



## For Immediate Release

For more information, please contact:

Sara Turley  
Public Relations Specialist  
602.535.4041 direct line  
602.369.0672 mobile  
sara.turley@goodwillaz.org

## Goodwill program provides guidance, valuable work experience for Phoenix youth

### 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

4,400 employment opportunities were secured

\$60 million in total revenue

38 retail stores operating throughout central Arizona

850,000 donors

**PHOENIX (June 9, 2008)** — This summer, 100 Phoenix youth will be given an opportunity to gain real world experience through Goodwill of Central Arizona's Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP). The program is intended to provide experience to help youth develop confidence and basic work skills that will prepare them for a path of self-sufficiency.

Youth participants in the program, ranging in age from 14 to 18, will earn a wage of \$6.90 per hour for 40 hours per week. SYWEP will host two, five week sessions with approximately 50 participants working during each session. Employment opportunities include positions in Goodwill's retail stores as well as with other community organizations who voiced interest in hosting a participant.

Goodwill staff, including two case managers, will help program participants develop work skills such as time management, team collaboration, problem solving, communication, work ethic, interview skills as well as tips for keeping a job.

This year, Goodwill staff will instruct youth in a workshop which will focus on work readiness skills, professional dress, employer relations, resume building and other strategies for being successful during employment.

Approximately half of the participants of the program are selected on need-based criteria. SYWEP has been in existence since 2002 and is made possible through a grant from the City of Phoenix.

Businesses and organizations wishing to host a SYWEP participant should contact Susan Laskorski, Program Coordinator for Goodwill of Central Arizona at (602) 335-1531 or e-mail Susan.Laskorski@goodwillaz.org.

Celebrating 60 years in the Valley, Goodwill of Central Arizona is one of the oldest and largest non-profit agencies in Arizona. Our mission 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](http://www.goodwillaz.org).

###