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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GOODWILL LAUNCHES ELECTRONICS SOLDERING TRAINING IN THE TWIN CITIES**

*Program prepares people for skilled manufacturing jobs ahead of projected labor shortage.*

**Oct. 8, 2018** — Starting this month, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota will offer electronics soldering training in the Twin Cities. The program is available at no cost to eligible students, and graduates will earn the soldering field’s most widely recognized credential (the IPC-610-A) in just four weeks. In addition to learning electronics soldering fundamentals, students will network with industry professionals and receive one-on-one guidance with their job searches.

“Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota turns 100 years old in 2019. In the past century, our programs have seen many changes as our organization has adapted to fit the unique needs of the people we serve. By expanding our suite of training programs to include electronics soldering, GESMN is meeting the realities of Minnesota’s changing economy head-on,” says Michael Wirth-Davis, GESMN President and CEO. “In the next five years, the Minnesota manufacturing industry will face a severe worker shortage. GESMN’s programs move four Minnesotans into the workplace every day, closing this gap and ensuring everyone knows the power of work and independence.”

GESMN’s electronics soldering training is delivered in partnership with Dakota County Technical College, District 196 Community Education and St. Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education. Career paths open to participants include soldering technician, electro-mechanical assembly, medical production assembly and assembly technician.

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### **About Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota**

Serving Minnesota for 100 years as a leader in employment services, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota (GESMN) provides education, job training and placement services to eliminate barriers to work and independence. Revenue from 51 retail stores — along with grants and fees and other financial contributions — supports programs throughout Minnesota. Our “donate-shop-reuse-educate-employ” model diverts over 60 million pounds from landfills annually and brings us one step closer to a world where everyone experiences the power of work. [gesmn.org](http://gesmn.org)