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GOODWILL OF NORTH FLORIDA SEEKS APPLICANTS AND BUSINESSES FOR THE MAYOR'S YOUTH AT WORK PARTNERSHIP -Interested Students and Employers Should Apply by May 13 for First Work Session-

JACKSONVILLE, FL (April 25, 2022) – Goodwill of North Florida, Inc. (Goodwill) is once again partnering with the City of Jacksonville, VyStar and Cities for Financial Empowerment to facilitate the Mayor's Youth at Work Partnership (MYAWP). The program is seeking students to participate in the upcoming summer session of the program, which provides work-related experiences to help prepare them for successful employment.

MYAWP provides eligible students with paid internships and job opportunities that prepare them to succeed in employment. Students work with local businesses that offer on the job training and mentorship. In addition to employment, students receive employability training throughout their internship and are assigned to a job coach who acts as a liaison between the student and partnering business. A key goal of the MYAWP is to help businesses create a local talent pipeline by leveraging the strengths of local youth aged 16-21.

MYAWP is accepting student applications for the upcoming 14-week work sessions now through May 13.

The MYAWP program partners with local businesses who employ and train students. Each student and employer work with a Job Coach who assists in the employment process, provides support, and acts as a liaison between the student and employer.

In addition to employment, students develop social skills, learn about work norms and culture, understand career pathways, build professional networks, and learn to manage money.

"My administration's Youth at Work Partnership is a community-based program that benefits not only our youngest citizens but also some of our private sector and nonprofit community," said Mayor Lenny Curry. "I am excited to see what the future holds and look forward to being able to expand this into a year-round initiative with the primary focus being on assisting the youngest members of our community in developing career goals and a pathway forward. The team at Kids Hope Alliance and MYAWP have worked tirelessly to ensure that this program has become and will remain an integral part of our community."

The program is open to eligible youth between 16 and 21 years of age who are enrolled in a Duval County High School, GED program, high school equivalency program, technical school, or college and have a 2.0 grade point average or higher. Those chosen are paid for experiences that help build essential work-readiness skills and much more.

Eligible individuals may apply for the program here <https://goodwilljax.org/myawp>.

Employers interested in participating must provide students with up to 25 hours of work experience weekly after school, on weekends, or virtually; as well as on-the-job training and mentorship. Those interested in becoming a potential business partner please visit, <https://goodwilljax.org/myawp-partner>.

Goodwill of North Florida has managed the program via Kid's Hope Alliance since last year. "This program has grown and continues to strengthen North Florida's workforce, and that lines up perfectly with our mission at Goodwill to help citizens overcome barriers to employment," said President and CEO David Rey. "The participating youth in the program are learning valuable skills that they'll take with them as they continue their career path. We believe in this partnership and strongly recommend it to Jacksonville youth and potential employers."

The MYAWP aligns businesses, nonprofit and philanthropic entities to develop an integrated youth employment career pathway system.

For more information please visit, <https://goodwilljax.org/>.

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About Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Inc.

Goodwill Industries of North Florida, Inc. is the area's largest not-for-profit organization that removes barriers to employment through training, education and career opportunities for the communities we serve. 92 cents of every dollar generated is directly invested in our programs and services.