



Serving the Communities of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Goodwill goes *Back to Basics* for Annual Breakfast Event**

CANTON, Ohio -- Nearly 400 community members will gather at the Kent State Stark Conference Center on Thursday, March 19 to celebrate the success of Goodwill and its clients in 2008 at the Report to the Community Breakfast of Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc.

“We always have a great turnout, and this year we are excited to really focus on the basic needs of Stark County and how we work to meet them every day,” said Ken Weber, president and CEO.

The annual event will feature guest emcee, Kayleigh Kriss of Mix 94.1, a key note address from Weber on how Goodwill has met the needs of our community by focusing on the basics, an awards ceremony and a special sweepstakes opportunity.

“This year, we are asking attendees to participate in our Goodwill Spring Clean SWEEPstakes by bringing a bag of clothing donations to the event,” said Weber, adding that participants will receive a double entry in the drawing for a closet organization system at the end of March.

Goodwill hosts the breakfast event each year, and takes the opportunity to report back to the community what the organization was able to accomplish in the prior year with their support.

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As part of the event, several awards will be given out to Goodwill program consumers, business partners and community ambassadors. While Goodwill served nearly 11,000 individuals in 2008, three of these individuals will be honored for overcoming many obstacles to competitive employment and independent living.

One of the award winners, Goodwill's Graduate of the Year, overcame an obstacle that can make obtaining employment next to impossible. A 19-year gap in work history is an obstacle to employment for anyone, but when the gap is due in part to incarceration, it almost feels insurmountable. Kimberly Bell came to Goodwill seeking a path to climb over that overwhelming barrier to employment, and she found help through Goodwill's Community Corrections Program that taught her the BASIC job seeking and interview skills she needed to succeed.

"I had tried other programs, but Goodwill Life Coach, Doug Brown really stuck it out with me and took me back to the BASIC skills I needed," she said. "He said there is someone out there who will see your personality and everything about you as an asset and hire you."

And Doug stood by her side for the entire battle. The duo searched hard for three months before Kimberly secured a job at the Courtyard Marriott in Belden Village, where she is now a respected employee. In fact, as a member of the housekeeping department, she was honored as Employee of the Month in September 2008.

Other award winners include Achiever of the Year, Russell Slutz; Edgar J. Helms Outstanding Achiever of the Year, Barbara White; The Cleveland Leadership Center as Collaborative Partner of the Year; and Lydia Strauss as Ambassador of the Year.

If you would like more information on the breakfast event, or would like to make a reservation, please contact Goodwill's Marketing Department at 330-445-1030 or by e-mail at [mrohn@goodwillcanton.org](mailto:mrohn@goodwillcanton.org).

Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio, Inc. provides programs and services to a 10 county area. *For more than 90 years, Goodwill has been dedicated to improving the quality of life and employment opportunities for people in the communities we serve.*

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