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## **Stop & Shop Offers Jobs to 27 Goodwill Job Trainee Participants**

*Goodwill, Stop & Shop partnership means jobs in the community*

**Boston (February 2, 2010)** – Stop & Shop District Manager Thomas Marshall came to Goodwill recently for a job training graduation and came away with 27 new employees for his Boston area grocery stores.

In an economy where job growth has taken center stage, that was good news, especially for the 27 participants from Goodwill's job training programs who were offered jobs and will now have a regular paycheck.

"I am so happy I got a job!" said Ladiana Rodriquez, a mother of three from Dorchester. "Goodwill and Stop & Shop have given me such a great opportunity. I am very proud of myself and happy that I will be able to provide for my family."

The individuals offered jobs were from Goodwill's First Step class or other job training programs. The First Step program prepares participants for entry-level employment and focuses on customer relations skills, employer expectations, problem solving, timeliness, and interview techniques, among other things. All participants from the program were offered an interview with Stop & Shop.

"There is some good news on the economic front, but job growth and job creation is really the critical piece to getting things turned around," said Joanne K. Hilferty, president and CEO of Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries. "We're delighted for the participants who were hired, and grateful for a socially responsible company like Stop & Shop."

"We couldn't be happier with our partnership with Goodwill," said Thomas Marshall, the Stop & Shop district manger whose region oversees 11 Boston stores. "Our stores are growing and this is a wonderful way for us to find job-ready employees. I love working with Goodwill."

Since 2007, Stop & Shop has hired 132 employees from Goodwill.

## **ABOUT MORGAN MEMORIAL GOODWILL INDUSTRIES**

For more than a century, Goodwill has provided job training programs and partnered with the business community to provide meaningful work opportunities for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to self-sufficiency. In addition, Goodwill operates Boston Career Link, a one-stop career center, which offers universal access to a broad range of services for job seekers, individuals who are looking to advance or change careers, and employers seeking good job candidates. Goodwill also offers programs that foster academic achievement and career aspirations among urban youth. The Goodwill Stores in eastern and central Massachusetts provide jobs and on-the-job training opportunities, offer quality, low-cost goods to individuals and families looking for value and support other programs and services fulfilling Goodwill's charitable mission. Goodwill annually serves more than 8,000 people. [www.goodwillmass.org](http://www.goodwillmass.org)

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