

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 16, 2010

Goodwill Client to Have Book Signing at Russo's Bookstore on August 26<sup>th</sup>

BAKERSFIELD – When Kern Regional Center referred Jaleen Green to Goodwill Industries of South Central California, few could have predicted that two short years later she would be selling copies of her first book inside of Russo's Bookstore. On Thursday, August 26, at 1:00 pm, Jaleen will be signing copies of her book inside Russo's Bookstore in the Marketplace. The honorable Mayor Harvey Hall will be present, as will representatives from Congressman Kevin McCarthy and Jim Costa's offices.

Jaleen, or "Baby J" as she's known by her family and friends, wanted to own her own business and use her unique skill-set of sewing on a daily basis. Once Jaleen was partnered with her Goodwill Business Coach, Brenda Williams, the team worked together and Jaleen published her first book titled: *Baby J has Quite a Day*. "I love laughing and I love sewing, so I decided to write a story about a funny childhood experience and also include puppets to help tell the story," said Jaleen, a 21-year-old Bakersfield resident.

Jaleen has the personal goal of selling 500 copies of her book by the end of 2010, and partnering with Russo's Bookstore should help sales. "All of us here at Goodwill are very thankful for Mike Russo's personal support of Jaleen, Goodwill's mission, and the community of Bakersfield in general," said Goodwill VP of Business Development Ken Beurmann. Russo's Bookstore has agreed to let Jaleen sell her book in the store 100 percent free of commission charges.

Currently, *Baby J has Quite a Day* is selling for \$8.95 a copy, or for \$23 if the consumer wishes to purchase the book and all accompanying hand-made puppets. Jaleen's next aspirations are to publish the book in both Spanish and Brail because she enjoys "helping people out by putting a smile on their face."

**About Goodwill Industries of South Central California:**

Goodwill Industries of South Central California is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to provide work opportunities and skills development to people with barriers to employment. Currently, Goodwill Industries of South Central California has 11 locations to serve its territory which includes all of Kern County, Kings County, and the Southern-half of Tulare County. For more information, please visit our website at: [www.giscc.org](http://www.giscc.org).

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