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**MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI AND CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA TEAM UP WITH
GOODWILL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR FIRST 10,000 STRONG HIRING EVENT
FOR VETERANS**

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Los Angeles, CA, October 31, 2014 - Goodwill Southern California (GSC), in partnership with Mayor Eric Garcetti and Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), will hold the first hiring event as part of the Mayor's 10,000 Strong Veterans Hiring Initiative from 9AM to 5PM on Wednesday, November 5, at Goodwill's Community Enrichment Center at Fletcher Square (3150 N. San Fernando Road, Los Angeles 90065).

The hiring event, will assist returning service members in leveraging their skills into fulfilling careers, and offers a unique format that will benefit both employers and job seekers by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the hiring process. The event is more than the standard job fair where prospective employers distribute information on their organizations as job seekers pass out resumes. Participating veterans will be pre-screened to match specific employment criteria identified by partnering employers. Employers will conduct interviews and may extend employment offers to veteran applicants immediately, on-site, or schedule next step interviews and/or screenings.

"As Mayor, I know that getting our veterans back to work is essential for our economy, our families, and our communities; and as a Navy reservist this effort is deeply personal for me," said Mayor Garcetti. "This event is an important step in connecting our returning heroes to the organizations that can benefit from their help."

More than 35 employer partners participating in the Goodwill 10,000 Strong Veterans Hiring Event have made a commitment to hiring veterans, including AFLAC, Bank of America, Classic Party Rentals, Disney ABC Television Group, Enterprise Holdings, NBCUniversal, and Time Warner Cable. Hiring Event Partners also include the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Employment Development Department (EDD), the U.S. Department of Labor and Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

"We can salute our veterans' sacrifices by making sure they come back home to good jobs. I'm pleased to team up with Mayor Garcetti's 10,000 Strong initiative and Goodwill to connect partner businesses with Angeleno veterans seeking work. There's nothing that helps our economy and communities like hiring a veteran," said Congressman Becerra.

"This event is a great example of how our community, businesses and legislators can come together to make a difference," said GSC President and CEO, Craig Smith. "It is modeled after the essence of our mission, to Transform Lives Through the Power of Work and we expect to see dozens of veterans hired on the day of the event."

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About Goodwill Southern California: *Transforming lives through the power of work, Goodwill Southern California (GSC) serves people 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 80 retail stores and 44 attended donation centers. Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator has awarded GSC its highest four-star ranking for 13 consecutive years; largely due to the fact GSC spends 93 percent of its budget on programs and services. Committed to caring for the earth, in 2013 GSC diverted 67.4 million pounds of reusable or recyclable goods from landfills*

Goodwill's Veteran Employment Program is funded through a grant from Los Angeles County Community & Senior Services; funding for the Homeless Female Veterans/Veterans with Families program is provided by U.S. Department of Labor.

Goodwill's Community Enrichment Center at Fletcher Square is a one-of-a-kind resource facility that brings to one location GSC's top-rated career development and placement services, retail, culinary arts and environmental service offerings, as well as access to a host of other essential social services.