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For Immediate Release:

With Help from Goodwill, Lincoln Literacy Restarts New Beginnings Reading Classes for Adults

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Lincoln, NE -- Thanks in part to financial and logistical support from Goodwill Industries, Lincoln Literacy will be able to restart its New Beginnings adult literacy classes for English speakers early next month. The classes had been on hiatus since May due to lack of funding.

Lincoln Literacy, a community-based nonprofit organization founded in 1972, has earned a reputation as Lincoln's leader in charitable language and literacy services, but in recent years it has been best known for helping refugees and immigrants learn English.

That reputation holds true, but the agency continues to reach out and assist adults who speak English but have trouble with reading and writing. In 2013, with a lead grant from the Woods Charitable Fund, Lincoln Literacy launched its New Beginnings program at several sites, including Goodwill and Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach.

The free classes will resume the first week in September at Goodwill, 2100 Judson St., from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. on Mondays, and at Matt Talbot, 2121 N 27th St, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Classes for inmates in the County Jail will take place on Tuesday evenings.

Lincoln Literacy will also offer a full schedule of English language classes for immigrants and refugees, spanning 20 different sites, mornings, afternoons, and evenings, seven days a week. Funding for those classes comes from a wide variety of sources, including United Way, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Refugee Resettlement program, the Cooper Foundation, the Ameritas Charitable Foundation, Lincoln Community Foundation, numerous other local foundations and businesses, and generous contributions from the public.

Goodwill Industries Serving Southeast Nebraska Inc.'s mission is willing workers employed and community resources maximized. Its programs support individuals with barriers to employment by providing services, which equip them with the tools needed in order to obtain employment, thus adding to lower unemployment rates and less reliance on government assistance within the Lincoln community. Goodwill also provides financial support to Lincoln Literacy and several other nonprofits whose activities contribute to the fulfillment of Goodwill's mission. This year alone, Lincoln Literacy will receive \$15,000 from Goodwill.

The community can support Lincoln Literacy via its website, lincolnliteracy.org, and Goodwill by donating their gently-used items, shopping at Goodwill Stores and making tax-deductible financial donations. The sale of donated goods remains the greatest source of funding for programs Goodwill provides. Learn more at www.lincolngoodwill.org.

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