

NEWS RELEASE

GOODWILL

Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
10600 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

George Palmer
Director, Public Relations & Marketing
e-mail: gpalmer@cincigoodwill.org
Sharon Hannon
Marketing Specialist
e-mail: shannon@cincigoodwill.org
513-771-4800 / Fax 513-771-4959

Ohio Valley Goodwill Honored During 20th Anniversary ADA Celebration!

Cincinnati, OH -- July 26, 2010 --

Ohio Valley Goodwill was honored to be recognized for its employment of individuals with disabilities during the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration event held on Fountain Square on Monday, July 26th. Goodwill Public Information Officer, Michael Flannery, joined other area employers on stage to accept the prestigious recognition which honors the commitment of area businesses to employ workers with disabilities. "On behalf of Ohio Valley Goodwill and the individuals we serve, thank you for this recognition as a leading employer and advocate for people with disabilities," said Flannery following the presentation.

For almost 95 years, Ohio Valley Goodwill has helped people with disabilities find employment, become independent and support themselves and their families. Since the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, it has helped increase access to services, such as employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination. Although individuals with disabilities have benefited from this law, Goodwill knows that those individuals still face challenges to finding jobs and becoming independent. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, people with disabilities have a more than 14-percent unemployment rate, compared to 9.4 percent of people without disabilities¹.

"Despite these circumstances, people with disabilities have unique skills and talents that add to the diversity and vitality of a workplace," said Joe Byrum, President and CEO of Ohio Valley Goodwill. "Many people with disabilities need little to no accommodation to do their jobs, and advances in technology are helping to increase productivity for all kinds of workers, including those with disabilities."

Ohio Valley Goodwill serves more than 2300 individuals per year to receive skill training and obtain employment in the Greater Cincinnati community. The organization has been recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for the outstanding quality of its programs and services. "Goodwill commemorates the 20th anniversary of the signing of the ADA by continuing to help our friends and neighbors with disabilities build their careers and improve their lives," said Byrum. "We must look past a person's disability and remember that each person is an individual capable of making a positive contribution to his or her community."

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