



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FLORENCE M. CONTI JOINS THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Buffalo, N.Y. (August 4, 2011) - - The John R. Oishei Foundation is pleased to announce that Florence M. Conti has been elected to its Board of Directors. Ms. Conti recently retired as Executive Director of Goodwill Industries of WNY, a position she held for 13 years.

“We’re elated that Florence has joined our Board. After spending well over a decade in the nonprofit arena in Western New York, she will bring a unique and valuable perspective to our organization. Her expertise, leadership and enthusiasm will add significantly to our efforts to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in our region,” stated James Wadsworth, Oishei Foundation’s Board Chair.

“Florence expanded Goodwill’s capabilities exponentially during her tenure. Her leadership was exceptional and her well-earned accolades are too numerous to mention. We can’t wait to add her talents to the Foundation’s endeavors,” said Robert Gioia, Oishei Foundation President.

While at Goodwill, Ms. Conti strived to increase the number of people and populations served, expand upon the range of programs and services offered, and build additional collaborations and sources of revenue. In 1998 the agency served 1,223 persons. By 2010, 3,050 individuals were receiving services from Goodwill.

To demonstrate her agency's high level of performance, Ms. Conti committed Goodwill to reapply every three years to The Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), which assesses the quality and effectiveness of providers' programs and operations. In January 2011 the agency received its fifth consecutive three-year Certificate of Accreditation, the highest award possible, citing its person-centered, holistic approach and commitment to collaboration.

For her leadership at Goodwill, Ms. Conti has been recognized by Buffalo Rotary with its "Service Above Self" Award (2006), by The Buffalo News as an Outstanding Citizen of the Year (2010), and with the Goodwill Quality Leadership Award. In 2010 Goodwill's Board of Trustees established The Florence M. Conti Award of Excellence and honored her as its first recipient. Under her leadership, Goodwill has been recognized with a Corporate Award from The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care (2000), by The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo with its first Burt P. Flickinger, Jr. Nonprofit Collaboration Award (2004), by The National Conference for Community and Justice with its Special Agency Award (2004), and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 with an Environmental Quality Award (2010).

Prior to working for Goodwill, Ms. Conti was employed by L.L. Berger, a local designer fashion retailer for 25 years. Florence was born in Sicily . In the early '50s, she immigrated to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island with her family and then settling in Buffalo, New York . She currently resides in Lancaster, New York.

The John R. Oishei Foundation strives to be a catalyst for change to enhance the economic vitality and the quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.

For additional information, contact Robert D. Gioia (856-9490), President of The John R. Oishei Foundation.