



Juliette Rizzo, Ms. Wheelchair America 2005 to speak at Goodwill Awards Banquet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Roanoke, VA. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys will hold its Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The banquet will begin with a social at 5:30 and the awards ceremony starting at 6:30.

“We look forward to the banquet every year, as it is our chance to thank those that have been instrumental to our success. It also allows us to educate the community about the complexity of our organization”, stated Bruce Phipps, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Valleys. The Annual Awards Banquet is an opportunity for Goodwill to honor program recipients, volunteers, local businesses, and community leaders for their commitment throughout the past year.

This year the banquet will feature Juliette Rizzo, Ms. Wheelchair America 2005 and current Director of Exhibits and Event Planning in the U.S. Department of Education, as the Keynote Speaker. Ms. Rizzo tours the country as an advocate for women’s health and disability awareness. With a strong background in communications and public relations she often speaks on disability issues. She has been recognized nationally for her writings and speaking and has done things that many only dream of, including carrying the Olympic torch through downtown Dallas on its way to Atlanta, modeling in the American Heart Association’s national Heart Truth campaign in Wisconsin, co-hosting an international Fourth of July broadcast to the troops in Iraq, and appearing on both the CBS Early Show and the NBC Today Show. She has been awarded the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award from the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sport. Ms. Rizzo holds a Master of Journalism from the University of Texas, and a B. S. in Journalism from Texas A&M University.

The Goodwill Annual Awards Banquet is possible because of the generous support of community partners. This year’s primary sponsors are BB&T and Triangle Realtors. Additional sponsors are LeClair Ryan, Member One Federal Credit Union, and Brown Edwards & Company, L.L.P. Certified Public Accountants.

Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, a United Way organization headquartered in Roanoke, serves 31 counties and 14 cities in the Shenandoah Valley, central, and southwest Virginia. Its mission is to help people in our community achieve a better life through work and independence. Last year, Goodwill served over 4,000 individuals.

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