

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Beth Galambos
Marketing & Public Relations Manager
Office Direct: (330) 786-2567
Mobile: (330) 801-9617
bgalambos@goodwillakron.org



EMPLOYEE OF DISTINCTION AWARD NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JULY 31, 2008

AKRON, Ohio—July 9, 2008— The elements most often missing from an employer's compensation package are recognition and appreciation. Goodwill Industries of Akron (GIA) is offering employers in Summit, Medina, and Portage Counties an opportunity to give their stellar employees the recognition and appreciation deserved through GIA's Employee of Distinction Award Luncheons. Employers can nominate – **AT NO COST** – the employees they would like to publicly recognize. Each nominee is acknowledged at the appropriate event, listed in a commemorative program, and in the running for the county-wide Employee of Distinction Awards. All nominees will also receive two free tickets to a performance at Akron's historic Civic Theater.

A panel of judges comprised of members from local chapters of the Society for Human Resource Management and other human resource professionals will select the top five employees for each county. The winners will be announced at the event and will be given a special gift from Shulan's Jewelers. **The deadline to nominate employees is July 31, 2008.** Goodwill is offering a special incentive for early-bird nominations – a free business card sized ad in the commemorative program, limited to one ad per company, for those nominations submitted by July 18, 2008.

"Goodwill is a leader in workforce development and it's our privilege to host an event that recognizes superior employees," said Nancy Ellis McClenaghan, GIA president and CEO. "Most people place a high value on having their efforts publicly recognized. This event provides employers a cost effective way to praise and inspire outstanding employees."

Last year, 34 individuals were recognized in Summit County, 16 in Portage County, and 7 in Medina County. Employers can nominate as many employees as they wish, and there is no fee for nominations. However, each ticket at the event, including nominees, will be \$25. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities that deliver high-impact exposure in a cost-effective way are also available for the events in each county.

Employers can download the Nomination Form, RSVP for the luncheons, and learn about sponsorship and advertising for the events online at www.goodwillakron.org. Questions about the Employee of Distinctions Luncheons can be directed to Tracy Keenan at 330-786-2573 or tkeenana@goodwillakron.org.

Event Details

Summit County (7th Annual): Wednesday, Sept. 3, 11:45AM at Guy's Party Centre, 500 E. Waterloo Road, Akron, \$25, RSVP at www.goodwillakron.org

Medina County (2nd Annual): Thursday, Sept. 4, 11:45AM at the Blue Heron Golf Club, 3225 Blue Heron Trace, Medina, \$25, RSVP at www.goodwillakron.org

Portage County (4th Annual): Friday, Sept. 5, 11:45AM at Ravenna Elks Lodge, 776 North Freedom Street, Ravenna, \$25, RSVP at www.goodwillakron.org

GIA is a not-for-profit corporation that helps individuals prepare for, find, and retain employment. Operating in the five-county region of Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland, and Richland, the Akron-based agency was established in 1927. It is a private, independent organization, operating as an affiliate member of Goodwill Industries International, and a United Way agency in Summit and Medina Counties. Goodwill helps to directly strengthen the region's workforce through its employment programs and indirectly through the net proceeds from its retail outlets and industrial services division. For more information about GIA, visit www.goodwillakron.org or call 800-989-8428. ###