

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**GOODWILL TO HELP MENTOR TEENS**  
**Local Goodwill, Senator Dodd reaching out to local teens.**

BAKERSFIELD – Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) has introduced the Mentoring America's Children Act of 2010 as one of three pieces of legislation that he believes will help create a better 21st century education system for all American children.

As he offered this legislation on the Senate floor, Dodd said, "Mentoring programs that provide youth with support, advice, friendship, positive reinforcement and constructive examples have proved to be a powerful tool for enhancing positive development among youth. Thus, mentoring invests not only in the individual child, but our Nation's future success."

The Mentoring America's Children Act of 2010 would strengthen the No Child Left Behind mentoring grant program by providing the resources necessary to sustain these programs, ensure their effectiveness and target students who are likely to benefit the most from mentoring — youth growing up in foster care or students in areas that have high rates of crime, gang violence or drug abuse.

Goodwill Industries of South Central California is proud to have already launched a Youth Mentoring program available to the youth of Kern County.

Goodwill Industries of South Central California, in partnership with Goodwill Industries International has been working to mentor local youth since January of this year. The GoodGuides program is designed to assist youth in overcoming disadvantages and avoiding delinquency. The effort is part of a national mentoring program 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 Tammy Reynolds, GoodGuides Program Coordinator. "A crucial part of that history is making sure that families are strong. Goodwill GoodGuides can help keep youth who are at some risk of not doing well in school and not sure of their path to adulthood, we can help them make good choices and succeed into independent successful adults"

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, are at risk for delinquency due to issues such as abuse, disability, drug or alcohol dependence, or gang membership. "We are looking to help the youth who just need a trusted adult help them figure out what their future holds." Ms. Reynolds states.

“With Goodwill GoodGuides, we will be able to offer expanded mentoring services to the youth of our community,” said Ms. Reynolds. “Goodwil will recruit, train and support volunteer mentors to engage youth in promoting their career development and life skills.” With the help of Goodwill Industries and the community partners already involved in this innovative program, youth and their mentors will be able to job shadow businesses, get hands on experience in the vocation of their choice and see first hand the many amazing opportunities that our great cities has to offer.

The Goodwill GoodGuides program has been active since March of this year in Bakersfield. Already there have been over a dozen GoodGuides matches and many local youth have been referred to the program. If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer mentor or know of a youth who would benefit from this program, please call 661-837-0595 x 361

**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).

**CONTACT:**

Tammy Reynolds  
GoodGuides Program Coordinator  
Goodwill Industries of South Central California  
661-837-0595 x361  
661-322-7590 fax  
661-343-2979 cellular  
[treynolds@giscc.org](mailto:treynolds@giscc.org)