FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Walmart Foundation and Goodwill Assist Single Mothers

Beyond Jobs helps women find employment, advance in careers, and ensure stable futures for their families

BOSTON (Feb. 8, 2011) – A new program funded by the Walmart Foundation and administered by Goodwill Industries International empowers single mothers with the tools they need to find employment, succeed in the workplace and support their families. Known as Beyond Jobs, the program assists single mothers with job training and placement, and also helps them plan for continued success. Goodwill works with each woman to create an individualized plan that outlines how she will gain and retain a job, advance in her career, and ensure long-term financial stability for her family.

Twenty percent of all children now grow up in families headed by single mothers, many of whom face significant struggles, especially in this challenging economic climate. The unemployment rate for single mothers is significantly above the overall rate.

“Steady employment is a priority for every single mother, but the struggle doesn’t end when she finds a job,” said Joanne K. Hilferty, president and CEO of Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries. “Goodwill’s Beyond Jobs program helps mothers and families by providing more than a job, giving each woman the tools she needs to support her family today and in the future.”

Each participant in the Beyond Jobs program receives a complete career assessment, individualized career planning, job skills training, and assistance with job placement. Recognizing that landing a job is only one step on the road to success, Beyond Jobs also provides mothers with continued financial education, family strengthening services, early education and child care assistance, and connections to healthy food and nutrition initiatives.

“This grant to Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries will support single mothers in Greater Boston by assuring they have access to gaining the necessary skills for today’s jobs,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Walmart Foundation. “We are pleased to support this project because it gives single mothers the opportunity to continue to play a vital role in the workforce while providing for themselves and their families.”

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Beyond Jobs Success Stories

Shanika Reynolds

Shanika Reynolds is a 32-year-old mother who came to Goodwill twice. The first time she came, she did not, in her own words, take full advantage of the opportunity. As a result, she was unsuccessful in meeting her employment goals. When she came back in August 2010, Shanika had a new attitude. Her attendance was nearly perfect and she came in every day prepared to work. In less than one month, Shanika was offered and accepted a full-time position as a research assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital earning $13 an hour. She loves her work and is now looking ahead to September 2011. That is when she plans to begin college classes leveraging tuition reimbursement benefits while at the same time strengthening her family.

Khalida Muhammed

Khalida Muhammed came to Goodwill and from the onset was ready to go. While attending First Step class, she had several promising interviews, including second and third rounds at a national bank. When those opportunities did not result in an offer, Khalida was disappointed, but not dejected. She proceeded with her job search, often seeking feedback and accepting both the positive and constructive graciously. Khalida utilized her job specialist and Goodwill programs throughout the job search process. She attended Job Club daily, participated in the winter Clothing Collaborative for Job Trainees and was present for Goodwill’s Thanksgiving event. Khalida’s full engagement paid off. On January 10, 2011, she reported to her first day of work as a pharmacy technician at a major pharmacy chain.

About Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

For more than a century, Goodwill has provided job training programs and partnered with the business community to provide meaningful work opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to self-sufficiency. In addition, Goodwill operates Boston Career Link, a one-stop career center, which offers universal access to a broad range of services for job seekers, individuals who are looking to advance or change careers, and employers seeking good job candidates. Goodwill also offers programs that foster academic achievement and career aspirations among urban youth. The Goodwill Stores in eastern and central Massachusetts provide jobs and on-the-job training opportunities, offer quality, low-cost goods to individuals and families looking for value and support other programs and services fulfilling Goodwill’s charitable mission. [http://www.goodwillmass.org](http://www.goodwillmass.org)

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009, through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than $512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, $467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.walmartfoundation.org](http://www.walmartfoundation.org).

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