



## Goodwill Industries® of the Valleys

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 13, 2015**

### **Goodwill Industries of the Valleys Awarded \$2.5 Million Health Professionals Opportunity Grant from U. S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**Roanoke, VA** – Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, headquartered in Roanoke, has been awarded a one-year Health Professionals Opportunity Grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Family Assistance in the amount of \$2,567,650. The grant is renewable for up to four years, based on program outcomes. Goodwill is the only grant recipient in Virginia and one of 32 nationwide.

The Health Professionals Opportunity Grant will allow Goodwill® to create GoodCare, a program that will provide supportive services, life skills, education, training, and assistance to obtain employment in the health care industry. Individuals served will enter an in demand occupation and have the opportunity to grow and advance their career through health care pathways. GoodCare will serve individuals that are TANF recipients, as well as other low-income or near-poor individuals.

These services will be delivered throughout Goodwill’s 31 county, 13 city service area through partnerships with local community colleges. Participating community college partners are Virginia Western (Roanoke), Dabney S. Lancaster (Clifton Forge), Blue Ridge (Weyers Cave), Central Virginia (Lynchburg), Piedmont Virginia (Charlottesville), New River (Dublin), and Wytheville. Additional partners include multiple businesses in the health care sector and adult education programs throughout the service area. GoodCare will also advance Virginia’s professional learning community, expand regional partnerships, and improve the regional workforce system.

“The need for qualified health care workers throughout our region is great,” states Bruce Phipps, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. “This grant will allow Goodwill to connect highly trained and motivated employees with our regional health care providers creating a stronger workforce and a community where more of our neighbors are able to move from poverty to prosperity.” GoodCare will provide training to at least 125 individuals annually.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, a United Way partner organization headquartered in Roanoke, serves 31 counties and 13 cities in the New River, Roanoke, and Shenandoah Valleys. Its mission is to help people and families in our community achieve a better life through work and independence. In 2014, Goodwill assisted thousands of individuals and in this difficult employment market placed over 3,600 individuals in competitive community employment.

**For More Information Contact:**

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