



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 18, 2015

**Contact:**

Joan P. McLaughlin

President

540-372-6710, ext. 115

[Jmclaughlin48@eri-va.com](mailto:Jmclaughlin48@eri-va.com)

**Oberle School Donates Bikes to Salvation Army's Toyland**

(Fredericksburg, VA) – The Salvation Army's Toyland in Fredericksburg will receive twenty refurbished bicycles from Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) and the Gladys H. Oberle School's vocational center just in time for the Christmas season. Some of the bikes were donated by local residents to the school's vocational center and students worked to prepare the bikes in time for The Salvation Army's Toyland grand opening. "We are so delighted to receive the bikes from the Gladys H. Oberle School," said Lt. Sheri Jones of The Salvation Army in Fredericksburg. "The students did a great job getting the bikes prepared and I know it will make some local children very happy on Christmas morning."

The Wilson Center for Vocational Studies at ERI's Gladys H. Oberle School accepts donated bicycles from local residents and utilizes them to train their students through their

Bicycle Repair Program. “All of our bikes go through an extensive 11-point mechanical check and safety inspection which also includes cosmetic improvements such as painting and replacing old parts with new ones,” said Rob Welch, Oberle’s Vocational Director. “We are also very excited to be partnering with Olde Towne Bikes in Fredericksburg,” Welch added. “Olde Towne Bikes donated two of the bikes and they provide bicycle parts at cost to the vocational program and assists us with some technical support.”

“We wanted to make sure the bikes went to a good cause and, in our opinion, there is no better cause during the Christmas season than to help needy children through The Salvation Army’s Toyland,” said Joan McLaughlin, ERI’s President.

Employment Resources Incorporated is a private not-for-profit organization with offices located in Fredericksburg, Virginia that serves the city of Fredericksburg and multiple cities and counties in the region. ERI operates the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg, an accredited alternative private special education day school for high school age children which includes The Wilson Center for Vocational Studies programs. Its mission is to provide youth and young adults with the education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their community.

# # #