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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Goodwill and Illinois Growth Enterprises Go Green Together

Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois and Illinois Growth Enterprises (IGE) have formed a unique partnership to collect unwanted home and business personal computers, keyboards and monitors in an effort to reduce impact on landfills and provide steady, meaningful work and a paycheck for adults with disabilities.

Illinois Growth Enterprises through Computers for Schools (CFS) recycles unused and non-working computer parts. Goodwill stores will serve as collection centers under the collaboration and accept used computers and accessories from companies and individuals at Goodwill stores during normal business hours. Store locations:

Rockford:	4618 East State Street 1907 Kishwaukee
Machesney Park:	8010 North Second Street
Sterling:	2216 East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street
Freeport	2202 Galena Street
Beloit, WI	2543 Prairie Avenue

The computer components can also be dropped off for Computers for Schools at Illinois Growth Enterprises, from 8:30 to 11:00 AM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7200 Clinton Road in Loves Park. Volunteers at Computers for Schools refurbish the equipment and then donate to a school or another local not-for-profit organization. Recycling non-working or used computers and accessories support local charities and reduces materials going to the landfill. If the CFS volunteers can refurbish the equipment, it will be. If the equipment is non-repairable, adults with disabilities working at Illinois Growth Enterprises' production facility will tear it down for recycling.

"I think there are a lot of companies and individuals with used or non-working computers in storage hoping to find a responsible way to dispose of them," says Laura Paterson, CEO, Illinois Growth Enterprises. "Donating it to Computers for Schools could benefit schools and other local charities. Equipment that cannot be reused goes to IGE so we can provide work for adults with disabilities and recycle components responsibly."

Goodwill has a long history of being environmentally conscious through the donation function at their area stores. "This is another opportunity for our thousands of donors to connect with those in need through giving," says Sam Schmitz, President, Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois. "It is especially gratifying for us to work with another not-for-profit in meeting the needs of our community through this collaborative effort."

IGE offers businesses top quality contract services such as packaging/assembly and electronics recycling performed in the production facility. Employment services are offered to area employers in search of dedicated employees and award-winning janitorial services. To people with disabilities, IGE offers real work training that enhances successful community employment. Individuals with disabilities earn a paycheck that assists them in improving quality of life for themselves and their families.

Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois is a community-based not-for-profit organization that provides education and employment and job placement for persons in need. Goodwill stores in northern Illinois (Rockford, Freeport, Sterling) and Beloit, Wisconsin employ more than 170 people. Goodwill plans to open a new store in Machesney Park in late September.

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For more information about the Computers for Schools program contact (815) 316-4580. For additional information on Goodwill Stores, education and job training opportunities contact Sam Schmitz (815) 965-3795.

*We provide training, education and job placement for people in need*