Re: Supportive Comments on Behalf of SunTrust

To whom it concern,

SunTrust Bank and Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, Inc. have been business partners for many years. As early as the mid 1990’s SunTrust provided the funding, through a loan, for the construction of a 200-bed residential reentry center. This center has operated at capacity continuously since opening; today Goodwill assists a waiting list of women seeking to re-enter the community after serving their prison terms. In early 2000 SunTrust supported the expansion of Goodwill-Suncoast’s social enterprise, working with us to facilitate an industrial revenue bond that provided the resources needed to expand our retail business which funds our Human Service programs. Since that time, SunTrust has assisted us two more times. Goodwill-Suncoast has served hundreds of thousands of people in communities in west central Florida as a result of the expansion SunTrust supported. In line with our mission, many of the people we served have successfully secured work and are independent.

SunTrust has also supported Goodwill-Suncoast and its programs, especially Life Skills Development which serves men and women with developmental disabilities. For many years, SunTrust provided special incentive scholarships to individuals who excelled in the program and were able to transition successfully into community employment. Presently SunTrust supports food services training for adults with developmental disabilities; additionally, SunTrust provides staff that serve as volunteer instructors, teaching Goodwill-Suncoast team members about financial literacy. This information is essential in assisting individuals earning entry level wages and more to achieve economic stability each day.

Recently, SunTrust Bank has provided direct support for an educational seminar that will provide the tools to enhance mission service delivery via 29 different Goodwill organizations. The ideas shared at this seminar will allow each organization to implement services, policies and procedures that benefit those we serve in our respective communities, potentially impacting hundreds of thousands of people in a positive way.

Based on our long, positive history with SunTrust Bank, I believe this merger will allow the new organization to expand their influence and ability to serve companies with whom they do business and their respective communities. We look forward to the new opportunities that this merger will create.

Respectfully,

Deborah A. Passerini, M.Ed., CRC, CE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, Inc.