



MEDIA RELEASE

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## Goodwill Amity receives \$1.9M from Skills Development Fund for Training and Employment in high-demand careers

**HAMILTON** – Goodwill Amity is pleased to announce the creation of two new programs aimed at providing skills training towards careers in in-demand sectors in Hamilton and Halton. The Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skill Development (MLTSD) has awarded \$1.9M for the delivery of the two programs. They are:

- **Successful Women In advanced Manufacturing (SWIM):**

This is a 6-week program that incorporates essential, technical, and pre-employment training to provide rapid upskilling for women. A paid placement will start after the skills training. For manufacturing employers, SWIM will deliver a ready pool of candidates.

- **Food And beverage Skills Training (FAST):**

This combines a 4-week skills training program with a paid placement. Technical and soft skills modules prepare participants for the challenges and opportunities that arise with finding and maintaining employment in the growing Food and Beverage sector.

Both programs were developed based on research and evidence of need. They bring together a number of community partners – including Palette Skills, Mohawk College, and Food Processing Skills Canada to provide a full range of training. Curricula are employer-informed and both programs engage an employer advisory group.

“We are thrilled to be providing practical and marketable skills development programs,” said Tracy Cunning, Goodwill Amity’s Vice President of Employment Services. “Especially for people displaced or further marginalized during the pandemic; these programs offer a chance to transition to living wage careers with many opportunities for future advancement. We are thankful to [Minister McNaughton](#) for the funding from MLTSD that will enable this rapid upskilling leading to employment in these in-demand sectors.”

“Everything our government is doing is about helping people find meaningful jobs to earn bigger paycheques and build stronger families,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “I am proud to support these Goodwill Amity projects, which will allow hundreds of people in Hamilton and Halton to access hands-on training, secure well-paying jobs, and fulfill a life of purpose.”

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Goodwill, the Amity Group is a leading charity and has served the Hamilton and Halton Region since 1935. Our mission is “changing lives and strengthening communities through the power of work” which we do by offering free employment support and training programs through Goodwill Career Centres along with hands-on skills training in Goodwill’s two retail thrift stores and the Stairways café and catering division.

**Organization Contact for Media Inquiries:** Tracy Cunning, Vice President Employment Services, Goodwill Amity  
905-526-8488, ext. 1305 | [tcunning@goodwillonline.ca](mailto:tcunning@goodwillonline.ca)