



Goodwill Jobs Campus Completion Means Service to More People and the Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Roanoke, VA. This Thursday, October 8, 2009, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys will welcome those that played a key role in the Goodwill Jobs Campus to thank them for their support. Community and business leaders, as well as individuals throughout the area, invested time and money into the project that transformed the 2500 block of Roanoke's Melrose Avenue and will ultimately mean hope for those in our area with barriers to employment.

The project that began in the winter of 2008, promised to:

- Provide training to people with employment barriers.
- Create 50 new jobs.
- Establish a walk-in job training and job search facility that matches workers with employers.
- Include 100,000 square feet of training, meeting, and office space as well as an updated work center.
- Create a picturesque, inner-city learning environment.

As of October 1, 2009 the Jobs Campus has enabled Goodwill to:

- Assist more than 30 additional individuals seeking employment each day.
- Create 30 full-time positions, with additional positions anticipated in the next year.
- Offer not only case managed services to those that meet eligibility guidelines, but also through the new Job Development Center, Goodwill offers a free computer resource room to the community. Here anyone can receive basic job search assistance, such as resume writing, application completion, and access to online job search services.
- Service all of the individuals and businesses that Goodwill serves. The new, larger facility features and updated work center, state of the art training and testing facilities, as well as an expanded corporate center to support all Goodwill business segments throughout the 31 county service area in Virginia.
- Completely change the look of the inner city block through the addition of trees, shrubs, and plants, as well as the extensive remodeling of both the retail store and main Goodwill facility.

"This is a chance for Goodwill to thank those that have supported the Goodwill Jobs Campus project," stated Bruce Phipps, President & CEO. "Goodwill is a unique blend of human services and economic development that reaches throughout the Shenandoah, New River, and Roanoke Valleys. The Jobs Campus is continuing to help move a labor force from public assistance to taxpayers contributing to our overall economy."

At the Thursday, October 8th Leadership and Recognition Luncheon invited guests will have their first opportunity to see the new Jobs Campus, tour the facility, and meet individuals who are receiving job training and employment services at Goodwill. On Thursday, November 19th from 10am – 2pm the public will be invited to attend an open house at the new Jobs Campus. Tours and informational sessions will be provided throughout the day on November 19th.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, a United Way partner organization headquartered in Roanoke, serves 31 counties and 14 cities in the New River, Roanoke, and Shenandoah Valleys. Its mission is to help people and families in our community achieve a better life through work and independence. During the last fiscal year Goodwill served 18,225 individuals through job training and employment programs and helped 516 people enter competitive community employment.

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