grants provided through the U.S. Department of Education's Projects With Industry (PWI) program. Goodwill's grant, in the amount of \$955,000, will be utilized over five years to help advance the occupational opportunities for individuals with documented disabilities throughout central Arizona.

"We are honored to receive this grant to help individuals overcome barriers and ensure independence through the power of work," said Lisa Wilham, Vice President of Workforce Development for Goodwill of Central Arizona. "This allocation will assist us with helping more individuals with disabilities obtain employment – not only strengthening Arizona's workforce and economic vitality but meeting the demand for services in today's downturned economy."

The PWI program creates and expands job opportunities for individuals with disabilities by combining participation of business and industry with the rehabilitation process. Job placement will focus on high-growth areas in Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix including healthcare, hospitality and retail and individuals may receive individual skills training to secure specific employment. This program will also focus on transitioning youth with disabilities from school to the work force to help them gain applicable real-world work experience and give them the opportunity for long-term sustainability through the power of work.

In addition to job placement, Goodwill will conduct occupational readiness training, skills training and provide support services to assist individuals with disabilities in their occupational endeavors. Through the five year grant, Goodwill plans on providing these services to more than 450 individuals with disabilities who have been unemployed for six months or longer.

Other Goodwill Industries organizations receiving PWI program funding include: Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa, Goodwill Industries Serving Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa, Goodwill Industries-Suncoast (FL), Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota, and Goodwill of North Georgia.

Celebrating 60 years in the Valley, Goodwill of Central Arizona is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit agencies in Arizona. Our commitment is to "Put People to Work" throughout Arizona by providing job skills training, education and career services to those with vocational disadvantages that can include physical and emotional barriers, welfare dependency, illiteracy and age. In 2007, we served 11,000 youth and adults on their quest toward self-sufficiency and placed more than 4,600 into competitive employment. For more information on Goodwill of Central Arizona visit www.goodwillaz.org.