

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Goodwill GoodGuides to Help Mentor Teens

BAKERSFIELD — Goodwill Industries of South Central California is proud to launch a new program in Bakersfield 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 CEO Sheryl Chalupa. “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 Bakersfield is made possible through a two-year, \$299,723 grant to Goodwill of Industries of South Central California. 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 Kirsten Myers, VP of Workforce Development. “Goodwill will recruit, train, and support volunteer mentors to engage youth in promoting their career development and life skills.”

The Goodwill GoodGuides program will launch on January 11 in Bakersfield. 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.

### **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.

### **CONTACT:**

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