

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2025

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Palmetto Goodwill Expands Free Career Training for Justice-Involved Individuals Across South Carolina in Beaufort, Bluffton, Pee Dee

Program provides no-cost skills training, individual support services, and paid job training

North Charleston, SC — As Second Chance Month approaches in April, Palmetto Goodwill is expanding its groundbreaking <u>I-CAN Reentry Program</u>, offering hope and practical career opportunities for adults aged 18 and older with justice-involved backgrounds. <u>Second Chance Month</u> sheds light on the importance of supporting justice-involved individuals with meaningful opportunities to rebuild their lives and find career success.

First launched in North Charleston, SC in 2023, then Horry County in 2024, I-CAN offers 12 weeks of paid training and work experience paired with client-based support. After graduating from the program, job placement assistance and follow-up services are provided.

When reflecting on his experience, program graduate Brian Gore said, "I would have never thought the best decision I ever made was to give I-CAN a chance. I'm able to do things I never thought I'd be able to do."

I-CAN participants spend the first two weeks in classroom training, learning employability skills such as creating a resume, preparing job applications, and learning workplace soft skills. After completing classroom training, participants are placed at a Palmetto Goodwill worksite to gain on-the-job experience and additional coaching.

Those interested in I-CAN should visit <u>palmettogoodwill.org/ican</u> to apply online. If internet access is a barrier to applying, Palmetto Goodwill <u>Career Opportunity Centers</u> can provide access to free in-house computer workstations.

Read the inspiring stories of two I-CAN graduates, <u>John in North Charleston</u> and <u>Brian in Horry County</u>, to see the lasting impact I-CAN creates in participants' lives. Interview opportunities with a program graduate or Palmetto Goodwill I-CAN leaders are available.

About Palmetto Goodwill

Founded in 1979, Palmetto Goodwill is a local, community-based, non-profit social enterprise whose mission is changing lives by providing equitable access to training, education, and employment. Our vision is that every member of the community has the opportunity to thrive. We span 18 counties in South Carolina operating 32 thrift stores and donation centers, 11 Career Opportunity Centers, 14 commercial/government contracts, and a mobile unit focused on serving rural communities. In 2024, we provided services to more than 11,000 individuals,

connected more than 4,000 people to work, and awarded \$200,000 in grants to local nonprofits to support their work in the critical areas of housing, transportation, childcare, and veterans support. We are proud to be one of the state's largest employers of people with disabilities. Palmetto Goodwill earned Platinum Transparency by GuideStar and 91 cents of each dollar that comes to us goes back into programs and services.

To learn more visit palmettogoodwill.org.