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U.S. Department of Labor Awards GICV \$288K for YouthBuild Johnstown Program

JOHNSTOWN, PA, July 15, 2010—Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley, Inc. (GICV) has received a second-year grant award in the amount of \$288,154 from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) for the continued and expanded operation of its YouthBuild Johnstown Program. YouthBuild Johnstown is a member of YouthBuild USA, a national program administered by the USDOL's Employment and Training Administration's Office of Workforce Investment, Division of Youth Services, which provides construction education and leadership training to at-risk youth. The grant will fund YouthBuild Johnstown operations through June 2012.

GICV is among 183 groups that received \$66.7 million in new YouthBuild awards. YouthBuild aims to help youth 16–24 earn a high school diploma or GED, learn job skills, and develop leadership qualities—all while assisting the program's building partners to build or rehabilitate affordable housing for low-income families.

GICV began operating YouthBuild Johnstown under its first competitively bid USDOL grant award in October 2007. GICV received its second competitively bid grant award in June 2009. Through this new grant, GICV will be able to expand its recruitment of youth from Windber and Conemaugh Township in Somerset County, in addition to its existing base in Johnstown and Cambria County.

The YouthBuild formula for success fits with GICV's long history of “teaching by doing” and for helping youth to transition to adult workers.

In addition, YouthBuild Johnstown teaches leadership skills and assists participants in exercising that leadership as they engage in a community development project and run their own Participant Council. It also prepares participants for the real world of work by providing specific instruction and connecting them with the public workforce investment system (PA CareerLink®, Cambria County) and with employers in construction and other regional high-growth industries.

“GICV is pleased to continue leading the YouthBuild Johnstown initiative, coordinating the activities of 13 community organizations to provide our youth with education and employment skills for entrance into careers in construction or any industry, said Phyllis J. Bandstra, President & CEO. “The overall goal of this 6–11-month program is for youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency through an opportunity that they otherwise may not have had.”

YouthBuild Johnstown graduated its first cohort in February 2009 and its second cohort in December 2009.

For information about GICV's YouthBuild Johnstown Program, please contact Mindy Rickabaugh, Program Manager at (814) 536-3536, ext. 291 or mrickabaugh@goodwilljohnstown.org and www.goodwillsouthcentralpa.org.

Goodwill Industries® of the Conemaugh Valley, Inc. (GICV) is an independent nonprofit organization established in 1962 to empower individuals and families with employment barriers to achieve their fullest potential in the community through work services. Headquartered in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, GICV serves individuals with disabilities and disadvantages, dislocated workers, youth, and other job seekers throughout south central Pennsylvania in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Indiana, and Somerset counties by providing education and career services as well as job placement and post-employment opportunities. GICV is a community-based member organization of Goodwill Industries International, a 180-member network in the U.S., Canada, and 13 other countries. For more information, visit GICV's website at www.goodwillsouthcentralpa.org.

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