



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Goodwill Industries of Arkansas and Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries Partner to Support Workforce Training and Reentry Services for Incarcerated Individuals**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (April 8, 2025)** — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) and Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries (AFC) are proud to announce a strategic partnership aimed at providing workforce services to incarcerated individuals before and after their release. This collaboration is established through a Memorandum of Understanding under the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration’s Pathway Home 4 (AFC-PH4) program.

This partnership will support AFC’s efforts to equip eligible incarcerated individuals, aged 18 and older, with essential workforce training while still in state correctional facilities, local, or county jails. It will also provide continued support after their release, facilitating their transition back into their communities through job placement, mentorship, and social service assistance.

“Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is committed to changing lives through education, training, and employment,” said Edie Stewart, senior vice president and chief mission officer for GIA. “Through this partnership, we aim to provide critical certifications and career opportunities to individuals reentering society, ultimately reducing recidivism and empowering them to build stable futures.”

Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries is dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals through Christ-centered support, guidance, and resources that aim to inspire hope, foster transformation, and build a foundation for a brighter future. “It’s not just what we do, it’s who we are.”

As part of the agreement, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas will offer AFC-PH4 participants access to a wide range of industry-recognized credentials and certifications that lead directly to employment. These include:

- **Skilled Trades Certifications** – Welding, general carpentry, industrial truck operator, certified logistics technician.
- **Business Administration Certifications** – Google Project Management, UX Design, E-commerce, and digital marketing.

- **Healthcare Certifications** – Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA), Pharmacy Technician, Certified Health Environmental Services Technician.
- **Information Technology Certifications** – Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator, Google Data Analytics, Google IT Support, Google Cybersecurity.

Some certification services may be available pre-release upon approval, ensuring that individuals are workforce-ready upon their return to the community.

Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries will provide essential pre-release and post-release services, including:

- Job preparation, occupational skills training, career planning, and individualized development plans (IDPs) addressing barriers to employment.
- Assistance with obtaining state identification required for employment and linking individuals to social services that facilitate successful reintegration.
- Hands-on learning activities, educational and career counseling, and mentorship opportunities.
- Partnerships with registered apprenticeship programs to provide continued career advancement.
- Job placement support, case management, counseling, transportation assistance, and connections to local community resources.

### **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 697 people find work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, GIA provided services to 7,866 Arkansans. Since opening in 2017, 233 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 1,037 individuals in FY23 to secure new employment and advance careers. Goodwill also offers reentry services for those coming out of justice-involved situations to help train and find employment. Visit [GoodwillAR.org](http://GoodwillAR.org) for more information.

### **About Ambassadors for Christ youth Ministries**

Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries, Inc. is a leading faith- and community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operating in Texas and Arkansas. Since its founding in 2006, AFC has been dedicated to providing mentorship and development programs for at-risk, underprivileged, homeless, and displaced youth and adults. Our services are designed to be culturally and linguistically appropriate, ensuring that each individual receives the support they need to thrive.

For over 18 years, AFC has been committed to creating a strong framework that empowers youth and adults to identify their strengths, develop their skills, and work toward personal growth and long-term success. This foundation is essential in fostering a sense of safety, structure, belonging, and self-worth while encouraging contribution, independence, and control over their lives. Through this program, participants gain the necessary skills to set goals, plan for the future, and build meaningful interpersonal relationships.

Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries also seeks to enhance leadership capacity through international projects and activities, equipping individuals with the skills and experiences needed to create lasting impact in their communities and beyond. Visit [www.afcyouth.org](http://www.afcyouth.org) for more information.