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The Top Five Things You Should Donate this Spring *‘Simplify Your Life by Donating to Goodwill’*

BAKERSFIELD, CA (March 8, 2011) – Spring presents the perfect time to take a fresh look at the items in your home and decide what should stay and what should go. As you de-clutter your home, Goodwill Industries of South Central California can put your unwanted items to good use. When you donate your gently-used clothing, housewares, and electronics, you are helping Goodwill provide job training and community-based services to thousands of people right here in our own community.

Here are the top five things that people don’t think to donate.

- 1. Computers:** Through a partnership with Dell, many Goodwill locations now accept computers to be recycled for free, regardless of whether they are in working condition. You can also pack up an old laptop or netbook as well as accessories such as mice and printers and donate them to Goodwill. Through the Dell Reconnect program, Goodwill and Dell offer consumers a way to dispose of computers and accessories in an environmentally responsible way while receiving a tax deduction at the same time. Visit <http://reconnectpartnership.com> to learn more.
- 2. Cell phones:** It’s time to dig out the old cell phones you have hidden away. If you’ve ever upgraded to a new cell phone, it’s likely you have an old one somewhere at home. Goodwill is working with partners to collect and recycle these phones and keep them out of landfills.
- 3. Books:** If you’ve already read a book and have no plans to read it again, donate it to Goodwill. Donating books frees valuable shelf space and makes room for new ones. Check your children’s rooms for outgrown kid’s books or your kitchen for cookbooks you haven’t consulted in the last year.
- 4. Clothing:** You can let go of the jeans that never quite fit or that sweater that wasn’t quite your style. Goodwill gladly accepts donations of gently-used clothing. As you’re cleaning out your closet, put clothing donations in a pile and, when you’re finished, bring them to your nearest Goodwill donation center. When you’re finished going through your closet, that pile might be bigger than you bargained for!
- 5. Housewares:** Sometimes we inherit household items from others or receive them as gifts. If you have a second toaster, vacuum cleaner, or blender that you don’t need, donate it to Goodwill.

More than 175,000 donors have given their gently-used items to Goodwill, helping their neighbors build careers and make positive contributions to their communities. Last year, Goodwill served more than 1,500 people; including people with disabilities, those who lack education or work experience, and others facing challenges to finding employment. Goodwill also started the Donate Movement to highlight the positive effects donating has on both people and the planet.

One expert who knows all about the process of de-cluttering is Lorie Marrero, Certified Professional Organizer, contributor to *Good Housekeeping* and spokesperson for Goodwill’s Donate Movement. She is also the author of *The Clutter Diet: The Skinny on Organizing Your Home and Taking Control of Your Life* and the creator of ClutterDiet.com, an innovative program that teaches people how to organize their closets, businesses and homes. An organizing expert, Marrero has first-hand knowledge about spring cleaning and the importance of donating gently-used items to environmentally sustainable organizations such as Goodwill.

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 nine 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 www.giscc.org.

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