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For Immediate Release

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Goodwill of Central Arizona chosen as lead agency for 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day

PHOENIX, Ariz. (November 8, 2007) — Goodwill of Central Arizona was chosen by Youth Service America to be the lead agency for the largest service event in the world and will mobilize more than 1,500 Arizona youth to participate in the Global Youth Service Day to be held April 25 through April 27, 2008 in Maricopa County.

Millions of youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries plan simultaneous service events and service-learning projects to celebrate Global Youth Service Day. Goodwill's Youth Services department will champion the campaign and their role will be to mobilize and lead youth service events across central Arizona while supporting youth leaders on a path of service and civic engagement. The Youth Services department collaborates with other community organizations and Government agencies to provide employment and skills education programs for youth in central Arizona.

"Goodwill of Central Arizona is committed to opening doors of opportunity for youth. Civic engagement is a wonderful way to strengthen our community while educating youth on the importance of giving back to their communities," said Lisa Wilham, vice president of Workforce Development and Commercial Services for Goodwill of Central Arizona. "We are kicking off this campaign by implementing service learning classes at our Charter High School – ecademie."

All community organizations and public agencies, k-12 schools, service commissions, universities, non-profit organizations, companies, and community members wishing to help organize youth service projects should register with Goodwill of Central

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Arizona. Goodwill encourages all youth groups, scouts, sports teams, non-profit organizations, faith based groups, public, private and charter schools to register their efforts.

A program of Youth Service America, Global Youth Service is the largest youth service event in the world. Global Youth Service Day is a year-round effort to expand the impact of the youth service movement. The initiative launches new service organizations, policy changes and sustainable service programs to create a culture of engaged youth. Goodwill of Central Arizona joins more than 120 national partners and 74 other lead agencies throughout the United States to organize campaigns.

For planning tool kits, service-learning curriculum guides, classroom posters, grant information, or for more information regarding Global Youth Service Day or Youth Service America, please visit www.YSA.org. To participate in a planning commission, register a project, or get more information regarding Arizona's Global Youth Service Day efforts, please contact Cynthia Brooks at (602) 416-6130 or e-mail Cynthia.Brooks@goodwillaz.org.

Celebrating 60 years in the Valley, Goodwill of Central Arizona is one of the oldest and largest non-profit agencies in Arizona. Our mission is to "Put People to Work" throughout Arizona by providing job training and career services to those with vocational disadvantages that can include physical and emotional barriers, welfare dependency, illiteracy and age. In 2006, we served 10,000 youth and adults on their quest toward self-sufficiency and placed more than 2,300 into competitive employment. For more information on Goodwill of Central Arizona visit www.goodwillaz.org.

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