

**For Immediate Release
December 24, 2009**

**GOODWILL® TO HELP MENTOR TEENS
Justice Department Grant to Fight Juvenile Delinquency**

NORTH GEORGIA — Goodwill of North Georgia is proud to launch a new program designed to assist youth in overcoming disadvantages and avoiding delinquency. The effort is part of a national mentoring program known as Goodwill® GoodGuides that helps teens finish school and transition into productive careers through the guidance of trusted adults.

“Goodwill has a long history of helping people find work,” said Raymond Bishop, President and CEO of the Atlanta Goodwill. “A crucial part of that history is making sure families are strong. Goodwill GoodGuides can help keep youth who are at-risk get on the right path, away from trouble and toward a better future. That’s good for everyone involved.”

The Goodwill GoodGuides program is made possible through a two-year, \$299,723 grant. The donation is part of a \$19.1 million award to Goodwill Industries International from the U.S. Department of Justice and dispersed to 56 independent Goodwill agencies around the country.

The overall goal of the Goodwill GoodGuides program is to help youth build career plans and skills, and prepare for school completion, post-secondary training and productive work by providing structured and supportive relationships with trusted adult mentors. It targets youths between ages 12 and 17 who are at-risk for dropping out of school, facing legal troubles, or are at risk for delinquency due to issues such as abuse, disability, drug or alcohol dependence or gang membership.

With Goodwill GoodGuides, Goodwill of North Georgia will be able to offer expanded mentoring services to the youth of our community. “Goodwill will recruit, train and support volunteer mentors to engage youth in promoting their career development and life skills, says Bishop”

The Goodwill GoodGuides program launches on January 11. If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer mentor or know of a youth who would benefit from this program, please call Jonathan Eury, GoodGuides program manager at 706-549-4398 or send an e-mail to jeury@ging.org.

###

About Goodwill

The mission of Goodwill of North Georgia is to put people to work. We have been providing services in the region for more than 80 years. In fiscal year 2009, we provided job training and employment services to nearly 22,367 people and helped 4,692 people start new businesses or find jobs. Our organization currently operates 29 stores and 49 attended donation centers. Revenues generated from Goodwill’s retail program help fund our job training and placement programs. Last year, we served more than 1.4 million donors!

For media inquiries, contact:

Elaine Armstrong | Director of Public Relations
Office: 404.420.9932 | Mobile: 404.825.3184
earmstrong@ging.org | www.goodwillng.org
Follow us on Twitter: [@goodwillng](https://twitter.com/goodwillng)