



# GASTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



The Ideal Location For Your Business In The Charlotte Region

February 20, 2007

Project Announcement

## Goodwill Industries and Gaston County Workforce Development Board Council Create Partnership in New Location

### Goodwill & Gaston County Workforce Development Board Youth Council Create Partnership In New Location

Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont and the Gaston County Workforce Development Board Youth Council are joining together to create a more streamlined and efficient workforce development system in Gaston County. In conjunction with the partnership, Goodwill is moving its Job Connection in Gaston County to a larger location in Gastonia.

Goodwill offers employment services and skills training services for individuals seeking employment through the Job Connection. The new location and partnership will allow for the development of a Youth Center for the Gaston County Workforce Development Board's YouthWorks program. Housing the two programs under one roof will promote information sharing and the coordination of activities between the two organizations.

"The larger location in Gastonia will allow us to meet the growing demand to provide services for more people in the Gaston County area," said Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont President and CEO Michael Elder. "The partnership with the Gaston County Workforce Development Board's YouthWorks program will give us the opportunity to reach a younger population needing our services."

After an extensive search led by Marc Bolick and the Gaston County Economic Development Commission, the Goodwill Job Connection will be moving into the former BellSouth headquarters at 412 South Broad Street in Gastonia. "The central location of the existing building was key to the project," said Bolick. "The facility also offers the affordability of future expansion."

In addition to the partnership with the YouthWorks program, the new Gaston County Job Connection will allow Goodwill to expand its relationship with employers by being able to offer more recruitment opportunities and on-site interviewing. The larger location also offers more space to create and implement additional Occupational Skills Training programs.

#### About Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont

Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont operates 17 retail stores and has 30 total donation sites in seven counties in the Southern Piedmont region of North and South Carolina (Mecklenburg, Gaston, Lincoln, Union, Cleveland, York and Lancaster Counties). Proceeds from the sale of donated goods fund employment and training services for individuals facing barriers to employment. In 2006, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont served more than 6,800 people, placed more than 2,000 people in competitive employment and diverted more than 30 million pounds of goods from landfills.

#### About Gaston County Workforce Development Board Youth Works

YouthWorks is Gaston County's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program for youth. YouthWorks is a year-round employment and training program for both in-school and out-of-school at-risk youth ages 14-21. The program provides both academic and career related experiences designed to expose youth to the world of work, and to help them acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to obtain a job and advance in employment.

#### Media Contact:

Bo Hussey | Director of Marketing & Communications | Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont  
Office: 704-332-0262 | Cell: 980-721-5706 | E-Mail: bo.hussey@goodwillsp.org



P.O. Box 2339 • Gastonia, NC 28053-2339 • (704) 825-4046 • FAX: (704) 825-4066

[www.gaston.org](http://www.gaston.org)