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## **GOODWILL CELEBRATES WITH THE GRADUATION OF ITS SPRING 2008 CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING CLASS**

**LONG BEACH, CA – JUNE 20, 2008** – Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County, held a ceremony to honor Goodwill's Allied Health Care, C.N.A. Training Program graduates of Spring 2008 on June 19 at Goodwill's Main Facility.

The spring 2008 class is one of the largest graduating with 17 students receiving certificates of completion. They are: Maria Alexander, LaKeishia Carter, Tanisha Cruz, Gemma Darrough, Tandy Fink, Angela Garcia, Marisol Green, LeQuisha Haskins, Toshaka Jack, Esmerlada Jimenez, Brittany Johnson, Manisha Panesa, Erica Quintero, Richard Samedra, Monique Soto, Denise Spruce and Deborah Thomas.

The program provides classroom and clinical training, and prepares students to qualify for the state of California Certified Nursing Assistant exam and other healthcare related tests. Accredited units may be earned toward the LVN and RN programs at Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach.

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**Goodwill Spring 2008 C.N.A. Graduation**  
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Funded by the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Long Beach Community Foundation, Catholic Healthcare West/St. Mary Medical Center Foundation, Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network and the Goodwill Board of Trustees and in partnership with County of Los Angeles, Long Beach Unified School District Regional Occupational Program, and the California State University, Long Beach nursing program, this course opens the door to a career in the healthcare industry.

In addressing the new graduates, Matt Saldana, Administrator of the City of Long Beach Regional Occupational Program, asked them to visualize their futures in the short and long run. Doing so will provide them a vision of who they want to be. “You have to continue to be life-long learners,” said Saldana.

Goodwill’s Workforce Development Department developed the C.N.A. program in 2005, at Carmelitos, a transitional housing community and last year expanded the program by enrolling interested residents living outside the housing community. The C.N.A. training program will begin enrolling students on August 4, 2008 for the next class to start on September 3, 2008.

An entry eligibility criterion does apply to enter the C.N.A. training program: no felonies, must have an 8th grade reading and math level, be a resident of Southern Los Angeles County, and must be 18 to 21 years of age. Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact LaVont’e Jackson at (562) 435-3411, ext. 277.

Goodwill serves the people of Southern Los Angeles County as a community resource providing training and employment placement services to individuals with barriers to employment.