



GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC.

“Improving People’s Lives Through The Power of Work”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Shreveport, L.A. – January 21, 2010— Goodwill Industries® of North Louisiana is proud to launch a new program in Shreveport and Bossier City 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 John Rankin, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries. “A crucial part of that history is making sure that 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 in Shreveport-Bossier is made possible through a two-year, \$299,723 grant to Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana. 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 the ages of 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™, we will be able to offer expanded mentoring services to the youth of our community,” said Rankin. “Goodwill will recruit, train and support volunteer mentors to engage youth in promoting their career development and life skills.”

The Goodwill GoodGuides™ program launched on January 11 in Shreveport and Bossier City. If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer mentor or know of a youth who would benefit from this program, please contact Audrey Allen at 318-629-5961.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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ABOUT GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTH LOUISIANA

Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency that serves people with workplace disadvantages and disabilities by providing job training and employment services, as well as job placement opportunities and post-employment support. Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana is a member of Goodwill Industries International (GII) and the United Way of Northwest Louisiana, affiliated with NISH (formerly known as National Industries for the Severely Handicapped), and accredited for its employee development services and community employment services programs by CARF—the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities. Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana is also a member of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) and certified through its ethics and accountability program, the Louisiana Standards of Excellence.

www.goodwillnla.org

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