

In 2005, Goodwill Industries International provided job training and career development services for nearly 850,000 individuals, many of whom are parents. These parents often benefit from other local Goodwill programs, such as Families Together, aimed at stabilizing and strengthening families. "These local member agencies are expanding on our core mission of helping individuals overcome barriers to find and retain employment," says George W. Kessinger, Goodwill Industries International president and CEO. "We work to place parents in permanent employment, because we want to help them become more effective in meeting their families' needs. When you support a parent, you support the entire family and the community where they live."



GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

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Award-winning Program: Families Together Program

Cecil A. McNally, Chief Executive Officer

Ken Homa, Director of Housing Services

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CHILDREN DO WELL WHEN THEIR FAMILIES
DO WELL, AND FAMILIES DO BETTER WHEN
THEY LIVE IN SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

2005 FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

MORE THAN SHELTER

Traverse City, Michigan, attracts many families who vacation near Lake Michigan, but the city's tourist-based economy has left many local families searching for permanent jobs and economic stability. When these parents and children are unable to hold on to their homes, the local Goodwill Inn, a project of Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, offers them more than temporary shelter. Through the Families Together Program, these families can build for the future.

The Inn began as a homeless shelter for men, but a determined staff saw the potential in creating housing that would help families remain intact. Beginning in 1986, the shelter gradually added a roster of services and training to help families—homeless or not—succeed. In Families Together, the families living at the Inn were able to access the full cross-section of Goodwill services and find strength and stability.

AN URGENT MISSION

Families Together adopts what Ken Homa, Goodwill's director of housing services, terms a "holistic approach" to address the many and unusual needs of homeless families. These Goodwill services begin when the Inn accepts families with nowhere to turn, providing parents and children with basic medical attention and material goods.

Job training and job placement services for parents ensure that 95 percent find work before leaving the Inn, and children are placed in schools. Families can stay as long as they focus on rebuilding their lives, for 40 days on average. For those who do not come into the Inn, staff outreach goes into the streets. A new transitional housing program adds counseling specifically designed for families with a parent recently released from prison.

Another development has brightened the future—a \$250,000 federal appropriation to Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan has helped break ground on a new 22,000-square-foot Inn, with family-sized apartments. The building will have room for up to 115 family members and features a day care center that complements Goodwill's core mission: it will train parents as future day care providers. "A career path always leads to independence and dignity," says Homa.



MANY PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED THAT THE AVERAGE AGE OF A HOMELESS AMERICAN IS NINE YEARS OLD. WITH CHILDREN FRONT AND CENTER, WE FEEL SPECIAL URGENCY ABOUT PUTTING THESE FAMILIES BACK ON THEIR FEET.

—Cecil A. McNally, Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, Inc.

FAMILIES COUNT FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

Through a joint venture of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Goodwill Industries International, the FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Awards recognize Goodwill member agencies with outstanding programs that work to give children what they need most—strong, capable and economically successful families. Responding to the varied needs of the families they serve, these organizations improve the economic prospects of working men and women and create the services and networks of support that all families need to realize their aspirations for themselves and their children.