

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Karen Phillips, Goodwill of North Florida  
(904) 384-1361, [kphillip@goodwilljax.org](mailto:kphillip@goodwilljax.org)  
Liz Morgan, Liz Morgan PR  
904-608-3823, [liz@lizmorganpr.com](mailto:liz@lizmorganpr.com)

***ST. VINCENT'S AWARDS HOSPITAL LAUNDRY CONTRACT TO GOODWILL/SODEXO AND BRINGS NEW JOBS TO JACKSONVILLE***

JACKSONVILLE, FL (May 2008) – On the heels of St. Luke's Hospital becoming part of St. Vincent's Healthcare, the health care system recently contracted with Goodwill/Sodexo to provide laundry and linen services for the newly acquired St. Luke's campus, a contract totaling 1.2 million pounds of hospital laundry annually.

Goodwill Of North Florida and Sodexo shared a vision to establish a new hospital laundry facility to serve the growing North Florida health care market, while also serving as an advocate for North Florida's "hidden workforce" ...persons with disabilities and special needs that are capable of employment and possess a strong desire to enter or re-enter the workforce, but need assistance to overcome employment challenges.

Scott Whalen, CEO St. Vincent's Healthcare said, "The Goodwill/Sodexo program provides a unique opportunity for us to maintain control of our laundry and linen services, while benefiting from the resources and expertise of a local partnership." "It's a "win-win" for all parties." "It allows us to focus on our core business of patient care, while Goodwill/Sodexo provides a long-term business plan for outsourcing our laundry". "We are proud to be associated with Goodwill/Sodexo and thrilled to know that our contract is responsible for bringing new jobs to Jacksonville and new opportunities to empower north Florida's hidden workforce" said Whalen.

The Goodwill/Sodexo pilot project debuted in October 2007, following two years of negotiations and a \$1.7 million dollar capital expansion to convert Goodwill's Jacksonville headquarters into a commercial laundry facility. Shortly after its launch, Bert Fish Hospital in New Smyrna Beach became Goodwill/Sodexo's first client of record, creating ten new employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and special needs. The Jacksonville facility has the capacity to process up to 20 million pounds of hospital laundry annually and will eventually employ 150 people with disabilities and special needs.

Robert Thayer, President of Goodwill of North Florida, said that the St. Luke's contract marks a major milestone in the pilot project's evolution. "This contract allows us to rapidly expand employment opportunities beyond our retail venue." "By utilizing this service and using a local provider, St. Luke's is setting a remarkable example for others in our community."

### **About Goodwill Industries**

Goodwill Industries International is North America's leading private provider of job training and placement services for people with disabilities and special needs.

In 2007, Goodwill of North Florida's eight Job Junctions served over 23,000 individuals and placed over 10,500 into employment. The Job Junctions are located conveniently throughout Jacksonville, with additional centers located in St. Augustine, Gainesville, Lake City and Palm Coast. These walk-in Career Centers have become a valuable community service, providing a positive and supportive environment, where anyone looking for work may access resources and learn skills to conduct an independent job search free of charge.

To support its mission, Goodwill of North Florida's network of retail stores and donation centers gladly accept donations of gently used clothing, shoes and accessories for all ages and all sizes, household items, furniture, linens knick knacks, toys, books.