



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Marla Eby – Director, Marketing & Media Relations

(323) 539-2104

meby@goodwillsofcal.org

PRESS RELEASE

GOODWILL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RECEIVES W.M. KECK FOUNDATION GRANT TO HELP FUND TAPPING THE TALENTS OF UNIQUE POPULATIONS PROJECT

Los Angeles, CA, February 26, 2019 – Goodwill Southern California (GSC) announced today that it has received a \$300,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation in support of their *Tapping the Talents of Unique Populations* Project.

The grant will fund a comprehensive initiative aiming to improve employment mobility and economic stability for communities in Los Angeles County that have been underserved and marginalized, but offer untapped talent and potential. Those communities include individuals with disabilities, disconnected youth, people formerly incarcerated, veterans, and individuals who are homeless.

"We are thrilled to receive this generous grant award from the W.M. Keck Foundation to expand our services for people with barriers to employment throughout Los Angeles. W.M. Keck Foundation's investment will impact the lives of those we serve in this community, as we work together to Transform Lives through the Power of Work," said Patrick McClenahan, President & CEO, Goodwill Southern California.

The generous contributions from the Keck Foundation will support Goodwill's role as a sector 'convener'-- GSC will collaborate with employers, service providers, public agencies, and vocational and community colleges to provide career pathways in the manufacturing sector. GSC will also create meaningful opportunities for jobseekers who have multiple barriers to employment, and provide them with access to higher paying jobs.

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 85 stores and 44 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!

About the W.M. Keck Foundation

Based in Los Angeles, the W.M. Keck Foundation was established in 1954 by the late W. M. Keck, Founder of The Superior Oil Company. The Foundation's grant making is focused primarily on supporting pioneering discoveries in science, engineering and medical research. The Foundation's Southern California Program places a special emphasis on vulnerable populations, including low-income children and youth and their families. Grants in this program seek to promote the education and healthy development of children and youth, strengthen families and enhance the quality of life for residents living in the greater Los Angeles area.

###