



## SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE

for Families and Children with Special Needs

*family-centered research, education, and dissemination*

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We are pleased to announce that Goodwill of Central Arizona and Southwest Institute for Families and Children with Special Needs (SWI) have received funds from the city of Phoenix to help youth, ages 14 – 21, acquire basic life skills, job training, and job experience. This partnership will pair Goodwill's Workforce Development Program with Southwest Institute's *Fast Track* Program. This integrated program will be provided at no cost to the youth. The program is open to youth, ages 14- to 21-years-old, who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and live in the city of Phoenix. In addition, youth must complete an application, participate in an interview, and show evidence of being able to read and write at a 4<sup>th</sup> grade level or above.

Fast Track activities focus on the following topics:

- Education—continuing education in a university, community college, and/or vocational school and knowing what accommodations/funding may be available.
- Vocation—choosing a career/job including selecting an appropriate career, writing a resume, and completing a job application and interview.
- Health—self-management of health care, including knowing how to keep yourself healthy, having an emergency plan, and knowing how to work with your insurance company.
- Social—sharpening the social skills necessary for getting along with peers, family, health providers, and fellow-workers including moods, optimism, being a good communicator, reading other people's body language, and using humor in your everyday life.
- Housing—learning about housing options including choosing appropriate housing, finding help with funding, matching yourself with a roommate, and researching what modifications need to be made and how to pay for them.
- Money Management—setting up a budget and keeping track of resources including learning how to value money, becoming a smart shopper, budgeting, managing a savings and checking account, and balancing a checkbook.
- Transportation—learning about transportation options including public transportation and how to obtain a drivers license.

Goodwill's Workforce Development Program provides a variety of services including the following:

- Leadership Development
- Educational Assistance
- Needs Assessment
- Post-Secondary Preparation
- Occupational Skills Training
- Adult/Peer Mentoring
- Job Placement Assistance
- Supportive Services

- Summer Employment
- Case Management
- Work Experience
- Guidance and Counseling
- Career Exploration
- Follow-up Services

The class will be held at our office in Scottsdale (Southwest Institute for Families and Children with Special Needs, 5111 N. Scottsdale Rd., Suite 105, Scottsdale, AZ 85250). The office is located just north of the intersection of Scottsdale Rd. and Chaparral.

Students can attend one of two sessions, choosing to attend on Tuesday afternoons or Saturday mornings:

**Saturdays: April 1, 8, 22, 29 and May 6 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Sodas and pizza will be supplied for the sessions. Participation requires attendance at every session, being on time, and completing all assignments. Materials will be provided, but participants should bring a pen.

Please call and reserve your spot in the training today (480-222-8800, ext. 30). We look forward to your participation in the Fast Track.

Sincerely,

*Nora Stiles*

Nora Stiles  
Fast Track Coordinator  
480-222-8800, ext. 30  
[n.stiles@swifamilies.org](mailto:n.stiles@swifamilies.org)

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, SWI must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, SWI must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that SWI will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. Please contact: Nora Stiles at 480-222-8800, ext 30.

