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**This Earth Day, Save, Shop at and Donate to Goodwill®
to Help People in Communities
*Goodwill's Commitment to Sustainability and Job Creation
Makes for a Happier Planet***

Long Beach, CA—April 4, 2017—Every year, people clean out their closets and homes to start fresh for the spring season. This Earth Day, Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC) is encouraging people to live more sustainable lifestyles and help people in their local communities find jobs. In addition, people can shop at Goodwill SOLAC stores and save while collectively diverting about 14 million pounds of items from landfills impacting environmental sustainability. By shopping at and donating to Goodwill, you can help people find employment and build their work skills.

Goodwill's donation-resale model extends the life of clothing and other goods to earn revenue for Goodwill job training programs, employment placement services and other important services, such as life skills classes, résumé preparation and financial education.

"Revenue raised through the sale of donated goods creates employment opportunities and important social services to help transform someone's life. This is all done through the simple act of cleaning out a closet," said Janet McCarthy, President and CEO of Goodwill SOLAC. "Making a commitment to reduce, reuse and repurpose this Earth Day is as simple as heading to the nearest Goodwill store or donation center."

Every donation at Goodwill SOLAC provides on-site and virtual training, access to computers for job search assistance, employment placement, job training and other community-based services, such as career counseling, English-language training and industry-recognized credentials for anyone facing challenges to finding employment. Last year, Goodwill SOLAC placed 452 individuals in employment.

To increase awareness about how donating goods impacts the earth, Goodwill SOLAC is organizing Earth Day recycling drives with local employer partners, including Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center on April 20; IKEA Carson on April 22; Long Beach City Councilman Al Austin's Office at the North Division Police Station on April 29; and Toyota's Research & Development Division in Gardena on May 2. Several local schools also are partnering with Goodwill SOLAC to host donation drives in recognition of Earth Day, which is globally celebrated on April 22.

Goodwill SOLAC is a nonprofit organization that transforms donated goods into job training, education and placement services for individuals with barriers to employment. Goodwill SOLAC serves 22 cities and communities throughout Southern Los Angeles County. Goodwill SOLAC's main facility—located at 800 W. Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach—houses its administrative offices, training programs, processing operations, transportation fleet, LiNKs Sign Language & Interpreting Services, a retail store and its e-commerce operations. To learn more about Goodwill career services or to find your nearest Goodwill store or donation center, visit www.ThinkGood.org.

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