



When you donate to Goodwill, it is a win-win for you and Arkansas. You give gently used items a second life and get a tax receipt. Friends and neighbors can buy gently used clothing and household items and computers at reasonable prices at more than 30 locations statewide. If your donations are not resalable, they are recycled responsibly. The sale of your donations supports our mission of changing lives through education, training and employment, keeping items out of the waste stream. In the last fiscal year, Goodwill diverted 34,778,948 pounds of recycled materials, e-waste, clothing and household goods from landfills. Your donations fund programs that help people with barriers to employment find good jobs. By providing training and educational opportunities, we prepare the people we serve to enter the competitive workforce. For additional information about donating to Goodwill, visit [GoodwillAR.org](http://GoodwillAR.org) or call us at 1-877-372-5151. Ninety-five percent of Goodwill's revenue comes from the sale of donated goods.

**Need: Approximately 315,000 adult Arkansans over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma** and, as a result earn up to \$10,000 less annually than adults with a high school diploma.

**Solution: The Excel Center® at Goodwill.** The Excel® Center at Goodwill is the first adult high school in Arkansas, providing students ages 19 and older a second chance to earn a high school diploma. The school is tuition-free, with flexible and accelerated class schedules to meet the needs of working adults. Classes start every eight weeks, and free drop-in childcare and transportation assistance are available to each student. Life coaches are assigned to every student to ensure that any barriers to success can be overcome. For more information on upcoming class sessions, please visit the Excel Center website at <https://excelcenter.org/>.

**Need: Many high-demand trades require certification.** Goodwill has a licensed private post-secondary career school, The Academy at Goodwill.

**Solution: The Academy at Goodwill.** Goodwill is licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education as a private post-secondary career school. Academy classes provide students the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized credential for high-demand careers. The Academy offers training programs in the following areas: career readiness, forklift operator, welding, environmental services technician, digital literacy, computer software and computer programming. The Academy offerings also include CPR/First Aid/AED and a first aid class of a different, but also much needed sort, Mental Health First Aid. This class provides eight hours of training so that the certificate recipient can identify a person in crisis, and direct them to appropriate care. The Academy at Goodwill graduated 522 students in the past fiscal year.

**Need: Employers are always in need of qualified and prepared employees.**

**Solution: Career Services.** Goodwill has career centers to help individuals enrolled in Goodwill education and training programs to prepare for and find a great job. Goodwill works directly with employers to match employer needs with suitable candidates. Career Specialists assist job seekers through classroom training, mentoring, building resumes, mock interviews, job search, and employment placement to help individuals find a job that matches their skill set. Last year 7,598 individuals found jobs through Goodwill. Our Career Services teams provided services to 18,635 people.

**Need: More than 17,000 Arkansans are incarcerated** in correctional institutions, and half return to prison after release.

**Solution:** Goodwill has a robust **Reentry Program**, assisting individuals with a history of criminal convictions and incarceration as they transition into their communities and find a better quality of life.



Our program enables people to overcome barriers to successful employment through training and education. Goodwill delivers a superior level of expertise in recruiting, screening and preparing jobseekers so employers receive the most qualified and capable candidates. Skilled re-entry services staff provide support to returning citizens through:

- Job readiness training
- Job leads, job search assistance, resume assistance
- Career counseling and mock interviews
- Interview preparation
- Community support and resources
- Group mental health workshops
- Referral to legal assistance
- Referral for interview clothing
- Referral to adult education and training classes
- Soft skills and proper communication
- How to keep a job

Goodwill's recidivism rate is impressive – 5.6%. Those who do not participate in such intensive programs have a 1 in 2 chance of returning to prison.

**Need:** **32% of people with disabilities in Arkansas are employed**, according to the 2016 American Community Survey.

**Solution: Disability Programs.** At Goodwill, staff members with disabilities are supported to determine interests, skills, abilities, and to overcome any barriers to successful employment. Based on the individual's unique abilities, an employment plan is developed detailing activities, goals, training, and supports that will make them successful in the workforce.

**Need: 71% of the kids in the Little Rock School District are living below the poverty line.** There is one book for every 300 kids in poverty. Seven of ten Central Arkansas fourth graders read below grade level. Sixty-five percent of these students will drop out, rely on welfare, or land in prison.

**Solution: Books 4 Kids™** Goodwill provides access to books and resources to children from low-income families. Books 4 Kids gives books to kids who do not have access to them through local school systems.

**Solution: HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program).** Goodwill loans wheelchairs, commodes, walkers and crutches free to those in need. Come to any Goodwill location to fill out a HELP request form, if the requested item is in stock, the recipient may take it with them, and donate it back when they no longer need it.

served **18,635** people, held **1,019** hiring events and had **14,034** attendees at those events.