

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 8, 2018**

**GOODWILL, SERVING THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN LOS ANGELES  
COUNTY NAMED A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**



**Long Beach, CA** — [Goodwill, Serving the People of Los Angeles County \(Goodwill SOLAC\)](#) has been announced as one of three local Goodwill® organizations to be designated as a 2017 Center of Excellence.

Beginning in 2001, with the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Goodwill Industries International launched the designation to recognize local Goodwill organizations with excellent family strengthening practices. The Goodwill Center of Excellence designation is the next generation of mission-focused recognition.

Goodwill Serving the People of Los Angeles County (with headquarters located in Long Beach, CA) was selected by a panel of judges from the Hope Street Group, America Achieves, Bank of America Foundation, Catholic Charities, and Prosperity Now, because of the number of programs, services and activities it provides to its community. In 2015, Goodwill SOLAC began tracking economic self-sufficiency through federal and local data measurement, which it uses as a measure to best serve the community. Goodwill SOLAC utilizes hourly wage information obtained from pay stubs or through employer follow-up, and compares those numbers against the Los Angeles County Self-Sufficiency Standard.

Through this method, Goodwill SOLAC was able to determine that security guards (15,210 jobs) and nursing assistants (12,290 jobs) are among the largest-growing occupations in terms of new jobs and replacement needs in Los Angeles County. The organization's ongoing engagement with industry representatives through employer roundtables and advisory groups keeps the organization abreast of industry needs.

The Goodwill's key programs and services that serve the community include:

- Healthcare Training program — Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training and certification.
- Loss Prevention and Security Industry Training and Certification Program.
- Comprehensive supportive services in conjunction with career exploration for high school youth who are at risk for delinquency.
- Employment preparation, including soft skills and life skills training, employment placement, retention, and career advancement assistance.
- Direct job placement services
- Supported Employment
- Father's Coaching for life program

"I am so proud of all of the hard work and impact that my organization has achieved in the community that we so passionately serve," said Janet McCarthy, president and CEO of

Goodwill, Serving the People of Los Angeles County. “Starting to track and use data has really helped us determine the specific needs here, and how to address them to best serve our community.”

The Goodwill is looking to continue expanding its programs with the help of its partners, Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach School for Adults, Long Beach City College and Cerritos College and the Compton Unified School District.

“Every single Goodwill organization is different, and unique to the community it serves. It’s fulfilling to watch Goodwill, Serving the People of Los Angeles County make local impacts by studying neighborhood-specific issues, and creating customized resources for improvement,” said Jim Gibbons, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries International. “I look forward to watching these programs grow.”

Goodwill, Serving the People of Los Angeles will be recognized as a Center of Excellence at Goodwill’s Spring Conference in Sarasota, FL, alongside two other organizations:

- [Goodwill Industries of Delaware and Delaware County](#) (Wilmington)
- [Goodwill Industries of Southeast Louisiana](#) (New Orleans)

**CONTACT:**

Janet McCarthy  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Goodwill, Serving the People of Los Angeles County  
Phone: 562.435.3411, ext. 222  
[Jmccarthy@goodwillsolac.org](mailto:Jmccarthy@goodwillsolac.org)

**CONTACT:**

Savanna Mickens  
Public Relations Specialist  
Goodwill Industries International  
Phone: (240) 333-5293  
[Savanna.mickens@goodwill.org](mailto:Savanna.mickens@goodwill.org)

**ABOUT GOODWILL SERVING THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC) is a 501(c)(3) 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.

Our skills training, education, job preparation and placement programs build lives, families and communities—one job at a time. Placing individuals in productive and competitive employment fills them with the value, joy and dignity of a paycheck. We believe putting people to work not only benefits the individual, but also the community’s economic vitality through taxes, spending power, real estate values, quality of life, and relief from social services and welfare systems.

Goodwill SOLAC is one of 162 independent Goodwills with membership in Goodwill Industries International. Goodwill SOLAC’s headquarters 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, visit [thinkgood.org](http://thinkgood.org)

## **ABOUT GOODWILL INDUSTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

Goodwill Industries International (GII) is a network of 162 community-based, autonomous organizations in the United States and Canada with a presence in 12 other countries. GII is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that is recognized by GuideStar with its Platinum Seal of Approval, the organization's highest rating for charities. GII was also ranked by Enso as the #1 brand doing the most good in the world for two consecutive years, and was the only nonprofit brand rated in *Forbes'* 20 most inspiring companies for three consecutive years. Local Goodwill organizations are innovative and sustainable social enterprises that create job training programs, employment placement and other community-based programs by selling donated clothing and household items in more than 3,200 stores collectively and online at [shopgoodwill.com](http://shopgoodwill.com)®. Local Goodwill organizations build revenues and create jobs by contracting with commercial, state, and government and non-government organizations to provide a wide range of business services, including manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, packaging, assembly, food preparation, document management, grounds keeping and administrative. Last year, local Goodwill organizations collectively placed more than 288,000 people in employment in the United States and Canada. In addition, more than 65 million people used computers and mobile devices to access Goodwill education, training, mentoring and online learning services to strengthen their skills, and more than 2 million people received in person services. To learn more, visit [goodwill.org](http://goodwill.org).