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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CARF International Awards Exemplary Accreditation to Goodwill SOLAC**

***CARF Commends the Organization's Job Training Programs  
for Providing Career Path Opportunities to Southern L.A. County Residents***

Long Beach, CA—August 7, 2014—CARF International has awarded a three-year accreditation to Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (Goodwill SOLAC), for its community employment services. This is the seventh consecutive three-year CARF accreditation that Goodwill SOLAC has received. This newest accreditation was recognized with an exemplary conformance rating.

“This latest CARF accreditation represents the highest level that can be awarded to an organization,” said Janet McCarthy, President and CEO of Goodwill SOLAC. “It reflects our substantial conformance, high quality operations and commitment to continuous quality improvement.”

Goodwill SOLAC offers a variety of skills training programs in high-demand fields to help provide job opportunities for local residents who have faced barriers to employment. Goodwill SOLAC is the first Goodwill organization in the nation to be named a state Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Training Academy. The CNA Program provides instruction and clinical training through state approved curricula to certify students to work as nursing assistants. Goodwill SOLAC's Medical Billing Program trains students to enter the healthcare industry as medical records clerks. The organization's Loss Prevention Training Program enables individuals to earn their California State Guard certification to pursue careers in the security field. These training programs also provide participants with employment support to assist them with accessing career ladder opportunities, helping them to lead a life of economic self-sufficiency. Last year alone, Goodwill SOLAC trained nearly 1,000 people in new employable skills, placed 315 people into employment, and assisted 193 students in earning a credential or certification.

To ensure that Goodwill SOLAC continues to help meet the employment demands in southern Los Angeles County, the organization recently commissioned a Community Needs Assessment to identify the region's needs for new Goodwill services and new populations in need of its services. The assessment found that the region was in need of job training programs for older workers, ex-offenders, veterans and young men of color. The assessment also reported a need for an increased outreach to local businesses and organizations while creating more job and internship opportunities with employers. Other reported needs included educational and workplace literacy courses, online training programs and computer literacy classes. In addition, the assessment identified the need to increase Goodwill SOLAC's current services, such as workplace preparedness classes for all populations; collaborations with K-12 schools and higher learning institutions; healthcare training programs; financial literacy services; job training opportunities for youth and those with disabilities; GED classes; and expanded services for the homeless community.

In addition to its employment programs, Goodwill SOLAC received high ratings from CARF for many other performance areas. Goodwill SOLAC's CARF Outcome Report released the following statements:

- Goodwill SOLAC's leadership is assessable and innovative.
- Board members are involved and truly understand the mission of the organization.
- The strategic plan is well written and provides significant direction and guidance to Goodwill SOLAC.
- Prudent and careful financial management has enabled the organization to build a fund balance, allowing it to initiate new programs and expand services.
- The rights of people served are well protected.
- Performance measurement systems are very thorough and provide a variety of useful data to help the organization determine if it is meeting its goals.
- Funders and community partners are very happy with their collaborations with Goodwill SOLAC.

#### **About CARF International**

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF International, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. For more information about CARF and its accreditation process, please visit [www.carf.org](http://www.carf.org).

#### **About Goodwill SOLAC**

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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