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## **Goodwill® Urges Workers to Claim Valuable Tax Credits *Free Tax Assistance and Accessible Online Tools in Los Angeles County Help Workers Claim Their Full Refunds***

Long Beach, CA—January 13, 2015—Millions of workers could miss out on more than \$6,000 in extra federal income tax refunds simply because they don't know they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). According to the IRS, one out of five eligible workers is unaware that they qualify for the credit.

Many people will qualify for the EITC for the first time this year due to changes in their income, marital or parental status. Households with earned incomes of \$52,427 or less in 2014 may qualify to claim the EITC and could be eligible to receive tax refunds of as much as \$6,143 from the IRS. In recognition of EITC Awareness Day on January 30, Goodwill Industries International is partnering with the IRS to assist workers around the country who may qualify file for the EITC. In addition to offering free online and in-person tax preparation services at many local agencies, Goodwill® has created a free online EITC calculator to help filers determine whether or not they qualify for the tax credit.

The EITC is a refundable tax credit available to qualifying workers and their families. The value of the credit varies depending on family size and filing status, so it is essential that workers find out if they qualify, especially if their financial, marital or parental statuses have changed in the past year. Even if workers do not need to file federal tax returns based on salary, they must do so to claim the credit. Filers have used the EITC to pay for necessities such as rent, bills, and home and vehicle repairs and maintenance. In some cases, the tax credit has been put toward large purchases, such as homes or cars, and long-term investments, such as savings, obtaining additional education or training, and retirement.

As part of Goodwill's partnership with the IRS, Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC), promotes the EITC locally and offers referrals to community agencies that provide free tax preparation services, such as the Long Beach Community Action Partnership and the Centro Community Hispanic Association, among others.

Goodwill is also partnering with the National Disability Institute and United Way to expand free online tax preparation and filing assistance to qualified individuals. Funded by the Walmart Foundation, [MyFreeTaxes.com](http://MyFreeTaxes.com) is a free online option to file federal and state tax returns. MyFreeTaxes is the nation's only free online tax preparation and filing initiative available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for workers with a household income of \$60,000 or less. The online platform allows filers to self-file using a simple step-by-step process that includes free telephone, email and online chat support with IRS-certified tax specialists.

"Hard-working individuals and families deserve a financial boost that can make an immediate impact in their homes and communities," said Janet McCarthy, President and CEO of Goodwill SOLAC. "By claiming valuable tax credits like the EITC and taking advantage of free tax preparation services, millions of families will have the ability to improve their financial stability and better care for their families."

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Filers can begin filing their taxes in early January through April 15, 2015. Goodwill's mission is to provide job training and career- and community-based services to people with disabilities, those who lack education or work experience, and others facing challenges of finding employment. By claiming the tax credits they have earned this year, millions of hard-working taxpayers will be able to improve their financial stability and better care for their families.

To access Goodwill's free EITC calculator and other EITC planning tools, visit [MyFreeTaxes.com](http://MyFreeTaxes.com).

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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