Ray Barton, second from left, hands Ernest Damkroger, second from right, the state's contribution for expansion of the local Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation center. Barton is the district administrator for the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Damkroger is president of the Goodwill board of directors. Also in the picture, from left, are: Mayor Eugene Fleming, Barton, Larry Dominguez, executive director, Damkroger and Darrow Palmer, past Goodwill president. The 17,500-square-foot expansion of the local rehabilitation center will almost double the present 18,000-square-foot building located at 350 Encinal street.

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Goodwill Gets State Aid To Begin Expansion Of Rehabilitation Center

A year of negotiation between Goodwill Industries and the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has ended with an agreement to expand the rehabilitation center in Santa Cruz and to upgrade its program. The center is located at 350 Encinal street.

The agreement marks the first time a contract has been completed between the state agency and a private group.

The total project calls for an expenditure of $160,000 with the Goodwill Industries paying almost 38 per cent of the cost. Ernest Damkroger, president of the Goodwill board of directors, said remodeling and construction will start early this month. Darrow Palmer who is in charge of construction, estimates the job will be finished by October 15.

The workshop and office space will be increased 17,500 square feet in order to accommodate the psychological and medical programs, a contract, dry cleaning and upholstering department. Because of the expansion, there will be about 200 people in the Goodwill program daily. This is 30 per cent more employs than at present.

About $30,000 will be spent in modern equipment for the dry cleaning, radio and television, transportation and furniture departments in order to acquaint trainees with some of the latest equipment in competitive industry.

Gus Wahlberg is chairman of the equipment committee. He was in charge of studying and assessing equipment needs and evaluating potentials for various departments.

"We are grateful to both the department of rehabilitation and to the many friends of Goodwill Industries for making this expansion possible. Certainly, when we consider the success we've had in the field of rehabilitation, we can only say that it is due to the benevolence of those who have so generously supported our Goodwill program," said Damkroger.

Others assisting in the new center were Dr. Nathan Nelson, chief rehabilitation workshop consultant for California, who obtained the grant for expansion, and Ray Barton, district administrator for the rehabilitation department. Barton acted in an advisory capacity in formulating the detailed proposal.

"Ever conscious of the fact that we are dealing with the complexity of human personality, we keep the Goodwill standards in check, not only through regular monthly meetings of the board and its committees, but by a close relationship with both the Goodwill Industries field counsellors from Washington, and the state rehabilitation counsellors," Damkroger continued. He added thanks to the Goodwill corporate and local board members for their time and effort given to the project.

"We would like very much to have the community take a more direct interest and participation in Goodwill's program. Anyone desirous of visiting and touring the workshop may call 423-8611 and arrange to have a guided tour through our facility. We prefer groups," Damkroger concluded.

The Goodwill Industries of Santa Cruz and Monterey is one of the 86 units in the country that have been accredited by Goodwill Industries of America, Inc., in Washington, D. C. It has also been accepted by the vocational rehabilitation administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the training and evaluation of the handicapped.

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