

Media Alert



For Immediate Release

May 17, 2017

Goodwill® is Committed to Helping Individuals in the Lynchburg Region

As announced by the Region 2000 Workforce Investment Board at a meeting on Tuesday, Goodwill Industries® of the Valleys will no longer operate the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs in Region 2000 effective July 1st.

“Although we expect to see an increase in enrollment in the WIOA Youth Program this year, we recognize that there were difficulties engaging with those out of school youth, age 18 to 24,” states Mary Ann Gilmer, Vice President of Workforce Development for Goodwill. “This is why Goodwill decided not to reapply as a program operator in Region 2000 and opted to continue to deliver training programs that will benefit individuals in the community.”

Goodwill will continue to operate a variety of other training programs and services to assist those in Lynchburg and the surrounding communities to find work, increase their employability, and gain greater independence.

Goodwill programs and services in the Lynchburg region (a detailed description of programs that Goodwill operates in the region is attached at the end of this release):

- GoodCare Healthcare Training
- Careers in Technology
- Prisoner Re-Entry
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Supported Employment
- Employee Development and Training
- Reality Check
- Work Incentive Special Advocate
- Job Seeker Services including Computer Classes and Job Fairs

“Goodwill’s commitment to serving Lynchburg and the surrounding region is strong,” states Bruce Phipps, Goodwill President & CEO. “In the past year we have introduced both healthcare and technology training opportunities to our program offerings that will benefit residents of this area who need help to move from poverty to prosperity. We are excited to continue to work with area partners to bring needed training to the area and continue our efforts to build a stronger workforce in Region 2000.”

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys provides training and employment programs for youth, adults, and seniors throughout a 31 county and 13 city service area in Virginia. The organization continues to operate successful WIOA programs for Workforce Boards in the Shenandoah Valley, Charlottesville, and New River Valleys. Last year, Goodwill provided services to over 45,000 individuals and helped more than 4,000 find jobs in the community. As of the end of April, more than 21,000 people have received services in 2017. Goodwill stores provide critical revenue to help fund job training and employment services and to provide supportive services to individuals as they strive to change their lives.

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Goodwill Programs Offered in the Lynchburg Area

GoodCare Healthcare Training

GoodCare is a healthcare training program provided by Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. Through a partnership with Community Colleges and Adult Education or Literacy programs, individuals enrolled in GoodCare will benefit from supportive services, life skills training, education, and assistance to obtain employment in the healthcare industry. People served will enter an in-demand occupation and have the opportunity to grow and advance their career through healthcare pathways. GoodCare will serve individuals who are TANF recipients, as well as other low-income individuals.

GoodCare Training Pathways include:

- Health Information: Microsoft Office Specialist, Medical Administrative Assistant, Health Records Coding, Medical Administrative Management
- Nursing: Personal Care/Home Health Aide, Certified Nurse Assistant, Registered Medication Aide, Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse
- Healthcare Support: Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Technician, Ophthalmic Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant

Open Houses are currently being offered in the Lynchburg area.

Location: Goodwill Jobs Center, 174 River James Shopping Center, Madison Heights, VA 24572

When: Every Wednesday at 3pm

Individuals interested can complete an Interest Form at <http://www.goodwillvalleys.com/work-and-training-services/adult-services/goodcare-health-care-training/> or call 434.329.1253. Information sessions provide more information on the program and assists individuals in determining if it is a good fit for them and their career goals.*

*Seats are limited and individuals must meet eligibility requirements to be considered for enrollment in GoodCare. Funding for the healthcare training program is provided by a Health Professions Opportunity Grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

HPOG is a study funded by the federal government which is being conducted to determine how these training opportunities help people improve their skills and find better jobs. During the study, all new eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to participate in these training opportunities. Not all eligible applicants will be selected to participate in these opportunities. This document was supported by Grant 90FX0038 from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS. Learn more about HPOG on their Facebook or Twitter pages.

Careers in Technology (CiT)

Careers in Technology* helps individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, dislocated, and incumbent workers receive skills training and the opportunity to earn industry recognized credentials. In as little as eight weeks individuals can obtain certifications that can lead to careers as Computer User Support Specialists. The program provides financial assistance for tuition, books, and exam fees. Individuals also benefit from job-readiness and soft skills training as well as job placement assistance.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about Careers in Technology should fill out an interest form at <http://www.goodwillvalleys.com/work-and-training-services/adult-services/technology-training/> to receive more information about current and future information sessions in the Lynchburg area. Sessions are currently planned for May 18th and 23rd.

**Careers in Technology is funded as a part of the Obama Administration's efforts to work with communities to get more Americans trained for well-paying jobs through the TechHire initiative. Goodwill Industries® International was awarded a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.*

Prisoner Re-Entry

Goodwill is dedicated to providing effective, comprehensive employment services to men and women with criminal convictions. Our Prisoner Re-Entry services provide a level of structure and supervision to returning citizens that fosters confidence and skill building that are necessary for a successful transition to a stable productive life.

Reconnecting with the labor force can be challenging for anyone. Add a criminal history to the scenario and it can seem impossible. At Goodwill, individuals with a criminal history, who want to work, are assisted with preparing to go to work and maintaining regular employment. The program provides a road map for participants to achieve a long-term goal of remaining attached to the legitimate workforce and maintaining their freedom.

Services available through Goodwill Industries of the Valleys Prisoner Re-Entry program include:

- Job readiness education
- Job search support
- Interview coaching
- Resume development
- Help to identify other community resources available to assist with successful return to the community

Individuals who are interested in learning more about Goodwill Prisoner Re-Entry Services can fill out the Pre-Screening Online form at <http://www.goodwillvalleys.com/work-and-training-services/adult-services/prisoner-re-entry/> or call (540) 581.0620 option 2.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

Goodwill operates the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which is the only federal workforce program targeted to low-income older workers. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration through grant agreements with the state and eligible organizations such as Goodwill.

Through SCSEP, Goodwill provides part-time employment and training in community service positions for individuals age 55 and older. Each SCSEP position will be with a local non-profit organization (including local government and educational facilities). Individuals will be matched with a community service position that fits their unique skill set, preferred schedule, physical requirements, desired location, and training needs.

While participating in the program, individuals will actively pursue, with the help of Goodwill staff, full or part-time non-subsidized employment. Upon securing employment, individuals will complete the program and a new individual enrolled in SCSEP will take over the work-experience position.

Those who are interested in learning more about SCSEP should call (866) 681-0850 or e-mail info@goodwillvalleys.com.

Supported Employment

Goodwill offers competitive employment, to adults with disabilities who are referred through the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in a community work environment through the Supported Employment program.

Supported Employment provides individuals with:

- Assessment
- Individual goal setting
- Identification of employment barrier
- Job placement and training
- Vocational skills training
- Long term follow along to ensure success

When Goodwill partners with an area business to provide community employment, a Goodwill Employment Specialist assists the individual with securing employment. They then provide the necessary training, coaching, and support on-site

at the new job to ensure success. Goodwill staff also works with the new supervisor to ensure understanding of any special accommodations when supervising the employee.

Once it is determined by the supervisor that the employee is successfully performing their job, the employment specialist will begin to conduct periodic reviews of performance with the individual. Goodwill remains in contact with the individual's employer to ensure continued success.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Supported Employment program can e-mail info@goodwillvalleys.com or call (540) 581.0620 option 2.

Employee Development and Training

Goodwill provides a variety of program opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment, including disabilities to ensure they can be successful in the work environment. These case managed services work directly with the individuals to provide:

- Assessment
- Individual goal setting
- Vocational skills training
- Paid work opportunities
- Work and work related activities in the least restrictive environment available

Those interested in learning more about the Employee Development and Training programs can e-mail info@goodwillvalleys.com or call (540) 581.0620 option 2.

Reality Check

Reality Check uses real life situations to engage young adults in the exercise of making their own decisions as they navigate through a month of paying bills, unexpected expenses, taxes, and even insurance. Reality Check is typically held during the school day in local middle and high schools. Volunteer experts in fields including banking, insurance, and education make Reality Check fun and relative to the students. When a student successfully makes it through a month of bill paying, with money left over, a siren sounds and everyone celebrates the youth's success. Reality Check is fun, real, and an active program that has allowed youth to get a glimpse at what lies ahead in the "real world."

For more information on volunteering at a Reality Check event or hosting an event, e-mail info@goodwillvalleys.com or call (540) 581.0620 option 2.

Work Incentive Specialist Advocate

In an effort to enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities Goodwill offers Work Incentive Specialist Advocate (WISA) services. The program provides all Social Security Administration (SSA) disability beneficiaries with access to benefits planning and assistance services. The WISA program is designed to assist SSA beneficiaries with disabilities in meeting their employment goals.

Individuals who may benefit from the services of a Goodwill WISA Benefits Specialist are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) client, and:

- Planning to start or return to work or to start their own business
- Planning to accept or seek a higher paying job
- Concerned about no longer working
- Have questions about the Ticket to Work program
- Have other questions about how work will impact their disability benefits

Individuals interested speaking with a Work Incentives Specialist Advocate can call (540) 581.0620 option 2 or e-mail info@goodwillvalleys.com.

Job Seeker Services

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys offers job seeker services to assist individuals in their job search efforts. Services may include:

- resume writing assistance
- help with filing online applications
- assistance with employer required assessments
- referrals to appropriate agencies for support services

Free computer classes are available for the public at the Madison Heights Jobs Center, located at 174 River James Shopping Center. Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required by calling Jamille Moreland, Office Coordinator at (434) 200.9920 ext. 100 or via email: jmoreland@goodwillvalleys.com.

Basic Computer Classes

Dates: Thursdays, May 18th, & 25th

Time: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Goodwill also offers Job Fairs periodically at the Madison Heights Jobs Center to connect local businesses with job seekers. For more information on upcoming job fairs or events at the Madison Heights Jobs Center visit <http://www.goodwillvalleys.com/about/events-and-news/> or call (434) 200.9220 ext. 100 or email info@goodwillvalleys.com.