



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs
Salem VA Medical Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 2, 2018

**Goodwill Industries of the Valleys and Salem VA Medical Center
Partner for the first “Bikes for Vets” Campaign in the area**

Roanoke, VA –Goodwill Industries of the Valleys is proud to partner with the Salem VA Medical Center’s Health Care for Homeless Veterans and Community Employment Program for the “Bikes for Vets” Campaign. This first time partnership will collect and distribute new or gently used bicycles to Veterans that have limited resources available for transportation to get to work or allow them to seek employment.

The collection of bikes for the “Bikes for Vets” Campaign will take place from April 2nd through April 30th. The public interested in donating to the campaign should drop off bicycles at the Goodwill store located at 1493 East Main Street in Salem. Donation hours are Monday through Saturday from 8am – 8pm and Sunday from 12pm – 6pm. Donors must designate that they would like the bike to be included in the “Bikes for Vets” Campaign. Bicycles for the campaign cannot be accepted at other Goodwill stores in the area; the Salem location near Lakeside is the only donation location for this campaign.

“This partnership between Goodwill and Salem VA Medical Center is a perfect example of the way that community partners are able to contribute to the goal of ending homelessness among Veterans,” said Rebecca Stackhouse, Director for Salem VA Medical Center. “By teaming up,” she added, “Goodwill is providing a way for Veterans that have barriers to transportation to get to work and around town.”

“We are excited to be a part of the ‘Bikes for Vets’ campaign,” stated Mary Ann Gilmer, Vice President of Mission Services for Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. “Goodwill’s mission is to help individuals overcome barriers to success so they can find work, a better job, or greater independence. This campaign has that same goal and we are proud to play a role in helping our veterans who are in need of assistance.”

Bikes collected through the “Bikes for Vets” Campaign will be distributed to Veterans in need at the Salem VA Medical Center’s VA2K Awareness walk for homeless Veterans on May 16th.

The Salem VA Medical Center located in the Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network (VISN 6), is a Joint Commission accredited, complexity level 1-C facility serving Veterans living in 26 counties and 13 independent cities of southwestern Virginia. The VA Medical Center is located in Salem, Virginia, with VA clinics in Lynchburg, Wytheville, Staunton, Danville, and Tazewell.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys 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 2017, Goodwill assisted nearly 45,000 individuals and helped 3,494 people obtain employment in our community. More than 1,300 industry recognized credentials were also earned by individuals participating in Goodwill programs in 2017.

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