

Good Works

A community newsletter from Goodwill Industries of Arkansas



Goodwill Opens Doors to Career Services Center

On Thursday, August 27th, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas opened the doors to its new Career Services Center, located within the Goodwill downtown Little Rock headquarters at 1110 West 7th Street.



Congressman Vic Snyder speaks at news conference

Construction of the Career Services Center began in June 2009 and was completed in August.

The Center is approximately 1,300 square feet of space dedicated solely to helping Arkansans, particularly those with disabilities and other disadvantages, reach their highest potential through career services that will assist them in securing and sustaining gainful employment.

Upon entering the Career Services Center, guests will be asked to sign in and fill out any necessary paperwork by a Center receptionist. Visitors may then meet with a Goodwill Career Specialist in one of the offices located within the Center, allowing for private, one-on-one conversation with a Career Specialist.

The Goodwill Career Specialist will assess the needs of the Center visitor, and will make recommendations based on the assessment.

Visitors who wish to meet with a Goodwill Career Specialist are encouraged to call (501) 372.5100 to schedule an appointment; this will reduce any potential wait time.

Also located within the Career Services Center is a Computer Lab/Classroom that allows visitors to participate in Goodwill courses, and also allows for the opportunity to participate in online job searches.

“The opening of the Career Services Center is so exciting for us because it will allow us to serve even more Arkansans, and in particular those with disabilities and other disadvantages, each year to come,” said Staci Croom-Raley, Goodwill’s Vice President of Workforce Development.

On the day of the Career Services Center opening, a “sneak peak” tour of the Center was offered to attendees and participants of the news conference that took place immediately following the tour.



Denise Luft, Chair-Elect of the Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Board of Directors, welcomes guests to the ribbon cutting ceremony

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas President & CEO, Brian Itzkowitz, spoke to the impact the Center will have on Arkansans. He noted that, “we’re aiming for a 400% growth in services offered to Arkansans over the next three years.”

Mr. Itzkowitz then introduced Congressman Vic Snyder, who commended Goodwill Industries of Arkansas for the services provided to Arkansans.

Congressman Snyder said, “Donate, Shop, Change a Life, that’s a great slogan.” Congressman Snyder also stated he looks forward to returning for the announcement that Goodwill has reached the 400% increase mentioned by Itzkowitz.

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Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Board Member and Chair-Elect, Mrs. Denise Luft, also spoke at the conference. Luft introduced the Vice Mayor of Little Rock, Mr. Gene Fortson.

The news conference was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony, facilitated by the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

Snacks and drinks were provided to guests, along with eco-friendly giveaway items, furthering Goodwill Industries of Arkansas’s commitment to the environment.

Guests were then treated to tours of the Career Services Center.

For more information about the Career Services Center, call the Goodwill Industries of Arkansas headquarters at (501) 372-5100, or visit www.goodwillar.org.



Goodwill staff and Little Rock Chamber Ambassadors take part in the ribbon cutting

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Message from the President

It's certainly no secret that we are in midst of very challenging economic times. It seems that every day, more and more Arkansans are being impacted in their professional and personal lives by the economic downturn we are facing. We have all no doubt been affected in some way or another by the current state of the economy and a highly competitive job market.

It is in tough times such as these that the services offered by Goodwill Industries of Arkansas grow even more relevant and beneficial to Arkansans, particularly among those who experience the greatest potential impact of a slow economy and job market, the disabled and disadvantaged. At Goodwill, we open our doors to all who are seeking to reach their highest potential and attain self-sufficiency through gainful employment.

These vital service offerings are made possible through the generous donation of goods to Goodwill, and through the sales of these items at our Goodwill Stores. The revenue from our retail locations helps fund the career and rehabilitation services that Goodwill offers; as the quantity and quality of Goodwill's donations grows, so do the opportunities for Goodwill to serve Arkansans with disabilities and other disadvantages.

I encourage you to continue to support Goodwill Industries of Arkansas through your generous donations, through shopping at our Goodwill Stores, and hiring our program participants.

This season, know that your generous donations to Goodwill Industries of Arkansas play an invaluable role in our mission to help Arkansans reach their highest potential. At Goodwill, you can "Donate, Shop, Change a Life!"

Brian Itzkowitz
President & CEO

Goodwill Reconnect Program Featured

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas was recently featured on the regional weekly broadcast 'Talk Business' as part of the show's "Clean and Green" segment. The segment featured Goodwill's partnership with Dell in the Reconnect program, which Goodwill Industries of Arkansas has been actively involved in.



Larry Brannan of 'Talk Business' visited the Goodwill Industries of Arkansas headquarters to interview President and CEO Brian Itzkowitz about the Reconnect program and its impact, and also to capture Goodwill employees participating in the program by packaging donated computer equipment for shipment and subsequent recycling.

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas began participating in the Reconnect program in February of this year. Goodwill Industries of Arkansas has processed 24,625 in conjunction with Reconnect. The program was launched by Goodwill Industries International and Dell in Austin, Texas in 2004.

The Reconnect program also furthers the mission of Goodwill Industries of Arkansas by providing jobs, and specifically, Green Jobs. Several Goodwill employees participate in packaging and shipping the computer equipment that is donated.

Arkansans that would like to donate their computer equipment can bring the equipment to one of Goodwill's Donation Stations, as well as one of our 16 Goodwill Stores across the state. Businesses may also participate in the Reconnect program by donating equipment.

For more information on the Reconnect program, visit <http://reconnectpartnership.com/>.

North Little Rock Clearance Center Now Open

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas opened its first Clearance Center, located at 6929 John F. Kennedy Boulevard in North Little Rock, on June 15th. The Clearance Center is open Monday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Clearance Center allows shoppers to purchase items by the pound. Goodwill's clearance centers are considered the last chance stores for all merchandise before it is sent away for recycling. These centers slash the prices of merchandise that isn't moving off the shelves at regular Goodwill stores.

"Our Clearance Center offers shoppers deep discounts on items that are purchased by the pound," said Francy Ford, District Manager. "We are very excited about the opening of the Clearance Center, and we look forward to serving Arkansans in a new capacity."

"I Love Goodwill," Eddie Leonard's Success Story

If one thing is resoundingly clear in speaking with Eddie Leonard, it is that he loves Goodwill.

A native of Warren, Arkansas, Eddie is fifty years old, which would surprise most that spend any amount of time with Eddie because of his youthful appearance, as well as his vitality.

"I was a good kid; I was raised to do the right thing." Eddie certainly did several "right things" early in his life. Eddie was active in football in high school and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He also received 18 credit hours in Secondary Education and attended East Central University in Oklahoma to pursue his Master's in Sports Medicine. "I was on track," said Eddie.



Things quickly took a turn when Eddie began experimenting with drugs and alcohol. He recalls, "I always thought to be the best at everything...school, sports, and that carried into drugs and alcohol. I wanted to be the best drunk."

After dealing with the consequences of alcohol and drugs, Eddie decided to take charge of his life and to find a good job. However, with his past criminal record and several physical limitations from previous sports injuries, Eddie ran into several obstacles on his way to employment.

But things started turning around for Eddie. He was assigned a ticket through the Ticket To Work Program and was referred to Goodwill Industries for employment services by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. He started his program with Goodwill in February 2008.

"I went up here (Goodwill Industries of Arkansas), and I liked it. I don't know; it was just something about when I first came through the doors. The first thing in my mind, and I guess it was God telling me, 'Boy, you need to stay here.'"

Eddie began working at Goodwill through the Work Activity Program. Eddie quickly fell in love with Goodwill Industries of Arkansas, and in particular, with the people he worked with daily. "I love the people here, from top to bottom."

Eddie now works as Floor Care Manager for Goodwill. For his job, Eddie travels to all of the Goodwill Stores across the State of Arkansas to maintain the floors in retail stores and offices.

"I've lived two lives in one lifetime," says Eddie. "I have been blessed. One of the most important things God has blessed me with is that God put people in places in my life at the time I needed them and that was Goodwill and the people at Goodwill. I am so blessed to be here."

Goodwill CEO Meets With Governor Beebe

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas President and CEO Brian Itzkowitz recently met with Governor Mike Beebe to discuss the Governor's areas of focus, education and economic development, and all that Goodwill does for Arkansas in those focus areas and others.



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1110 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201-3909

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

mission: *Helping build lives, families, and communities by assisting people with disabilities and other special needs reach their highest potential through training, education, and employment services.*

Donate, Shop, Change a Life!

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|---|---|--|--|
| Benton 303 South East Street (501) 778-9345 <i>donate & shop</i> | Jacksonville 109 Gregory Place (501) 985-2645 <i>donate & shop</i> | Little Rock 2904 South University Avenue (501) 568-5313 <i>donate & train</i> | Russellville 2100 North Arkansas Boulevard (479) 967-6319 <i>donate & shop</i> |
| Conway 2425 Sanders Street (501) 329-6501 <i>donate, shop, & train*</i> | Jonesboro 1500 South Caraway Road (870) 931-1374 <i>donate & shop</i> | Little Rock 1801 Green Mountain Drive (501) 224-6408 <i>donate</i> | Searcy 3703 East Race Street (501) 268-2047 <i>donate & shop</i> |
| El Dorado 2016 Northwest Avenue (870) 863-4454 <i>donate, shop, & train</i> | Little Rock Frank Lyon Center for Employment, Education & Training 1110 West 7th Street (501) 371-5100 <i>donate & train</i> | North Little Rock 6929 John F. Kennedy Boulevard (501) 835-5286 <i>donate, shop, & train</i> | Springdale 1860 West Sunset Avenue (479) 927-2023 <i>donate & shop</i> |
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| Hot Springs 631 East Grand Avenue (501) 321-0275 <i>donate, shop, & train</i> | | | |

www.GoodwillAR.org

*Goodwill's Career Centers offer free job training and services. Learn more by asking a Goodwill team member or visiting www.GoodwillAR.org.

The GoodWorks newsletter is published by Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Marketing & Communications Department. Please send comments to gwiedower@GoodwillAR.org.

