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Media Contact:

Megan Bandy, Marketing Communications Coordinator I

Cell: (843) 259-6505

mbandy@palmettogoodwill.org

PALMETTO GOODWILL RECEIVED \$100,000 GRANT FROM THE LEON LEVINE FOUNDATION

Funds will support the expansion of services in rural communities with high poverty rates

North Charleston, SC – Palmetto Goodwill has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from The Leon Levine Foundation (TLLF). This grant will bolster Palmetto Goodwill's efforts in serving rural communities with high poverty rates within its service area, particularly those exceeding 20%.

According to the US Census 2021 Small Area Income & Poverty Estimate, these counties are typically rural and lack access to essential services that connect individuals to sustainable employment opportunities.

"Palmetto Goodwill is dedicated to changing lives by ensuring equitable access to training, education, and employment," said Brian Itzkowitz, president and CEO of Palmetto Goodwill. "With this generous grant from TLLF, we are intensifying our focus on addressing the persistent needs of rural residents living in poverty within our service area and providing a pathway out of poverty."

The grant will support the reopening of the Career Opportunity Center in Orangeburg, South Carolina, which was closed during the COVID-19 pandemic due to limited resources. Orangeburg County, with a poverty rate of 26.5%, will benefit significantly from the revitalized center, which will offer career services, training, and employment navigation support to residents.

In addition to the center reopening, Palmetto Goodwill looks to deploy its Mobile Career Opportunity Center to provide services to nine rural counties with poverty rates exceeding 20%. These counties include Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Hampton, Lee, Marion, Sumter, and Williamsburg. The mobile unit will offer comprehensive career development and employment services, with a focus on assisting veterans within these communities.

"Expanding our rural service delivery and meeting the needs of citizens no matter where they are is the first step to breaking through the many barriers that keep many people from thriving," explains Mary Ann Gilmer, vice president of Mission Services at Palmetto Goodwill. "This grant will enable us to bridge the gap in access to vital resources and empower individuals in rural communities to achieve economic self-sufficiency. We are incredibly grateful to TLLF for their support in this core mission work of Palmetto Goodwill."

About Palmetto Goodwill

Palmetto Goodwill is a non-profit social enterprise whose mission is changing lives by providing equitable access to training, education, and employment. In operation since 1979, Palmetto Goodwill operates 33 thrift

stores/donation centers, 9 Career Opportunity Centers and 15 commercial/government contracts to support its mission throughout its 18-county territory. To learn more visit palmettogoodwill.org.

About The Leon Levine Foundation

Established in 1980 by Leon Levine (Founder and Former Chairman of Family Dollar Stores, Inc.), The Leon Levine Foundation supports programs and organizations that align with its four core mission areas: education, healthcare, human services, and Jewish values. Based in Charlotte, N.C., the Foundation invests in nonprofits across North Carolina and South Carolina with strong leadership, a track record of success, and a plan for financial sustainability. Through its investments, the Foundation intends to create pathways to self-sufficiency, champion strategies for permanent change, and facilitate opportunities for growth. Learn more online at www.leonlevinefoundation.org or follow TLLF on Twitter and Facebook @LeonLevineFdn.