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NEWS RELEASE

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MEDINA COUNTY “EMPLOYEES OF DISTINCTION” REVEALED AT LUNCHEON 8 NOMINEES RECOGNIZED AND 2 AWARDED WITH HIGHEST HONOR

MEDINA, Ohio—September 11, 2009— Eight outstanding employees from Medina County were recognized and two individuals were revealed as winners of the “Employee of Distinction Award” at the 3rd Annual Employee of Distinction Luncheon hosted by Goodwill Industries on September 10 at Blue Heron Golf Club.

Congratulations to the 2009 Medina County Employee of Distinction Award Winners:

Patty Harpley, Classroom/Playground Aide-Multiple Disabilities Classroom, Wadsworth City Schools

Patty is a great example of an “asset builder.” She goes beyond her work with students with multiple disabilities to make strong connections with all of the students at the school. She promotes building-wide excellence by handing out tickets with a special smile stamp. She impacts every child/adult she meets with her compassionate and nurturing personality. She often picks the “rascals” of the crowd and makes strong personal connections with them. She shows unconditional interest in all students. No one wants to disappoint her, which promotes reciprocal respect with the students. “Miss Harpley,” as she is known to the kids, is loved by all.

Jeremy Sack, Engineering & Surveying Technician, TGC Engineering, LLC

Jeremy has managed several construction staking projects successfully and manages the company’s utility client work load and scheduling. He approaches his responsibilities with the long-term interest of the company in mind. He is an excellent communicator, motivated, and interested in advancing his professional skills for the benefit of our business. He conducts his work in a “customer first” manner. While the Surveying Manager was out of town, he received a Saturday afternoon phone call at home from the field crew having equipment problems. Not being able to fix the problem remotely, he went to the job site at 6 am Sunday morning to solve the problem and complete the work our client needed by Monday.

The luncheon is an employee recognition event for Medina County where stellar employees (from Medina County employers) are recognized for their efforts. Nominations were reviewed based on Quality of Work; Dedication to the Business; and Extraordinary Efforts. Individuals with the highest average rankings received an “Employee of Distinction Award,” and the winners were kept a surprise and revealed at the luncheon.

At the luncheon, emcee and radio personality Scott Wynn from 94.9 WQMX read highlights from each of the eight nominees’ nomination forms as they received a certificate commemorating their nomination and two free tickets to a performance at Akron’s historic Civic Theater. In addition, the two winners were given an engraved Bulova clock from Shulan’s Jewelers.

The luncheon also featured a keynote address by Westfield Bank President Jon W. Park, titled "The Importance of Investing in People." Park discussed why harnessing employee motivation, development and teamwork are critical components of Westfield Bank's success, and how Westfield Group's practices have drawn both regional and national praise for commitment to employee development and specialized programs.

"We are truly inspired by the nominees' work ethic and dedication. They are all such wonderful role models for their co-workers and all those around them. Goodwill is pleased to once again help Medina County employers showcase their top-performers and their Shining Stars," said Nancy Ellis McClenaghan, Goodwill President & CEO.

2009 Medina County Goodwill Industries Employee of Distinction Nominees & Award Winners

1. Lisa Conley, Billing Associate & Warehouse Supervisor, Mobile Meals, Inc.
2. Patti Frognowski, Executive Assistant, United Way of Medina County
3. Judy Gibis, Administrative Assistant/Receptionist, NLCI Land Management
4. Patty Harpley, Classroom/Playground Aide, Multiple Disabilities Classroom, Wadsworth City Schools
****AWARD WINNER****
5. Susanne Jurkowski, Accountant, Healthcare Innovative Solutions
6. Cheryl Riddle, Office Manager, A-1 World Truck Towing & Recovery Inc.
7. Jeremy Sack, Engineering & Surveying Technician, TGC Engineering, LLC ****AWARD WINNER****
8. Brenda Zvada, Secretary, Wadsworth City Schools

About Goodwill Industries

Goodwill Industries of Akron 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 contract services division. For more information about Goodwill, visit www.goodwillakron.org or call 800-989-8428. ###