



## Media Alerts for Goodwill Beginning January 15<sup>th</sup> (opportunities throughout the Roanoke, New River, and Shenandoah Valleys, including Lynchburg and Charlottesville)

### Included in this edition:

- Goodwill is Seeking to Engage Volunteer Mentors During National Mentoring Month in January
- A look back at Goodwill's Service to Individuals and the Community in 2018
- Goodwill Brings Back Popular Dinner in the Dark to Benefit New Vision
- Public Classes, Workshops, Job Fairs, and More Throughout the Month

### Looking for a special or last minute story? Contact us today!

We would love to brainstorm potential story ideas with you, including personal interest stories of the people we serve.

### For more information or to set up an interview please contact:

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## Goodwill is Seeking to Engage Volunteer Mentors During National Mentoring Month in January

January is National Mentoring Month, and this year Goodwill Industries of the Valleys is celebrating by expanding quality-mentoring opportunities to connect more of our community's young people with caring adults. In commemoration of National Mentoring Month, Goodwill is seeking mentors to provide positive, adult guidance to youth in Roanoke and Franklin County.

According to Opportunity Index (2013), one in seven young people (5.8 million) ages 16 to 24 is disconnected from school and work. Goodwill mentoring programs will help area youth overcome disadvantages, and avoid delinquency and achieve success.

"Goodwill has a long history of assisting people achieve the skills they need to help them find jobs," said Mary Ann Gilmer, Vice President Mission Services. "A crucial part of that history is making sure that families are strong. Goodwill mentoring programs help keep youth who are at-risk on a path toward a better future. That's good for our youth and our communities."

In Roanoke, mentoring programs are available through YouthHQ@Goodwill. YouthHQ is a youth and teen center located at 2502 Melrose Avenue, NW. The center features activities and offerings for middle and high school youth and the community, including youth mentoring where the young adults will gain confidence, improve decision-making abilities, and gain skills to achieve goals and reach their fullest potential through their interactions with positive adult role models. Middle and high school students in the Roanoke Valley are eligible for mentoring at YouthHQ.

In Franklin County, Goodwill uses the Big Brothers Big Sisters evidence based mentoring model to encourage and guide youth to develop positive relationships and achieve success in school, while also helping them to avoid risky behaviors

like getting into fights, and trying drugs and alcohol. The program aims to help youth who have been in trouble with the criminal justice system. Volunteer adult mentors provide guidance, support, and encouragement to help youth improve their self-confidence, increase on-time graduation rates, and reduce their risk of future involvement with the law. Educational, recreational, and relationship building activities with their mentor will help the youth to achieve greater confidence, education success, and better relationships with teachers, parents, and guardians. Youth who are 12 to 17 and living in Franklin County are eligible for the program.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Goodwill mentoring programs for youth and how to become a youth mentor.

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## **A look back at Goodwill's Service to Individuals and the Community in 2018**

On January 19th, we will celebrate the birthday of Reverend Edgar J. Helms, who founded Goodwill in 1902. Helms said, "Be dissatisfied with your work until every person in your community has an opportunity to develop to their fullest usefulness and enjoy a maximum of abundant living." This quote hangs in the lobby of our Training Center in Roanoke and reminds us each day that at Goodwill we measure the success of a year a little differently than other companies. For us it is about service to our community, lives that we have been able to impact through our training and employment programs, and hope for a brighter future. As we look back at 2018, service to people tops our measurements of success.

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In 2018, Goodwill services touched the lives of more than 47,000 people who were in need of assistance. Their reasons for contacting Goodwill were varied, but all were seeking assistance to overcome barriers to success. They benefited from services such as:

- Resume assistance
- Free computer classes
- On-site job fairs
- Case managed training programs to increase employability or independence

In today's workforce specialized skills are often needed to enter top performing industries, such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and information technology. Through Goodwill programs individuals earned 1,481 industry recognized credentials and for 3,300 people, Goodwill was able to help them find competitive employment in the community.

Goodwill supporters make this service to the community possible. Without the support of donors, shoppers, volunteers, and community supporters Goodwill would not be able to provide these training and employment programs. In 2018, the community generously donated items that they no longer needed over one million times. Goodwill was then able to sell these items in our stores in order to generate critical revenue to support mission programs. And while our customers were shopping for low cost, high quality items in Goodwill stores, they also generously donated through "Round Up" to support our Goodwill programs. Over the course of the year, this added up to more than \$363,000 to fund programs such as Reality Check and YouthHQ@Goodwill. We also kept over 13.1 million pounds of material out of area landfills in our community through salvage and recycling efforts.

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## Goodwill Brings Back Popular Dinner in the Dark to Benefit New Vision



Benefitting New Vision at Goodwill Industries® of the Valleys

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys and Vistar Eye Center are proud to announce that Dinner in the Dark is returning

**Thursday, April 4th**  
**5:30pm Cocktails & Silent Auction | 7pm Dinner**  
**Hotel Roanoke | Roanoke Ballroom**

Dinner in the Dark is an annual event supporting the work of New Vision at Goodwill. Guests will be invited to experience dinner and conversation as they may never have before – without their sight. This unique in-the-dark dining experience will be accompanied by special entertainment, a cocktail hour, and a silent auction. All proceeds from this event support the services of New Vision at Goodwill as we educate, inform, and provide resources so that people with visual impairments can live their fullest lives.

New Vision previously operated as an independent non-profit organization for nearly 38 years until it became a part of Goodwill in July 2018. The move ensured that the New Vision program would be able to continue mission programming as well as additional opportunities for clients to be served.

New Vision at Goodwill seeks to promote independence and equality for people who are blind and visually impaired. New Vision offers:

- **Assistive Technology Center:** The Center offers free instruction on how to use the latest technology and devices to connect to the world and increase independence.
- **Dial In News Service:** New Vision offers a dial-in news service for people who are blind and visually impaired or have a print disability. Available 24/7, it provides local, national, and world news from over 400 publications. Dial-In News is a collaboration with the National Federation of the Blind and Roanoke Times.
- **Radio Reading Service:** New Vision, partners with WVTF, to provide special radios for people who are blind and visually impaired, or have a print disability. Listeners tune to a sub-frequency to hear a program mix of readings from local and national newspapers and magazines.
- **Large Print Calendars:** Each year New Vision provides thousands of large print calendars to Virginians who are blind and visually impaired. The calendars measure 22 inches by 17 inches and feature a large font and numbers.

**Tickets for Dinner in the Dark are now on sale. Tickets are limited. [Click here](#) for more information.**

Dinner in the Dark tickets are \$90 (includes one drink ticket). Tables of eight are also available for a discounted rate of \$700.

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## Public Classes, Workshops, and More:

### Roanoke Valley

January 16	<a href="#">Real Goodwill Tour</a>	8:30 – 9:30	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">How to Get a Job Workshop</a>	10 am – 11am	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite C
	<a href="#">Basic Microsoft Excel Computer Class (Class 2 of 3)</a>	10am – 12pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">GoodCare Information Session</a>	11am	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">Journaling with India**</a>	5:30pm – 7pm	YouthHQ@Goodwill
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Basic Microsoft Excel Computer Class (Class 3 of 3)</a>	10am – 12pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">The Budd Group Job Fair</a>	12pm – 4pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">Science Club**</a>	6pm – 7:30pm	YouthHQ@Goodwill
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Resume Building Workshop</a>	10am – 12pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus
	<a href="#">Keyboarding Computer Class</a>	1pm – 2pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus
	<a href="#">Movie Night**</a>	7pm – 8pm	YouthHQ@Goodwill
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="#">AmeriCorps at Goodwill Community Service Project: MLK Jr. Day - Walk through History</a>	9am – 3L39on	Starting at Dumas Center, ending at YouthHQ@Goodwill
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#">How to Get a Job Workshop</a>	10 am – 11am	Roanoke Jobs Campus
	<a href="#">Basic Computer Skills Class</a>	10am – 12pm or 2pm – 4pm	Raonoke Jobs Campus
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#">How to Get a Job Workshop</a>	10 am – 11am	Roanoke Jobs Campus
	<a href="#">Basic Internet Skills Class</a>	10am – 12pm or 2pm – 4pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus
	<a href="#">GoodCare Information Session</a>	3pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">Journaling with India**</a>	5:30pm – 7pm	YouthHQ@Goodwill
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">The Budd Group Job Fair</a>	12pm – 4pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus, Suite B
	<a href="#">Science Club**</a>	6pm – 7:30pm	YouthHQ@Goodwill
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Resume Building Workshop</a>	10am – 12pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus
	<a href="#">Keyboarding Computer Class</a>	1pm – 2pm	Roanoke Jobs Campus
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Mentor Training</a>	10am – 2pm	YouthHQ@Goodwill

### Madison Heights/Lynchburg

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">GoodCare Information Session</a>	3pm	Madison Heights Jobs Center
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#">Your Personal Best Workshop</a>	1pm – 4pm	Madison Heights Jobs Center
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">GoodCare Information Session</a>	3pm	Madison Heights Jobs Center

**Charlottesville Area**

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Virginia Career Works Charlottesville Job Fair GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	2pm – 5pm 3:30pm	Northside Library* Charlottesville GoodCare Office
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Employers of the Week Job Fair</u></a>	10:30am – 12pm	Virginia Career Works Center*
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Making the Best of Your Second Chance Workshop</u></a>	2pm – 3:30pm	Virginia Career Works Center*
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Your Personal Best Workshop GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	1pm – 4pm 3:30pm	Virginia Career Works Center* Charlottesville GoodCare Office
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Employers of the Week Job Fair</u></a>	10:30am – 12pm	Virginia Career Works Center*

**Harrisonburg**

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>George's Hiring Event Job Seeker Workshops</u></a>	9am – 1pm 5pm – 5:45pm	Virginia Career Works Center* Virginia Career Works Center*
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Allied Security Hiring Event</u></a>	9pm 1pm	Virginia Career Works Center*
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>WIOA Orientation Center Orientation</u></a>	10am – 10:30am 10:30am – 11am	Virginia Career Works Center* Virginia Career Works Center*
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>Cargill Hiring Event</u></a>	9am – 12pm	Virginia Career Works Center*
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>George's Hiring Event</u></a>	9am – 1pm	Virginia Career Works Center*
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>WIOA Orientation Center Orientation</u></a>	10am – 10:30am 10:30am – 11am	Virginia Career Works Center* Virginia Career Works Center*

**Staunton**

January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	3:30pm	Greenbrier Office Park
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**Radford**

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	2pm	Radford GoodCare Office
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	2pm	Radford GoodCare Office

**Clifton Forge**

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	10am	Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	2pm	Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

**Galax**

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	10am	Wytheville Community College Crossroads Campus, Galax
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	2pm	Wytheville Community College Crossroads Campus, Galax

**Martinsville**

January 18 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	11am	Martinsville Workforce Center
January 25 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#"><u>GoodCare Information Session</u></a>	11am	Martinsville Workforce Center

\*Goodwill operates Workforce Centers for various Workforce Investment Boards in Virginia. The centers offer workshops, job fairs, and other trainings as part of the basic services provided through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program.

\*\*Youth must be registered to receive programming at YouthHQ@Goodwill in order to attend events. [Click Here](#) for more information.

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## About Goodwill

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 more than 47,000 individuals with barriers to success, helped 3,300 people find jobs in our community, and provided training opportunities that resulted in more than 1,400 credentials being earned by individuals participating in Goodwill programs. Visit [www.goodwillvalleys.com](http://www.goodwillvalleys.com) for more information.