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Clean Out Your Closets For Job Training Today!

OAKLAND, Calif. - Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay is asking community members to support our mission by cleaning out your closets, cabinets, and garages and donating to Goodwill as soon as you can. More people are asking Goodwill for help, and our material donations are declining rapidly. Without immediate donations, it will make it more difficult for Goodwill to fund our job training and placement services. Please bring your material donations to your local Goodwill and know that you are helping to ensure that your neighbors have access to the job training, support, and placement assistance they need. With the downturn in the economy and rising unemployment rate, more people are turning to Goodwill for assistance, and that means we need your help more than ever.

"Donations and retail are our lifelines. With fewer people buying new goods, donations are decreasing, and our donors need to know how much we appreciate and need them right now," said David Hadani, Chairperson of the Board of Director's for Goodwill Industries International, who recently visited our local Goodwill in the East Bay. "With this area experiencing a high unemployment rate, especially in the disabled community where unemployment is 10 times the national average, there clearly is a need for basic job training and placement services. We also have a fairly high rate of formerly incarcerated people who need services. Funding for programs is an issue, especially now that the State of California and the counties are threatened by deficits, and much-needed services are losing funding," he added. "Donations become that much more important to us when we face these challenges.

Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay provides job training, placement, and support services to those in need. We serve an average of 3,000 people annually who face barriers to employment, such as homelessness, multi-generational poverty, limited education or English language skills, history of incarceration, and disabilities. This year we anticipate seeing even more people come through our doors for help as job losses continue and people are losing their homes and savings. Our programs are supported through the generosity of our community members, and 91 of every dollar we earn through our donations and retail program is spent helping people get the job training and services they need to become self-sufficient.

“Goodwill is in a predicament,” said John B. Latchford, President & CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay. “We have customers who are shopping with us because they recognize the value they get with shopping at Goodwill as compared to buying new products at a higher price, and yet our donations, which stock our Goodwill shelves, are decreasing since fewer people are buying new goods and therefore not donating as much in used goods because of the economy.”

“What we are hoping is that folks who have goods they have not yet donated will make the effort in the new year to bring it to their local Goodwill,” Latchford added. “I know sometimes folks want to make the trip worth it and wait until that half-filled box of old clothes is full before bringing it to one of our donation sites, but we are asking that you consider stopping by and donating whenever you can since our goods are dwindling, and we need the donations to survive this economic crunch.”

Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay operates 24 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. To donate your material goods, make a financial contribution, or learn more about Goodwill’s programs, please visit our website at www.eastbaygoodwill.org or contact Kimberly Scrafano, Vice President of Development & Community Affairs, at kscafano@eastbaygoodwill.org or (510) 698-7223.