

December 29, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH AN END-OF-YEAR TAX WRITE-OFF

The holiday season leave your wallet a bit lighter? You can get a little money back from Uncle Sam by donating gently used clothing and other unwanted items to Goodwill Industries for an end-of-year tax write-off.

By cleaning your closets and garages, you get more than a tax deduction. Goodwill uses the revenue from your donations for its education and career services for people with disabilities and disadvantages such as welfare dependency, homelessness, and lack of education or work experience. Goodwill channels 83 percent of its revenues directly into its services.

“End the holiday season and start the new year off right by giving the gift of hope,” says Sam Schmitz, President of Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin Stateline Area. “Every donation to Goodwill helps make 2009 a better year for thousands of individuals who need job training and other Goodwill career services.”

Goodwill accepts clothing, household items, toys, computers, cars and other vehicles – even those holiday gifts that weren't quite right. Donations are sold in 2,078 retail stores throughout the United States and Canada, and on Goodwill's Internet auction site www.shopgoodwill.com. The following locations are available for you to drop off your donations:

CITY	ADDRESS	DONATION HOURS	PHONE NUMBER
Rockford	4618 East State Street	(M-F) 8am to 8pm (Sat) 9am to 5pm (Sun) 10am to 5pm	(815) 484-9294
Rockford	1907 Kishwaukee Street	(M-F) 9am to 6pm (Sat) 9am to 5pm (Sun) Closed	(815) 965-0445
Machesney Park	8010 N. 2nd Street	(M-F) 8am to 8pm (Sat) 8am to 5pm (Sun) 10am to 5pm	(815) 639-4963
Sterling	2216 East 4th Street	(M-F) 9am to 9pm (Sat) 9am to 6pm (Sun) 10am to 6pm	(815) 625-1740
Freeport	2030 West Galena Avenue	(M-F) 9am to 8pm (Sat) 9am to 5pm (Sun) 10am to 5pm	(815) 232-7642
Beloit, WI	2543 Prairie Avenue	(M-F) 8am to 8pm (Sat) 9am to 5pm (Sun) 10am to 5pm	(608) 299-0072

Donors interested in claiming tax deductions should keep itemized lists of their donations. The Internal Revenue Service allows a deduction for each item, but the donor determines each item's value. Generally, an item's value should be based on fair market value – what the item would sell for in a thrift store. Goodwill provides receipts to donors at its drop-off sites, and attendants can validate itemized lists when they are presented. For general guidelines, visit www.goodwillrockford.com and www.irs.gov (publication: <http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p561.pdf>).

Please contact Sam Schmitz at (815) 965-3795 for further information.

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