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GOODWILL MERGER TO DELIVER MORE SERVICES TO NEW ENGLAND'S MOST DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE

- **Merger Brings Together Two of the Region's Longest-Established Non-Profit Agencies**
- **Goodwill Operations in Connecticut and Rhode Island Join Forces**
- **Retail Expansion will generate Revenues to help fund Employment Programs**
- **New Organization Plans More Job Training and Workforce Development**

New Haven, CT and Providence, RI – July 02, 2018

Two of New England's best known and longest-established not for profit agencies have announced their merger that will benefit the region's most disadvantaged citizens, including people with physical and mental disabilities, and many other barriers to employment.

Goodwill Industries of Southern New England was founded in 1930. Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island, traces its roots to 1864. Both are part of a national organization that strives to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by helping people reach their full potential through education, skills training and the power of work.

The merged organization, Goodwill Industries of Southern New England, combines the strengths of two charities that have helped thousands of people with local employment opportunities, specialized job-training and other support.

"Bringing together two of the regions longest established and most successful charities just makes sense" said H. Richard Borer, Jr., President of Goodwill Industries of Southern New England. "From our base in North Haven, we provide employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people in Southern Connecticut. We operate 13 retail stores, and outlet and many donation centers right up to the Rhode Island border and help fund our programs with the revenues generated from them. It's wonderful that we can share and build that success with our neighbor to the east."

Jeffrey Machado, President of Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island, said: "In Providence, we've developed some very impressive job training and employment-placement capabilities. Combining these with Connecticut's retail experience really is a win-win. We've identified sites for new stores where donated clothing and other goods can generate much-needed funding for our programs, and where our clients can find jobs and gain work experience."

Although the merger is effective on July 1st, there will be no changes in management or other reorganization until January 1, 2019. This delay allows the two non-profits to continue their client services, retail operations and collections without disruption for the remainder of the year.

Note to Editors

About Goodwill Industries of Southern New England

- Goodwill Industries of Southern New England is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with headquarters and program facilities at 432 Washington Avenue, North Haven CT.
- Goodwill Industries of Southern New England owns and operates 13 secondhand retail stores, 1 retail outlet and numerous donation centers throughout south-central and eastern Connecticut.
- All proceeds from store sales directly support their mission to enhance employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges.
- Since 2008, programs have served over 10,000 individuals, and assisted participants with obtaining over 3,000 jobs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.goodwillsne.org>

About Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island

- Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with headquarters and training facilities at 100 Houghton Street, Providence RI.
- Donations support programs and services to individuals with barriers to employment.
- Goodwill has more than 50 collection points, in 24 towns throughout Rhode Island, where clothes and others goods are donated.
- In 2017, the organization served 600 referrals to its programs. 96 per cent of those who completed work experience in the community found employment and the great majority were still employed after six months.

For more information, please visit <http://www.goodwillri.org>

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