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NEWS RELEASE

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GOODWILL MARKS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH WITH URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MORE AREA YOUTHS

PITTSBURGH, January 10, 2012 – President Barack Obama recently issued a proclamation designating January as National Mentoring Month, marking the 11th anniversary of the annual, nationwide media campaign to recruit volunteer mentors for young people. In the Pittsburgh region, volunteers are needed for the Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program.

"Mentors help young Americans face the challenges of growing into adulthood by setting a positive example and sharing their time, knowledge and experience," Mr. Obama said. "During National Mentoring Month, we celebrate the contributions of all those who cultivate a supportive environment for the next generation, and we recommit to expanding mentorship opportunities across our country."

Goodwill Program Manager Jackie Abel-Stavropoulos said the local Goodwill Youth Mentoring Program urgently needs more adult volunteers to serve as role models, particularly in the Baldwin, Carrick and North Side neighborhoods. Now in its third year, the Goodwill Youth Mentoring program previously matched more than 150 Pittsburgh area teens with adults and peer mentors during 2011.

"We have a very successful program involving more than 80 youths and mentors throughout the greater Pittsburgh area," she said. "With a commitment of as little as three hours once a week, our mentors make a strong, positive impact the on lives of local youths, and the benefits will last a lifetime."

(more)

The Goodwill Youth Mentoring program focuses on helping boys and girls ages 12 to 18 set goals and explore career options while opening their eyes to the possibilities around them. Participants work on self-esteem, decision making, conflict resolution, setting goals, and career planning. They also get involved in community service projects to develop leadership skills and can learn about digital photography, financial literacy, health and nutrition, and other topics to help them grow and develop.

“Caring and considerate adult volunteers are the key to our program’s success,” Ms. Abel-Stavropoulos said. “Many local youths are reaching out to the community for guidance and support, and we urgently need more mentors to help them.”

To become a Goodwill youth mentor and begin to make a difference in the lives of local teens, please contact Jackie Abel-Stavropoulos at jackie.stavropoulos@goodwillswpa.org or at 412-632-1752.

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