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Goodwill Industries of Arkansas to Host Inaugural Gala for Good Evening Event Will Celebrate Achievements and Raise Funds for Goodwill’s Mission

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (August 10, 2023) — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) will host the inaugural Gala for Good on Saturday, October 28 to celebrate the spirit of Goodwill and showcase the amazing achievements of program participants, graduates and community partners. Presented by Bank OZK, the Gala for Good will also serve as the signature annual fundraising event for the non-profit.

“The Gala for Good is not just going to be a fundraising event; it will be an impactful and educational opportunity that has the potential to transform lives and make a lasting impact by bringing together individuals, organizations and communities,” said GIA’s Senior Vice President of Development, Shannon Boshears. “This event will serve as a catalyst for creating positive change in the lives of Arkansans and what can be achieved when people come together for a common good.”

During the evening, Goodwill will honor and present awards to the Achiever of the Year, Graduate of the Year, Employer of the Year and Community Partner of the Year. Recipients were selected by an internal nomination and selection process within the GIA organization.

One highlight of the event will be the first-ever Spirit of Goodwill Award given to an individual who has devoted their time, talent and effort to advocate and promote Goodwill’s mission of “Changing lives through education, training and employment.” The inaugural recipient of this award is Troy Wells, president and CEO of Baptist Health who has spent the last two years as chairman of the board at GIA while serving six years as a board member.

“Troy has been such a tremendous part of our success as a passionate leader with a great heart for our mission,” said Brian Marsh, GIA president and CEO. “He is a shining example of the spirit of Goodwill and we are pleased to present him with an award that he embodies so well.”

The Gala event chair is long-time GIA supporter and friend, Cathy Tuggle, owner and principal broker of Tuggle Services, Inc. DBA Apartment Hunters and Arkansas Suites. “One of the best parts of Goodwill is what they have to offer so many people through their mission. Goodwill delivers a sense of hope and confidence to empower individuals which in turn, betters their own communities. Goodwill has a direct and positive impact on the state’s workforce. Goodwill is bettering the citizens in our community by giving them opportunities they thought didn’t exist,” Tuggle said.

Proceeds raised will support Goodwill’s mission to offer life-changing opportunities to individuals seeking education, training and employment to better their lives, their families and the communities in which they live. These programs include:

- The Excel Center, the only adult high school in Arkansas
- The Academy, a trade school offering certifications and training in the top industries in Arkansas
- Career Services, assisting those seeking employment with career counseling and other job readiness assistance
- Reentry Services, providing services to individuals who are reentering the workforce and community after being justice-involved

The Gala for Good will be held at 6 p.m. at The Venue at Westwind in North Little Rock and will feature a plated dinner, signature cocktails, beer and wine. In addition, Jay Chesshir, president and CEO of the Little Rock Regional Chamber, will serve as the keynote speaker. The event will include both silent and live auctions and wrap up with a dance party and music by the Ultimate Prince Tribute band, one of the most sought-after bands in the region. The event offers several sponsorship opportunities including an option to purchase individual tickets.

To find more information about the event or sponsorship packages, please visit TheGalaforGood.org or call 501.372.5100 ext. 1300.

About Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. In the last fiscal year, our Career Services team helped 498 people find work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, GIA provided services to 6,027 Arkansans. Since opening in 2017, 127 adults in Arkansas have graduated high school and earned their diplomas through The Excel Center®, Goodwill’s high school for adults 19 years or older. The Academy at Goodwill, licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education, is a trade school that provided training and certifications to 624 individuals in FY22 to secure new employment and advance careers. Goodwill also offers Reentry Services for those coming out of incarceration to help train and find employment. Visit GoodwillAR.org for more information.

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