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Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Receives \$750,000 Grant from United States Department of Justice

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (October 3, 2022) — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) has been awarded the Second Chance Act Community-based Reentry Program Grant by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and Bureau of Justice Assistance to support the non-profit's expanding Reentry Services program. The grant, which takes effect today, October 3, will specifically aid in funding GIA's Transitional Employment Opportunity (TEO) program and will total \$749,973 over the three-year term.

Formerly incarcerated individuals face numerous barriers upon reentry to their communities. Goodwill Industries of Arkansas instituted a reentry program in 2009 to provide job and life skills training to men and women reentering the community after incarceration. Reentry staff supports clients to reduce recidivism and promote public safety through job readiness training, job leads, job search and resume assistance, interview preparation, mock interviews and job retention.

"The Goodwill Industries of Arkansas continues to have a profound impact in our communities through their efforts to provide opportunities to individuals upon their reentry to society," said **U.S. Rep. French Hill**. "These opportunities provide professional skills training and sets regimens and routines while reducing the rate of recidivism. I was proud to support their application for this grant and look forward to the good work GIA continues to do within our immediate community."

"This grant will not only impact the individuals who receive our TEO program services, it will also produce a ripple effect on their families, local communities, Arkansas' workforce and economy that is nearly impossible to measure," said **Goodwill Industries of Arkansas President and CEO Brian Marsh**. "Transforming lives is an effort that takes collaboration among a number of stakeholders, including our local and state governments, and other non-profits that place a priority on education, training and employment."

Numerous letters of support from community partners and state agencies were submitted on GIA's behalf, including a letter from Congressman Hill. GIA was one of 22 organizations across the United States to be awarded the grant and the only one in Arkansas.

GIA's TEO program is expanding service to 20 communities across the state reaching all four congressional districts. This grant will help GIA's TEO program serve an estimated 900 clients and reduce recidivism. The recidivism rate of GIA's program maintains at less than 6%, compared to the Arkansas average of 46.1%* of those who will return to prison after being released.

TEO clients will also benefit from this grant in the form of scholarships to The Academy at Goodwill where they can receive training and certifications in welding, electrical, plumbing, HVAC and carpentry.

For more information on Goodwill Industries of Arkansas' Reentry Services, visit GoodwillAR.org/reentry.

*Arkansas Department of Corrections: *Recidivism in Arkansas, A Roadmap to Reform* - 2022

About Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. In the last fiscal year, our career services team helped 458 people find work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas provided services to 4,346 Arkansans. Since opening in 2017, 89 adults in Arkansas have graduated high school and earned their diplomas through The Excel Center[®], Goodwill's high school for adults. Visit www.goodwillar.org for more information.

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