



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florence Crittenton Student Wins Goodwill Holiday Card Contest

DENVER – Dec. 11, 2009 – Florence Crittenton School student Rajeana Vassel has won the Goodwill Industries of Denver’s holiday card contest, Parent Pathways Interim President and Chief Executive Officer Patti Klinge announced Friday.

Vassel, a 16-year-old sophomore at the Denver high school for pregnant and parenting students, beat out students in 28 other schools, receiving a \$100 Visa gift card and the honor of having her artwork on the holiday cards Goodwill sends to its community partners, donors and volunteers.

Goodwill believes in the power of work as a means to self-sufficiency and a transformational element in the lives of the more than 23,000 people served each year. Goodwill provides intensive, classroom-based career development services to more than 20,000 students in 29 area schools, including the Florence Crittenton School operated by Parent Pathways in partnership with Denver Public Schools.

Vassel has had a difficult life. Her mother, despite repeated attempts, was unable to conquer addiction and after a severe car accident several years ago, lives in a nursing home, and her father moved to Texas. Regina gave birth at 14 to Jy’ Air (pronounced jeye-AIR), now 2, and has been attending the Florence Crittenton School since. She lives with her son, brother and grandmother in a small home in Denver, and hopes to attend college and pursue a career in art, culinary arts or forensics.

About Parent Pathways

Parent Pathways is a Denver-based non-profit that empowers struggling teen families to be productive members of the community. Using a holistic and proven approach, Parent Pathways offers a spectrum of wraparound services for the entire teen family, including education, health/wellness services, career guidance and parenting training for pregnant and parenting teen mothers at the Florence Crittenton School; early childhood education for their babies and toddlers at the Qualistar-rated Early Learning Center; and counseling, education and parenting support for teen fathers through the Young Fathers Program. Learn more at www.parentpathways.org.

About Goodwill Industries of Denver

The mission of Goodwill Industries of Denver is “to ensure that every person in the community has the opportunity to live to his or her potential and to attain personal and economic self-sufficiency.” These programs help students stay in school, graduate and prepare for post-secondary education or immediate entry into the workplace following graduation. Goodwill’s youth programs are proactive, preventative programs designed to help teens establish real-world connections between education, career development and the local business community. Learn more at www.goodwilldenver.org.

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