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Community Nonprofits Merge to Bring Housing and Jobs for Homeless Youth Together

Wind Youth Services and Goodwill Industries announce strategic alliance

SACRAMENTO, CA, May 12, 2016 – Wind Youth Services and Goodwill Industries of Sacramento Valley & Northern Nevada, Inc. announced they have joined forces to help move more youth from homelessness and unemployment to stable housing, jobs and self-reliance.

Both organizations believe the real solution to helping people break the cycle of poverty and homelessness includes a comprehensive and coordinated approach that provides both short-term and long-term opportunities, incorporating wrap-around services including food, housing, employment opportunities, community referrals and other support.

This unique partnership will position Wind and Goodwill as regional leaders in delivering services to homeless youth in the Sacramento area. Wind will continue to offer all of its regular services for which they are known and respected, while maintaining its unique identity, mission statement and Board of Directors.

“Wind has been focused on providing support services and opportunities to youth experiencing homelessness,” said Suzi Dotson, Wind’s executive director. “This strategic alliance will leverage both agencies’ respective expertise in moving Sacramento’s young people to self-sufficiency.”

“Goodwill’s mission footprint in Sacramento will be broadened by its relationship with Wind Youth Services,” said Joe Mendez, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Sacramento Valley & Northern Nevada, Inc. “Our vocational programs will offer Wind’s clients opportunities to develop job skills that are portable to other industries. The close mission alignment of our organizations creates a real opportunity to assist Sacramento homeless youth move into stable housing situations and employment.”

Goodwill recently issued a \$10,000 community challenge to help raise funds to keep Wind’s adolescent shelter open through the end of the year. A total of over \$135,000 was raised through that challenge.

Wind’s youth shelters will remain open and operational in their current locations. Wind’s administrative offices will temporarily move to the Goodwill Corporate office on Folsom Blvd, while the Teen Drop-in Center moves to a Next Move-owned facility in Oak Park until an affordable location is identified.

"We appreciate the opportunity to partner with Goodwill," said Wind Youth Service Board Chair Robert E. Beaudry. "The infrastructure provided by Goodwill will allow Wind to focus on its mission of supporting homeless youth in our community. I am a firm believer in leveraging shared services, and Goodwill has provided that opportunity."

About Wind Youth Services

Established in 1994 by the Sisters of Social Service in a small space located next to Loaves and Fishes, Wind Youth Services is the only provider in Sacramento providing direct services to young people who are homeless, serving over 100 teenagers in their adolescent shelter each year, and another 100 young people in their 18-24 year old shelter. Last year, Wind had over 8,000 visits to their drop-in center, and provided over 400 young people with intensive case management services. In addition to shelter, Wind provides youth experiencing homelessness with unconditional love and support, emergency supplies, their mental and physical healthcare needs, case management, and permanent housing.

www.windyouth.org

About Goodwill

Established in 1902 in Boston and 1933 in Sacramento, Goodwill Industries is a community based non-profit that offers diverse job training and placement programs for the disabled, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised. Goodwill puts people to work in their own communities, helping to build self-sufficiency and human dignity. Goodwill Industries of Sacramento Valley & Northern Nevada, Inc. has partnered with several community nonprofits, including Next Move, Francis House Center, Community Link and People of Progress in Redding. More than 90 percent of total revenues are dedicated to job training, mission-related activities, and mission-related payroll.

www.goodwillsacto.org

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Wind Youth Services provides supportive services and opportunities to youth experiencing homelessness as they pursue self-determined lives of stability and independence.
