

## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** David J. Tobiczyk, Vice President, Marketing & Development  
412-632-1942 or [david.tobiczyk@goodwillswpa.org](mailto:david.tobiczyk@goodwillswpa.org)

### **Goodwill to open Union Station Clubhouse in new location**

UNIONTOWN, PA, October 7, 2014 -- Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new location of its Union Station Clubhouse on Tuesday, October 14 at 2:30 p.m. The Clubhouse, located at 100 Corporate Crossing Road, Uniontown, provides psychiatric rehabilitation following a Clubhouse model for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to prepare for re-entry into the workforce.

Unlike other mental health or day treatment programs, the Clubhouse model focuses on members working together to take care of the Clubhouse and choosing their own daily activities that will help prepare them to lead productive and satisfying lives in the community. Clinical aspects of the program are removed and instead are replaced by a small group of professional staff who work collaboratively with the members who make their own decisions on how to maintain the Clubhouse, run the program and plan social events.

Clubhouse members do everything from cooking meals in the full kitchen, to doing dishes, answering the phone, maintaining the yard, using the computer, and planning outings. The activities, how they will be managed, and the extent of involvement are determined by the members themselves as they learn to be self-sufficient and take ownership in the clubhouse.

This active participation is a key rehabilitative tool for recovery as members learn vital problem solving skills necessary for sustaining psychiatric stability and social and vocational functioning. As members learn skills necessary for sustaining psychiatric stability and social and vocational functioning, the Clubhouse offers a range of opportunity to work in paying jobs in the community through the Transitional Employment Program (TEP), Supported Employment or Independent Employment.

Elaine Swaney, Director of Vocational Services, Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania notes that "Each member has something to contribute in a community that

offers respect, hope and the opportunity to access work, housing, education and the friendship of others.”

Goodwill in Uniontown has operated a clubhouse model since 2002, serving more than 400 individuals with their journey through recovery. The Union Station Clubhouse, which is licensed by the Office of Mental Health and accredited by Clubhouse International, is one of two clubhouses where the auspice agency is Goodwill.

###

### **About Goodwill SWPA**

**([www.goodwillswpa.org](http://www.goodwillswpa.org); [facebook.com/goodwillswpa](https://www.facebook.com/goodwillswpa); [twitter.com/gwswpa](https://twitter.com/gwswpa))**

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania is a diversified human service agency that is supported, in part, by its network of retail stores and other nonprofit businesses. It serves all of southwestern Pennsylvania and manages several affiliate units and special-purpose entities, including Goodwill of Fayette County; Goodwill of North Central West Virginia; Goodwill Commercial Services, Inc.; and Goodwill Housing. Goodwill SWPA operates 31 retail stores and several other businesses to help fund programs and to provide job training and related services to help clients overcome various barriers to employment. It has over 1,100 employees and in 2013 provided services to over 53,000 individuals.