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**GOODWILL CELEBRATES ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR
OF SERVING CENTRAL FLORIDIANS**

*Nonprofit Reaches More Than 47,500 with Job Training Programs, Places 8,100 in
Jobs, and Opens 2 Job Connection Centers*

ORLANDO, Fla. (Feb. 8, 2018) – [Goodwill Industries of Central Florida](#) marked another successful year in 2017 by providing more than 47,500 people with resources and training to help them find meaningful work, opening two Job Connection Centers, and launching a range of new programs, including an effort to provide jobs for homeless families.

Goodwill also placed more than 8,100 Central Floridians in jobs, including many young adults through the new “Learn to Earn” program. In addition to its Operation GoodJobs program for homeless veterans, the nonprofit launched a new program called “Forward March,” with a grant from the Westgate Resorts Foundation.

Goodwill’s services are funded by the sales of donated retail goods in its network of 28 retail stores.

In 2017, Goodwill expanded its reach into every corner of the six counties it serves by opening two new Job Connection Centers – one in DeLand and one at its headquarters in South Orlando. The centers – 11 throughout Central Florida – offer assistance with applying and interviewing for jobs, including résumé writing, computer training and career counseling.

The DeLand location, which opened in November and includes a Retail Store, is Goodwill’s first job center in West Volusia County. The Job Connection Center in South Orlando on Orange Blossom Trail opened in June. Both locations were strategically chosen to meet the needs of job-seekers with limited access to transportation.

In August 2017, Goodwill partnered with the Central Florida Commission on Homelessness and Central Florida Foundation to launch Impact Families, a pilot program to increase housing stability for families through a strong focus on employment and education that aligns with the Housing First model. Goodwill works with participants to assess their skills and strengths, build an employment plan, and connect them to employment, education and certification opportunities, or services for disabilities.

“Of all the ways Goodwill can measure success in 2017, the most important metric is the people we serve ...and the dignity, hope and sense of independence we provide by giving them the opportunity to work,” said Bill Oakley, president and CEO of Goodwill

Industries of Central Florida. “When people are successful, it’s because of their characteristics and determination. Goodwill is simply the catalyst.”

About Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, Inc.

Since 1959, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida has provided vocational and job placement services to hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. With 28 retail stores, 26 Donation Xpress locations and 11 Job Connection Centers in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Brevard, Lake and Volusia counties, Goodwill directly channels more than 90 percent of its annual revenue into programs that enable individuals to secure long-term employment and become self-sufficient. For more information about Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, visit www.goodwillcfl.org, “like” Goodwill Industries of Central Florida on Facebook or follow @goodwillcfl on Twitter.