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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

‘A Better Fit’

Career Closet Moving from Goodwill to Dress for Success in Columbus

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 28, 2011 – The Career Closet, a program offering free job interview clothing to women in need in central Ohio, is moving Monday, May 2, from the retail store of Goodwill Columbus on Morse Road to the headquarters of Dress for Success Columbus on North High Street. Leaders of both local nonprofit agencies agree on the need for the change.

“It’s just a better fit,” said Margie Pizzuti, president and CEO of Goodwill Columbus. “Providing expert consultation in the selection of clothing for job interviews is a core competency of Dress for Success. They have the recognized capabilities to provide women with these services.”

Goodwill operated the Career Closet at its Morse Road retail store for the last three years, transitioning in early 2008 from its creator, the New Directions Career Center in Columbus. In

the last year, Pizzuti said the need to provide one-on-one counseling on interview-appropriate clothing to the women who were referred by local social service agencies proved challenging to Goodwill staff. Employees at Goodwill's retail store on Morse Road are focused on accepting donations and making retail sales to support the agency's mission of building independence, quality of life and work opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers.

“One-on-one personal shopping assistance for women who are interviewing and wardrobe consultations once employment is secured are services we provide every day in our Suiting Boutique. We are delighted to grow our agency's client base by assuming Goodwill's Career Closet operation,” said Vicki Bowen Hewes, executive director of Dress for Success Columbus.

Dress for Success' mission is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. The local chapter of this international not-for-profit organization is led by a Board of Directors in central Ohio. Dress for Success Columbus opened its door in 2007 and has since given assistance to more than 2,000 local women.

Just like at Goodwill's Career Closet, referrals from area social service agencies will be the prerequisite to determine a woman's need for free clothing and workforce transition services at Dress for Success Columbus.

“We will make the transition from Goodwill to Dress for Success Columbus a smooth one for the women we serve,” said Bowen Hewes.

Consultations with Dress for Success Columbus staff are by appointment only, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the agency's office at 1204 North High Street, intersection of High and Fifth streets. There is parking on the street and behind the building.

Dress for Success Columbus provides clients with empowerment interviews and workplace suiting, a workforce readiness career center and employment retention programs. The local mission is an affiliate of Dress for Success Worldwide based in New York City. For more information, visit www.dressforsuccess.org/columbus.

Goodwill Columbus, the ninth largest nonprofit in central Ohio, has been serving the local community since 1939, building independence, quality of life and work opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers.

Each year Goodwill Columbus provides 1.2 million hours of service to more than 3,400 participants with disabilities and other barriers through employment training and job placement services as well as work and day habilitation programs and community-based supported living services. For more information, visit www.goodwillcolumbus.org.

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