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**GOODWILL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EMPOWERS WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES
Goodwill Joins Dept. of Labor to Mark National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 1, 2018 — This October, Goodwill Southern California highlights the contributions of American workers with disabilities during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

This year's theme—"America's Workforce: Empowering All"—aligns with Goodwill's defining mission of providing all workers, including those with disabilities, with job training and placement services.

"A sustainable job is transformational for people with disabilities," said Patrick McClenahan, President & CEO, Goodwill Southern California. "If you're facing hurdles to finding a job or advancing your career, we want you to know that Goodwill can provide the support you need. From résumé preparation to transportation assistance to educational credentials and employment placement, we offer an array of services and programs for people who are looking for work."

The origin of NDEAM dates back to 1945, when Congress established a week of recognition for workers with physical disabilities. The period was expanded to a full month in 1988, and now spotlights the employment needs and contributions of workers with all types of disabilities. NDEAM is overseen by the U.S. Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy.

"A workforce that empowers everyone is good for job seekers as well as job creators," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. "Continued steady job creation will provide even more opportunities for all Americans to get hired and provide for their families."

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities has fallen steadily since 2009. But it remains more than double the rate for people without a disability—8.5 percent versus 3.9 percent in July 2018.

Goodwill Southern California has a 102-year history of commitment to providing support for job seekers, regardless of ability or circumstance. Last year, Goodwill's network of 161 organizations helped place more than 288,000 people in jobs and delivered in-person services to more than two million people in the U.S. and Canada.

For more information on NDEAM, visit: www.dol.gov/ndeam.

About Goodwill Southern California

Transforming lives through the power of work, Goodwill Southern California (GSC) serves individuals with disabilities or other vocational challenges 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 85 stores and 46 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!

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