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Arkansans Keep Millions of Pounds of Items Out of Local Landfills Through Goodwill

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (April 21, 2021) — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is excited to celebrate Earth Day Thursday with great news for The Natural State. Thanks to Arkansans, in just the last year, the organization has been able to divert more than 34 million pounds of items from Arkansas landfills, and that's not all.

"Recycling unwanted items not only helps the environment, but it helps people as well. Recycled items are given a second life as people re-use and repurpose them," said Goodwill Post Retail Manager Debra Lambert. "They eventually also become the materials used in the production of new items."

Thanks to donors and shoppers, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas diverts an average of 24.5 million pounds of clothing and household items from landfills each year through its stores. Another 13.5 million pounds of items are diverted through Goodwill's recycling programs.

Goodwill's e-waste program, for instance, recycles electronic waste while also treating components as a reusable resource. Many donated computers and other equipment can be refurbished and sold at Goodwill's computer store. It's one way Goodwill is making affordable technology available to low-income families, helping them compete in an ever-changing and technologically advancing world.

More than 4.5 million pounds of electronic waste has been diverted through this program. In total emissions alone, that's a savings equivalent to:

- 2,835 tons of reduced CO2 emissions.
- 80,600 passenger vehicles removed from highways.

- 909,064,115 fewer miles driven by vehicles.
- 10,925 barrels of oil.

Refurbish, reduce, reuse and recycle – all at Goodwill.



David Jordan, production associate, disassembles a computer to ready it for recycling.

About Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. Goodwill runs The Excel Center®, the first tuition-free high school for adults 19 and older, with life coaches, drop-in childcare and transportation assistance. The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization also runs robust reentry program for those returning from incarceration. Fewer than 6% of those who complete the program return to prison. In addition, The Academy at Goodwill is a state licensed private post-secondary career school that offers a variety of certifications for high-demand careers. Goodwill's economic impact on Arkansas was \$200,000,000 in the last fiscal year.

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