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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Goodwill® Celebrates 25 Years of Progress for Americans with Disabilities** *The Passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Was an Important Milestone for Goodwill's Ongoing Dedication to Employment For All*

Long Beach, CA—July 20, 2015— Signed into law on July 26, 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, education, public accommodation and more. Goodwill is proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this truly groundbreaking civil rights legislation that promotes equality for all American citizens.

Since its inception more than 113 years ago, Goodwill Industries International has been devoted to providing employment opportunities to job seekers with disabilities and specialized circumstances. Today, through the tireless efforts of its 165 local agencies, millions of people access Goodwill services each year. Last year alone, 426,000 men and women with disabilities in the United States and Canada used Goodwill's intensive one-on-one career services to prepare for employment.

"We at Goodwill are committed to supporting the spirit of the ADA, and we are dedicated to empowering Americans with disabilities in their employment endeavors with job training, mentoring and placement services as well as job opportunities at our Goodwill facilities," said Janet McCarthy, President and CEO of Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC). "We look past disabilities to see each person's abilities, and we wholeheartedly support their contribution to the workplace."

Despite the advances spurred by the ADA, finding meaningful employment continues to be challenging for people with disabilities. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data released in June, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was 12.5 percent in 2014, more than double the figure for those with no disabilities (5.9 percent).

"Donations to Goodwill SOLAC support the broad range of services we provide to assist men and women with disabilities in their vocational pursuits. The simple act of clearing clutter and donating items helps create jobs right here in Southern Los Angeles County communities," said McCarthy. "Please join the more than 90 million donors who contribute to Goodwill agencies across the country, making lives better for millions of individuals and families."

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. For more information about Goodwill SOLAC, please visit [www.thinkgood.org](http://www.thinkgood.org).

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