



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Marla Eby

(323) 539-2104

[meby@goodwillsofcal.org](mailto:meby@goodwillsofcal.org)

PRESS RELEASE

## **GOODWILL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RECEIVES GRANT FROM SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS TO HELP VETERANS IN THE INLAND EMPIRE**

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Los Angeles, CA, November 30, 2015 – Goodwill Southern California (GSC) announced today that it has received a generous \$500,000 grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, to expand job training and placement services for veterans in the Inland Empire.

The grant funds will invest in Goodwill Southern California's expansion of its veteran services through four service locations, including Riverside, San Bernardino, Victorville, and Fort Irwin military base. They will support services to approximately 300 veterans, with a special focus on female veterans to achieve employment and financial self-sufficiency.

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has been a generous supporter of Goodwill Southern California's mission of "Transforming Lives through the Power of Work" in the Inland Empire since 2009.

"We are truly humbled to receive this generous grant award from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to expand our employment services to veterans throughout the Inland Empire. On behalf of Goodwill Southern California and our board of directors - thank you! San Manuel's investment will make a big impact on the lives of veterans in this community, as they achieve financial self-sufficiency through employment, provide for their families, and once again become proud members of our community--" Craig Smith, President & CEO, Goodwill Southern California

Goodwill Southern California's Veteran Employment Program helps veterans transition into civilian employment through education, training and job placement. The program offers assistance to all veterans whose service spans a number of campaigns, including Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan. The GSC Veteran Employment Program offers skills assessments, one-on-one career counseling, employment preparation courses, education and technical skills classes, and work tools as well as access to a host of other partner services including shelter and housing assistance, transportation assistance, medical and dental health services, mental health and substance abuse counseling, veterans benefit assistance and more – all aimed at helping veterans secure meaningful and sustainable employment. Our staff, some former vets themselves, are well qualified to respond to and address the special needs of those who have served our country and now face challenges to reintegrate into civilian employment, to regain a sense of pride, dignity and purpose through employment.

### **About The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

*The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. As an indigenous community the origins and history of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians stem from our relationship with the land and to all who share it. Since ancient times we have expressed ourselves through a culture of giving. Today, San Manuel is able to answer the call of Yawa' (Serrano word meaning "to act on one's beliefs") through partnerships with charitable organizations. We have drawn upon our history, knowledge, expertise and cultural values to direct our philanthropic giving in our local region, as well as to Native American causes nationwide. For more information, visit <http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov>.*

### **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 79 retail stores and 54 attended donation centers. GSC spends 94 percent of its budget on programs and services. Committed to caring for the earth, in 2014 GSC diverted 100 million pounds of reusable or recyclable goods from landfills, Goodwill is Good For Everyone! For more information about Goodwill Southern California, please call (888) 4-GOODWILL or visit [www.GoodwillSoCal.org](http://www.GoodwillSoCal.org).*

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