

NEWS RELEASE

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GOODWILL WINS \$2.4-MILLION CONTRACT TO HELP LOW-INCOME FATHERS AND FAMILIES

PITTSBURGH, October 13, 2011 – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance, has awarded \$2.4-million, three-year contract to Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania to conduct a comprehensive program to address the effect of poverty on the wellbeing of parents and children.

The goal of the AFFECT Project – Advancing Fathers and Family Enrichment Collaborative – is to foster responsible fatherhood by promoting economic stability, positive parenting, healthy marriage or co-parenting relationships, and payment of child support obligations. It will provide a comprehensive menu of supportive, educational and employment services to help economically disadvantaged fathers and families in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, particularly targeting residents of the City of Pittsburgh. It is planned to serve 300 low-income fathers and their families per year.

“As one of the region’s largest human service organizations, Goodwill clearly understands the key role that fathers play in keeping families together and the tremendous pressures that poverty exerts on them,” said Michael J. Smith, President/CEO of Goodwill SWPA. “We are very excited about this new program because we know it can and will make a real difference in the lives of many people in our community.”

Goodwill SWPA will lead the effort in collaboration with Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, The Domestic Abuse Counseling Center, the Family Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas Family Court, the state's PA CareerLink one-stop service for job seekers, the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board, and multiple regional employers and training providers.

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“With these experienced community partners working together, this project will build upon an existing infrastructure and utilize best practice service models and strategies that have been created over a decade of fatherhood and healthy family programming and research,” said Eric Yenerall, Assistant Vice President of Program Development at Goodwill. “Our overarching goal is to ensure that low-income parents receive the services they need in the areas of employment and education, family, wellness, housing and basic life needs.”

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ABOUT GOODWILL

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania is a human service agency and network of thrift stores and other not-for-profit businesses whose mission is to help people with special needs overcome barriers to employment and enjoy the dignity and benefits of work and improved quality of life. It provides a broad array of employment-related education and workforce-development programs and services for people with physical and mental disabilities and other special needs. Under a franchise-like agreement with Goodwill Industries International, Goodwill SWPA serves eight counties in southwestern Pennsylvania and nine counties in north central West Virginia. With some 1,000 employees and annual revenues of more than \$45 million, the agency ranks as one of the largest Goodwill organizations in the U.S.