



Media Contact: Melissa Becker
Director of Marketing and Communications
651-379-5955 | mbecker@gesmn.org

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota Reopens St. Paul Midway Store

A celebration of community resilience as thrift store rebuilds and reopens after just 60+ days

Aug. 7, 2020 (ST. PAUL, Minn.) – Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota announces the reopening of its St. Paul store located at 1239 University Ave. West in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. As one of the businesses heavily damaged in recent unrest, Goodwill is among the first Midway businesses to reopen, having rebuilt in just over 60 days since closing on May 29.

"The reopening of Goodwill Midway marks an important step in rebuilding for our community," said **Mayor Melvin Carter**. "Goodwill's continued leadership and partnership amid the ongoing public health and economic crisis will help ensure no one gets left behind."

The store is one of the largest of Goodwill's 50+ retail locations in the Twin Cities, with two floors and nearly double the square footage of a typical store. Displaced St. Paul store employees were accommodated during the rebuilding: some worked at Goodwill's main campus just down University Avenue processing donations to refill the St. Paul store and all employees were paid during the reconstruction.

"The Midway neighborhood was deeply affected by the unrest in May, and we have been part of this community for over 100 years since our founding in 1919. There was no question we would come together and rebuild," said **Michael Wirth-Davis, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota president and CEO**. "We are committed to supporting the Midway community, to offering services that help connect people to jobs and to speaking out against systemic racism and injustice."

"Goodwill has been an important part of our community for more than 100 years, providing sustainable and affordable shopping, keeping items out of landfills, and offering career development programs to expand access to work and independence for many who have traditionally been unable to participate in the workforce," said **Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04)**. "As the Midway neighborhood rebuilds, the store's safe reopening is an indicator of our community's resilience."

"Goodwill is an important part of the Midway community," said **Chad Kulas, executive director of the Midway Chamber of Commerce**. "The store provides affordable clothing and home goods, while taking donations that help keep items out of Minnesota landfills. As the Midway neighborhood begins to heal, this reopening demonstrates Goodwill's remarkable progress and pace in helping rebuild this vital part of St. Paul."

With estimates of over \$50 million in damage to the Midway area and over 50 fires in one night, there is still progress to be made. Goodwill reopens its doors today in service to the Midway community and in celebration of its resilience.

About Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota is a nonprofit organization that provides education, job training and placement services that eliminate barriers to work and independence. Revenue from 50+ retail stores — along with grants and other financial contributions — supports programs throughout Minnesota. Our “donate-shop-reuse-educate-employ” model diverts over 65 million pounds from landfills annually and helps us connect people to jobs every day. Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or visit gesmn.org.

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