



For Immediate Release

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Goodwill programs give a “hand up” to record numbers in 2008

Goodwill of Central Arizona

Overview

Provides job skills training and career services for those with vocational disadvantages—including physical and emotional barriers, welfare dependency, illiteracy and basic skills deficiencies

One of 184 independently operating Goodwill organizations worldwide

Serves Maricopa, Yuma, La Paz, Gila and portions of Pinal and Yavapai Counties

90 cents of every dollar goes to our Mission

Positively impacts the community and individual lives by helping those with disadvantages obtain self-sufficiency through education and the power of work

2008 Highlights

More than 23,000 youth and adults benefited from career and training services

More than 5,100 employment opportunities were secured

39 retail stores operating throughout central Arizona

More than 900,000 donors

PHOENIX (January 29, 2009) — Since 1947, Goodwill of Central Arizona has been dedicated to providing quality job training and employment services to Arizona youth and adults. In the last year, Goodwill served a record 23,000 individuals and secured more than 5,100 employment opportunities.

“The current economic conditions have spiked the demand for our services and more people than ever are turning to Goodwill to give them an edge in today’s job market,” said Jim Teter, President and CEO for Goodwill of Central Arizona. “Our commitment has and always will be to support individuals and the economy through workforce development.”

Goodwill has 36 human services programs that are designed to help Arizona youth and adults achieve their personal employment goals. From General Educational Development (GED) programs, Computer and Customer Service Training and Goodwill Career Centers, all Goodwill services assist individuals overcome a variety of barriers to employment and give them a “hand up” toward independence through the power of work.

Goodwill’s nine Career Centers received nearly 66,000 visits in 2008. The centers are designed to help clients with every aspect of finding employment—from interview techniques to resume writing—and hosting hiring events. Quarterly job fairs and weekly recruitment events hosted by Goodwill put job seekers face-to-face with hiring employers.

Additionally, Goodwill supports the needs of specific populations within central Arizona. Nearly 1,500 Phoenix youth were served by Goodwill programs such as the organization’s School-To-Work program, which provides work experience and work adjustment to special needs students within the Phoenix Union High School District.

“We believe in the power of work,” said Teter. “Receiving a paycheck empowers individuals, strengthens families, and positively impacts our communities through economic vitality.”

Celebrating 60 years of serving the community, Goodwill of Central Arizona is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit agencies in Arizona. Our commitment is to **Put People to Work** throughout Arizona by providing job training and career services to those with vocational disadvantages that can include physical and emotional barriers, welfare dependency, illiteracy and age. In 2008, we served almost 23,000 youth and adults on their quest toward self-sufficiency and secured more than 5,100 employment opportunities. For more information on Goodwill of Central Arizona, visit www.goodwillaz.org.