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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Goodwill®, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC)  
Celebrates 88 Years of Building Better Futures and Changing Lives  
*Shop at and Donate to Goodwill to Help People in Southern L.A. County***

Long Beach, CA—May 2, 2017—From May 7 thru 13, Goodwill SOLAC is celebrating National Goodwill Week. For 88 years, Goodwill SOLAC has worked in and with the communities of Southern Los Angeles County to help people get back to work and support their families. Goodwill SOLAC helps those facing challenges to finding employment — including youth, older job seekers, veterans, disabled individuals, and people with other specialized needs — gain skills and credentials, find employment, obtain job training, and receive necessary support services.

Every day, Goodwill SOLAC connects people who are unemployed or underemployed with career navigation and skills attainment so they can advance their careers and earn long-term economic stability for themselves and their families.

[Tiarra Barrera-Hammond](#) is one example of a person who used Goodwill SOLAC's specialized training in the nursing field to advance her career. Barrera-Hammond, a single mother of two children, was once homeless. She enrolled in Goodwill's Certified Nurse Assistant training program in Long Beach. Upon completing her first credential, she was inspired to continue her education, finishing the RN program at Long Beach City College and becoming a Registered Nurse.

National Goodwill Week celebrates Goodwill's innovative social enterprise model. Goodwill SOLAC sells donated items in its 18 stores and online at [shopgoodwill.com](#) to create employment placement services, job training, financial wellness and other integrated services customized to meet the needs of individuals and families in Southern Los Angeles County. In 2016, Goodwill SOLAC placed 452 individuals in jobs, and assisted 41 individuals with achieving economic self-sufficiency and moving out of poverty.

"We're inviting people in Southern Los Angeles County to celebrate Goodwill Industries Week and make a difference in our communities by donating things they used to love and no longer use or by shopping at Goodwill for an item they are in need of this season," said Janet McCarthy, President and CEO of Goodwill SOLAC. "Goodwill helps people achieve independence through learning and the power of work."

As part of its commemoration of National Goodwill Week, Goodwill SOLAC will host a full week of activities, including Customer Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 9, when shoppers get a one-day 20% store discount; Donor Appreciation Day on Wednesday, May 10, when material donors receive a Goodwill branded "I Donated" sticker; and Thursday, May 11, when Goodwill SOLAC will host a Community Job Fair to connect local job seekers with employers.

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](http://www.ThinkGood.org).