



# GOODWILL INDUSTRIES

OF NORTH LOUISIANA, INC.

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

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Local Agencies Partner to Help Youth in Foster Care Succeed**

*Shreveport, LA—November 4, 2010—* Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana® is partnering with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services to provide an Independent Living Program for youth and young adults living in foster care. The program kicked off in July of this year and offers classes on housing, financial independence, employment, job retention, mental and physical health, and vocational/educational/career development.

The program will be offered at both the Shreveport and Natchitoches Goodwill Job Centers. Youth living in Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, Bienville, Jackson, Natchitoches, Sabine, Webster, and Red River are eligible to participate. The program is a combination of class room training, case management and career development services. “The skills youth will learn through this program will help them to gain the confidence and knowledge to lead a successful independent life after foster care,” said Program Manager Wes Colbert.

The Independent Living Program is new to Goodwill Industries. The program is made possible through a \$256,000 grant provide by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. Youth will receive 32 hours of training and experiential learning opportunities along with individualized services addressing barriers and assistance developing support networks.

“Statistics indicate that once youth age out of foster care many end up homeless,” said John Rankin, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries. “As a result Goodwill and the Department of Children and Family Services are taking an active role in making sure these youth have the skills they need prior to leaving foster care system.”

(more)

For more information on the Independent Living Program, please contact Wes Colbert with Goodwill Industries at 318-868-4701. The Independent Living Program will be offered at the following locations:

Shreveport Job Center  
800 W. 70<sup>th</sup> Street  
Shreveport, LA 71106

Natchitoches Goodwill Store  
311 South Drive  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

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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](http://www.goodwillnla.org)

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