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NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND OPENING FOR NORTHFIELD GOODWILL STORE PLANNED FOR JANUARY 17

NEW STORE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN LEDGE ROAD SHOPPING PLAZA

AKRON, Ohio—December 19, 2008— The boxes are unpacked, the racks are full, and the shelves are stocked. The new Goodwill Store at 10211 Northfield Road in the Ledge Road Shopping Plaza, located in Northfield Village, is now open for business. The store officially opened its doors to shoppers and donors on Friday, December 19, 2008.

Not only will the new 12,200 square-ft. store offer quality items at affordable prices that Goodwill shoppers are accustomed to, but the store will also feature a job search station and community conference room, plus it will serve as a convenient donation site in the community for their gently used items.

"In these times of economic stress, it makes sense for people to shop at Goodwill. Shoppers can find name-brand and designer clothing at a fraction of the cost they would pay at another retailer, making their dollar stretch farther. We're excited to offer this to residents in Northern Summit County," said Phil Stauffer, Vice President of Retail Operations. "Plus, every purchase from or donation to Goodwill help individuals in our local communities toward achieving their employment goals."

Goodwill will host a Grand Opening Celebration at the Northfield Store on Saturday, January 17, 2009. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will kick-off the celebration at 8:45 a.m., followed by giveaways, food, kid's activities, and other festivities from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The first 500 shoppers through the door will receive a free gift. Other activities include a "Live Broadcast" and "Spin the Prize Wheel" contest with 94.9 WQMX Radio from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Like Goodwill's 10 other stores in its five-county region encompassing Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland, and Richland Counties, the new store is equipped with a self-serve Job Search Station that is free to the public, and has a computer with Internet access with a selection of brochures to help with an Internet job search. It is available to the public during store hours. The store also has a community room, available to the nonprofit community groups free-of-charge. To book the room, groups can contact the store manager. It is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The room is suitable for groups up to 20 people. The new store will also serve as a training ground for Goodwill Vocational Program participants who will assist with daily operations such as donation processing and hanging clothes. For store hours, call the Northfield Goodwill Store at 330-908-1440.

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A drive-up donation trailer for the store is located in the plaza's parking lot. Information about the tax benefits from donating to Goodwill and guidelines for donations are available at www.goodwillakron.org. All donors receive a 20% off coupon good at any Goodwill store in Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland, or Richland County.

"We are both extremely excited about Goodwill moving into the Nordonia Hills community," said Larry and Howard Shafron, owners of the Ledge Road Plaza, "and look forward to many prosperous years of business."

The new Northfield Retail Store will increase to 11 the number of store locations operated by Goodwill Industries, and the fifth Retail Store in Summit County. Net proceeds from the sale of items donated to the stores are used in assisting the agency in fulfilling its mission of helping individuals prepare for, find, and retain employment. Other sites include:

<p><u>Summit County</u> Akron – 570 E. Waterloo Road Cuyahoga Falls – 2689 State Road Lakemore – 1500 Canton Road Tallmadge – 15 Midway Plaza</p> <p><u>Portage County</u> Kent/Ravenna – 2528 State Route 59 Streetsboro – 9278 Market Square Drive</p>	<p><u>Medina County</u> Brunswick – 1733 Pearl Road Medina – 3500 Medina Road</p> <p><u>Ashland County</u> Ashland – 1611 Claremont Avenue</p> <p><u>Richland County</u> Mansfield – 1776 W. Fourth Street</p>
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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 industrial services division. For more information about GIA, visit www.goodwillakron.org or call 800-989-8428. ###