

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2013



**POC: Erin Aylor**  
Tel. 843-377-2845  
Cell 843-566-6262  
Erin@PalmettoGoodwill.org

**POC: Alana Morrall**  
Tel. 843-416-7123  
Cell 202-246-3302  
amorral@ECCOcharleston.org

## **Goodwill and ECCO Partner to Bring Employment Services to the East Cooper Community**

**Mt. Pleasant, SC** – Goodwill Industries of Lower South Carolina and East Cooper Community Outreach have partnered together to bring employment services to the East Cooper Community through a new Job Link Center.

The Grand Opening of the Job Link Center will take place November 22 at 1145 Six Mile Road, Mt. Pleasant with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to be held at 11 a.m. with Mayor Pro Tem Thomasena Stokes-Marshall of Mt. Pleasant and Mayor Miriam Green of Awendaw in attendance.

The Job Link Center, located within ECCO's facility (directly behind the Goodwill retail store), is now open and providing services to the community. The center features computer stations that can be accessed for job searches and resume building at no cost to the community.

The Center's hours are 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and open to everyone in the community offering career coaching, job training and other employment services.

Goodwill and ECCO have partnered together in an effort to provide the East Cooper Community with job training and employment services that will help the unemployed and underemployed achieve financial stability and self-sufficiency.

"Our partnership was a natural fit as both ECCO and Goodwill are striving to build stronger communities," said Robert Smith, Goodwill President and CEO. "When people have economic independence, they tend to be happier, more confident and contribute more to their community."

ECCO's vision is to eliminate generational poverty in the East Cooper communities. Long-term employment is an essential component of financial stability and self-sufficiency. ECCO will help prepare clients by assessing and addressing any barriers currently standing in their way of employment and will continue to monitor and support the employee for a year. Goodwill will assist individuals in finding competitive employment in the community or receiving necessary training.

"The partnership with Goodwill Industries is a great opportunity to join hands and help boost our efforts to those who need it the most in our East Cooper area," said Jack Little, ECCO Executive Director. "Helping the chronically unemployed transition to long term employment is the first step to helping them become self-sufficient."

*Palmetto Goodwill is a nonprofit social service organization whose mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work. Over 90 percent of Goodwill's revenue goes to fund mission related services. Goodwill serves their mission by providing career counseling, job training, and other employment related programs to people with barriers to*

employment. Last year, Goodwill placed over 800 people into new jobs and served over 37,500. For more information about Goodwill's programs and services, please visit [www.palmettogoodwill.org](http://www.palmettogoodwill.org).

East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) is a community supported nonprofit, with the mission to provide safety net services to our low income neighbors, while empowering them to create a better future for themselves, their families and communities. ECCO helps more than 4,500 households each year through a range of programs related to Basic Needs, Health and Wellness, and Empowerment. Services for our neighbors in need include emergency relief for food, clothing, household furnishings and financial aid, as well as on-site dental care, nurse practitioner appointments, prescription assistance, education classes, counseling, case management and our new job readiness initiative. [www.ECCOcharleston.org](http://www.ECCOcharleston.org)

###