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GOODWILL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUPPORTS THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 — In October, Goodwill Southern California acknowledges the continuing employment needs of the country's men and women with disabilities during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Promoting this year's theme, "Inclusion Drives Innovation," GSC will promote its ongoing efforts to train, place and employ people with disabilities in the Los Angeles (N. of Rosecrans), San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Despite campaigns like NDEAM and legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), workers with disabilities continue to experience challenges in securing gainful employment. In 2015, according to U.S. Census data, only 34.4 percent of people with disabilities, ages 16 to 64, were employed (compared to 73.8 percent of those without disabilities). In 2016, the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities was 11.5 percent, which is two-and-a-half times that of workers without disabilities (4.7 percent). Furthermore, as the population continues to age, the pool of workers with disabilities will grow.

For 100 years, Goodwill Southern California has worked tirelessly to support job seekers with disabilities and specialized circumstances through training, placement and employment efforts. Last year alone, 4,568 people were placed into employment through Goodwill's nationwide efforts. Goodwill Southern California's employment services include no-cost career counseling, resume workshops, interview coaching, access to job search tools, referrals to advanced education courses.

"Goodwill Southern California believes that inclusion drives innovation, and that inclusive workplaces are better workplaces," said Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of Goodwill Southern California.

"We invite the citizens of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside to support our ongoing employment services by shopping at and donating to Goodwill Southern California's Donation Centers, and area businesses to join our efforts to employ people with disabilities, both during National Disability Employment Awareness Month and throughout the year."

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), which oversees NDEAM, created this year’s theme with input from many of its partner organizations, including those that represent employers, people with disabilities and their families, plus federal, state and local agencies.

“Americans of all abilities must have access to good, safe jobs,” remarked U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. “Smart employers know that including different perspectives in problem-solving situations leads to better solutions. Hiring employees with diverse abilities strengthens their business, increases competition, and drives innovation.”

Media who wish to film at Goodwill Southern California may contact Marla Eby, Director of Marketing & Media Relations, at meby@goodwillsocal.org.

For more information, visit: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>

About Goodwill Southern California

Transforming lives through the power of work, Goodwill Southern California (GSC) serves individuals with disabilities or other vocational challenges, as well as businesses, by providing education, training, work experience and job placement services. Each year, GSC prepares and places thousands of individuals into sustainable employment through programs and services offered at three campuses, Career Resource Centers, WorkSource Centers, Deaf, Youth and Veteran Employment Programs throughout Los Angeles (north of Rosecrans Ave.), Riverside and San Bernardino counties. GSC supports its mission with proceeds generated from 83 stores and 47 attended donation centers. GSC spends 95 percent of its budget on programs and services. Committed to caring for the earth, last year GSC diverted over 100 million pounds of reusable or recyclable goods from landfills. Goodwill is GOOD for Everyone!