



GOODWILL-EASTER SEALS FOUNDATION
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Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota (GESMN) partners with Walser Automotive Group to create non-traditional pathways to career success

The nonprofit's Power of Work comprehensive capital campaign creates equitable access to stable careers.

Saint Paul, MINN., August 29, 2024 – Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota (gesmn.org) partnered with local Minnesota businesses in multiple industries to create successful nontraditional pathways toward career success. Participants in Career Pathways programs can expect to earn industry credentials and connect with local employers in just 10 -12 weeks. Training includes online and in-person learning opportunities, job placement assistance and more, all at no cost to the participant. Training programs through GESMN are available in multiple fields ranging from construction to finance and business.

Minnesota Automotive Group, Walser (walser.com), partnered with GESMN to provide job opportunities for participants following their automotive career paths. “The Walser Foundation believes all individuals should have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Access to education and career training make this possible. The Walser Foundation provides grants to organizations that benefit education at all levels to help build a strong workforce for the future. Our mission is to increase access to high-quality programs in the Twin Cities community, and GESMN provides the training and support needed for community members to “experience the power of work,” says Walser Foundation Director, Nancy Warner.

“Walser is focused on fostering a skilled workforce that can thrive in the ever-evolving automotive industry. Programs like GESMN’s Career Training & Education are important as they provide comprehensive training that aligns with the practical demands of our industry,” continued Warner. “Supporting these programs is a win-win. Individuals gain valuable skills, and we build a steady pipeline of trained professionals who are ready to contribute from day one. This alignment is especially important in our industry because staying competitive means constantly advancing technical skills and knowledge.”

Automotive career paths for graduates include:

- Express lube technician
- General service technician
- Maintenance technician
- Parts counter salesperson
- Service advising/writing
- Tire technician

In addition, GESMN offers a range of workforce programming to help individuals and families gain equitable access to jobs, create stable careers and advance in the workplace.

About Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that offers job training and customized career support to eliminate barriers to work and independence. Reuse and recycling operations contribute to Minnesota's environmental sustainability and employ nearly 2,000 people in the community. Proceeds from thrift retail, e-commerce, grants and financial contributions fund nearly 20 customized services that help Minnesotans get equitable access to jobs, create stable careers and advance in the workplace. Shopping and donating items divert over 65 million pounds from local landfills annually and have helped the organization connect people to jobs since 1919. Learn more at gesmn.org.