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Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Announces Two New Board Members

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. October 12, 2023 — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) has appointed two new members to its [Board of Directors](#). Bringing a wealth of experience and expertise, Dr. Gary Stark and Matuschka Briggs will contribute to the organization’s mission of changing lives through education, training and employment.

Dr. Gary Stark is the Education Program Director at the Walton Personal Philanthropy Group, overseeing work in the tri-state area of Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Stark has worked in schools, federal government, and philanthropic capacities throughout his 30-year career in education. He started his career as a classroom teacher in Tennessee and as an Arkansas principal, earning national recognition by receiving the Milken Educator Award in 2001. Stark later became the Vice President of the Milken Family Foundation, where he focused on the recognition and support of educators across the country. In 2010, he became president and CEO of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), a national non-profit focused on educator effectiveness. Stark also served at the U.S. Department of Education and worked as an advisor to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education. He holds a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Arkansas.

Serving as the Senior Vice President and Regional Executive of the Little Rock Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Matuschka Briggs is a seasoned professional and champion of strategies, programs and initiatives that advance economic equity, financial capability, and community development. An accomplished communicator, negotiator and influencer, Briggs has built cross-functional collaborations and partnerships to advance change. Prior to her

position with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Briggs was a general assignment reporter, and a TV/radio host with NBC and ESPN affiliates. Along with her participation on GIA's board, Briggs currently serves on the Mercy Health Hospital East Communities Board, Mercy Hospital Patient Experience Board and Economics Arkansas Board.

"We are excited to welcome Matuschka and Gary to our Board of Directors," said Brian Marsh, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Arkansas. "Their diverse skills and perspectives will undoubtedly enhance our ability to serve the community and continue to change lives across the state of Arkansas."

Both directors will begin their board duties in January 2024.

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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 553 people find work at companies around the state throughout their 34 career services locations. Through our various education, training and employment programs, GIA provided services to 5,912 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 FY23 to secure new employment and advance careers. Goodwill also offers reentry services for those coming out of incarceration to help train and find employment with 24 locations across the state. Visit GoodwillAR.org for more information.