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PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Milwaukee Public Library Connects Residents With Jobs

Recognizing the significant disconnect that can exist between some Milwaukee residents and employment opportunities, the **Milwaukee Public Library (MPL)** and **Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin** will be partnering to provide neighborhood-based job fairs highlighting opportunities for people seeking employment to learn about prospective employers, workplace skills development programs, and receive assistance with the job application process.

The first job fair will be held Thursday, August 3, from 11 AM until 2 PM on the Second Floor of Milwaukee Central Library, 814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Despite a resurgence in post-COVID employment opportunities, many communities in Milwaukee, particularly African Americans and people in poverty, continue to experience disproportionate rates of unemployment. Data from the City's Office of Equity & Inclusion identifies that while the average rate of unemployment has dropped to less than 7% citywide, unemployment among African Americans remains as high as 11%. In Milwaukee, African Americans are also disproportionately represented in communities in poverty. Barriers to employment opportunities, such as a lack of access to educational and skills-building opportunities or to the internet, can contribute to existing disparities.

Milwaukee Central Library and 12 branch locations operate as community hubs and offer an array of workforce development resources that include adult literacy programming, free access to the internet, assistance with online employment applications, programming to help people develop new workplace skills, and partnerships with community agencies to expand access to business and job resources.

"The library is dedicated to ending the racial and economic disparities that prevent all Milwaukee residents from celebrating an equitable and good quality of life," said Library Director Joan Johnson. "As one of Milwaukee's most historic educational institutions, we want to be a strong partner and contributor to economic and employment growth in Milwaukee and support a pipeline from poverty to employment."



Onsite application assistance will be provided by Goodwill Workforce Connection Centers. Featured employers include Goodwill Retail, Goodwill TalentBridge, LGC Associates, Medical Associates of Wisconsin, Millipore Sigma, Performance Clean, Pretzilla, V. Marchese, and more.

In addition to Job Fairs, the Milwaukee Central Library hosts **Worker Connection Program: Job Assistance** each Wednesday from 10:30 am-4 pm, and **Job Search and Resume Assistance** on Thursdays from 1 pm - 4:30 pm. **Tech-splanation** (technology skills building) classes are available at Central and most branch libraries.

Additional information on MPL's workforce development programming is available at mpl.org

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About Milwaukee Public Library: Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 13 locations and more than three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves nearly one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe.