



Give the Gift of Hope this Holiday Season and Receive an End of the Year Tax Deduction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Roanoke, VA. With financial struggles facing an increasing number of companies and individuals this year, many are looking for last minute ways to receive a tax deduction. When you donate to Goodwill you can help ease your tax burden and provide hope to those in your community that need training and employment services to get back to work.

Goodwill accepts the donation of gently used clothing, household goods, books, toys, furniture, computers, and even those holiday gifts that weren't quite right. The revenue from the sale of donations is used to fund education and career services for people with disabilities and social and economic disadvantages, such as welfare dependency, lack of education or work experience, and those that have been laid off.

"Every donation to Goodwill will help make 2009 a better year for individuals who need job training and other Goodwill services," states Bruce Phipps, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. "Goodwill stands ready to support our communities through a network of services geared to strengthen the workforce by employing and training the discouraged and dislocated worker." In fiscal year 2008, Goodwill, which is nationally accredited by CARF to provide services to individuals with disabilities and disadvantages, served 10,815 people in need and placed 426 people in competitive employment in the community.

Donors interested in claiming tax deductions should keep itemized lists of their donations. Goodwill provides receipts to donors at drop-off sites, and attendants can validate itemized lists when they are presented. The Internal Revenue Service allows a deduction for each item, but it is the responsibility of the donor to determine the value and condition of each item. Generally, an item's value should be based on fair market value – what the item would sell for in a thrift store. For more information on valuing the donation of goods, please visit the Make a Donation section of www.goodwillvalleys.com.

Donations are accepted at all 27 Goodwill retail stores throughout the Shenandoah Valley, central, and southwest Virginia, as well as at the Attended Donation Centers conveniently located throughout the communities. Goodwill also accepts the donation of used cars, trucks, boats, or recreational vehicles, which are sold at auction to generate additional financial support for Goodwill's mission. For the retail or donation center location nearest you visit www.goodwillvalleys.com.

Monetary donations may be made by credit card online at www.goodwillvalleys.com or by mail: Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, P O Box 6159, Roanoke, VA 24017. Online donations will receive an immediate e-mail response to be used as proof of the tax deductible donation.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, a United Way partner organization headquartered in Roanoke, serves 14 cities and 31 counties in central and southwest Virginia. Its mission is to help people and families in our community achieve a better life through work and independence.

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