



# CREATING CAREER POSSIBILITIES TOGETHER

2025 WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER

## FAMILY STABILITY PROGRAMS UPLIFT MINNESOTA PARENTS

Family Stability Programs at Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota (GESMN) provide holistic support for parents and connect them to education, training and employment, making a direct impact on children and families.

Holistic services help participants meet basic needs, learn to navigate government systems, and connect to jobs so they can build thriving careers. “Career goals and family goals are intertwined,” says Andrew Freeberg, director of Family Stability Programs. “When we support parents to overcome challenges that may be affecting their family, they are more likely to reach their education and career goals and achieve stability.”

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– Andrew Freeberg  
Director of Family Stability Programs

The “whole family” approach that integrates many services and partners fosters positive change for parents, positively impacting the next generation – their children.

FAST (Families Achieving Success Today) is one of the unique Family Stability Programs with an innovative approach to working alongside families. “The most impactful aspect of FAST is the professional team integration,” says Katie



Wagoner, workforce development manager at GESMN. “Each team member knows about each family, whether officially working with them or not, including the children. Team members understand each other’s areas of expertise at the surface level, so participants do not have to wait for a specific person or be turned away when they stop into the office or call with a question. We meet every week to discuss ways to support specific families. It’s both collaborative and integrated. Our collective thinking is much better than just one person’s brain.”

Learn more about supporting Minnesota families at [gesmn.org/services/family-stability](https://gesmn.org/services/family-stability).

**Give Today!**  
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# POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS ANNUAL EVENT

## Celebrating Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota's community partnerships

"Partnerships are the backbone of what we do," said Sheila Olson, chief services and programs officer at GESMN, during the annual Power of Partnerships luncheon on December 3, 2024.

The event brought together over 125 local leaders, advocates and champions of workforce development to showcase the impact of collaboration and honor partner organizations that help transform lives by creating career opportunities.

"Our partners are more than collaborators—they are innovators," said Keith Brooks, senior director of services and programs at GESMN. "They help us imagine new possibilities for workforce development and inspire us to push the boundaries of what we can achieve together."

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- **5,611 individuals** from **70 MN counties** served
- Partnership with **62 schools** and **18 colleges** to help young adults explore career interests and gain skills
- **5,106 support services** provided to meet participants' needs for food, clothing, work tools, housing, childcare, transportation and technology.



Five partner organizations were honored at the event including (from left to right): John O'Phelan, Lisa Guetzkow, Noelana Gates and Michelle Belitz (all with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions); Kelli DeCook and Scott Maloney (both with Rochester Family Services); Jim Durdle (Goodwill-Easter Seals MN - GESMN); Nicky Loch (with South Washington County Schools); Andrea West and CC Moore (both with GESMN); Kristie Lazenberry (with St. Paul Chamber); Cheri Gengler; Maddy Fisher (Minneapolis Regional Chamber); Melissa McLean (St. Paul Chamber); and Cassidy Yates (Minnesota State Transportation Center of Excellence).

## GESMN PARTNER HONOREES

- South Washington County Schools
- Rochester Family Services
- Minnesota State Transportation Center of Excellence
- Ramsey County Workforce Solutions
- Minneapolis Regional Chamber



# GESMN INVESTS IN THE FUTURE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## New Career & Services Campus Opening Fall 2025

The new Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota Career and Services Campus, located in St. Paul's Energy Park neighborhood, will open in Fall 2025.

The expanded main campus will foster growth and innovation based on participant career paths and labor force needs. Each year, GESMN serves more than 5,000 people and works with over 500 employers, helping strengthen our local and regional economies, while addressing systemic barriers to accessible employment that persist in our community.

The Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota Career and Services Campus will:

- Provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for program participants, employees and community partners to work, learn, collaborate and gather.
- Deepen our service to families through training and employment programs and a Twin Cities-based home for family stability programs.

**"The new GESMN Career and Services Campus will meet the needs of a changing workforce," said Michael Wirth-Davis, President and CEO. "I'm excited that our new facility and its design will help us create career possibilities together with employer and community partners to serve even more people for years to come."**



- Prioritize individualized career training and education for high-demand fields. We will launch new technology training in solar panel installation, heat pump installation and electric vehicle support equipment repair.







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# REGISTER NOW!

## POWER OF WORK ANNUAL SIGNATURE FUNDRAISING EVENT

May 8, 2025 | Quincy Hall, Minneapolis  
[gesmn.org/pow](http://gesmn.org/pow)



I'm very grateful for the experience. It's been life changing in many ways. I've learned how to communicate better and set expectations for myself and others.

JEFFREY,  
Financial Industry  
Training participant

## STAY CONNECTED!

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## Make a Planned Gift

You can help ensure support for our community for years to come with a planned gift. To learn more, visit [plannedgiving.goodwilleasterseals.org](http://plannedgiving.goodwilleasterseals.org).