

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Goodwill to Help Mentor Teens Justice Department Grant to Fight Juvenile Delinquency

Austin, TX— Goodwill Industries® of Central Texas is proud to launch a new program, designed to assist youth in overcoming disadvantages and avoiding delinquency. The effort is part of a national mentoring program known as Goodwill® GoodGuides™ that helps teens finish school and transition into productive careers through the guidance of trusted adults.

"Goodwill has a long history of helping people find work," said Jerry Davis, President and CEO. "A crucial part of that history is making sure that families are strong. Goodwill GoodGuides™ can help keep youth who are at-risk get on the right path, away from trouble and toward a better future. That's good for everyone involved."

The Goodwill GoodGuides™ program in Central Texas is made possible through a two-year, \$299,723 grant to Goodwill Industries of Central Texas. The donation is part of a \$19.1 million award to Goodwill Industries International from the U.S. Department of Justice and dispersed to 56 independent Goodwill agencies around the country.

The overall goal of the Goodwill GoodGuides™ program is to help youth build career plans and skills, and prepare for school completion, post-secondary training and productive work by providing structured and supportive relationships with trusted adult mentors. It targets youths between the ages of 12 and 17 who are at-risk for dropping out of school, facing legal troubles, or are at-risk for delinquency due to issues such as abuse, disability, drug or alcohol dependence, or gang membership.

"Last year we were able to serve more than 500 at-risk youth in Central Texas. With Goodwill GoodGuides™, we are looking forward to offering expanded mentoring services to serve even more youth in our community," said Jerry Davis. "Goodwill will recruit, train and support volunteer mentors to engage youth in promoting their career development and life skills."

The Goodwill GoodGuides™ program launched on January 11 in Austin. Community members that are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor or know of a youth who would benefit from this program can call 512.748.2721.

About Goodwill Industries of Central Texas:

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the mission of providing job-related services for people with barriers to employment. Revenue generated is used to fund job training and employment programs for Central Texans. For more information about Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, go to www.austingoodwill.org.

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