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Goodwill Honors Local Community Leader at Annual Mission Celebration & Fundraising Gala

OAKLAND, Calif. - Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay and Calidad Industries, Goodwill's affiliate nonprofit, are celebrating their mission of helping those in need become self-sufficient at the upcoming Annual Mission Celebration & Fundraising Gala on May 8, 2010 at the Lake Merritt Hotel in Oakland. The event will be honoring local leaders and successful program participants while bringing together community members to learn more about the work of Goodwill.

Goodwill's Gala will be honoring Judge Gail Brewster Bereola, from Alameda Superior Court, for her leadership and commitment to expanding opportunities for those facing disabling and disadvantaging conditions. Frank Somerville of KTVU Channel 2 will serve as the Gala's Master of Ceremonies (MC), and David Hadani, former chairperson for Goodwill Industries International, will offer a keynote address. The Gala will also introduce our new James Sweeny "Power of Work" Award, which will be presented to two outstanding program participants. The Gala will also feature a cocktail hour, dinner, and silent and live auctions.

"Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay and Calidad Industries are very excited to be bringing together folks from the community to help us celebrate our programs and honor those in the community who personify our mission. We are very honored to be able to recognize Judge Bereola for her contributions to the community, as well as present speeches from two of our program participants," said John B. Latchford, President & CEO. "Right now, with the rising unemployment rate and economic downturn, our workforce development programs have been in great demand, and our Gala will help support more services to those in need."

For more information about Goodwill's Gala or to order tickets, please contact us at (510) 698-7233. Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay operates 25 stores, with the proceeds from the resale of donated items supporting Goodwill's workforce development programs to help those facing barriers to employment. We provide hands-on job training in our stores and facilities, along with job readiness and life skills training free-of-charge to community members in need.