



For Immediate Release

For more information, please contact:

Sara Turley
Public Relations Specialist
602.535.4041 direct line
602.369.0672 mobile
sara.turley@goodwillaz.org

Goodwill recognized for social enterprise, dedication to Arizonans

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 homelessness

One of 184 independently operating Goodwill organizations worldwide

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

Positively impacts the community and individual lives by helping those with disadvantages obtain self-sufficiency and economic independence

2008 Highlights

More than 19,000 youth and adults benefited from career and training services

Almost 2,000 employment opportunities were secured to date

39 retail stores operating throughout central Arizona

More than 900,000 donors

PHOENIX (December 8, 2008) — Goodwill of Central Arizona was presented with Arizona Business Magazine's Nonprofit and Corporate Responsibility Social Enterprise Award. The inaugural award, which "recognizes a nonprofit organization that demonstrates creative application of the principles of social enterprise in the operation and funding of the organization," was presented to the organization during an awards ceremony held Dec. 2, at the Ritz-Carlton Phoenix.

"We are honored to be recognized with this inaugural award," said Jim Teter, President and CEO for Goodwill of Central Arizona. "This is a great recognition that Goodwill of Central Arizona uses its retail operations to support a social enterprise — and that is the economic and educational advancement of disadvantaged Arizonans through the power of work."

Goodwill of Central Arizona is considered a social enterprise for its unique retail initiative that supports human services. Ninety cents of every dollar generated through Goodwill's retail stores and other cash donations are put directly back into the community to help support job skills training and employment services for Arizona youth and adults with barriers to employment. Currently, Goodwill operates 36 programs that give individuals a "hand up" and help them navigate challenges such as illiteracy, disabilities, welfare dependency and lack of basic skills. In addition to impacting individual lives and the economic vitality of the community, Goodwill helps keep more than 135 million pounds of items from ending up in a landfill each year.

Arizona Business Magazine, in partnership with the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, honored several nonprofits and businesses for their positive impacts and investments in Arizona's communities.

Goodwill of Central Arizona, along with the other award nominees and finalists, are featured in the December issue of Arizona Business Magazine.

Celebrating 60 years in the Valley, 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 skills training, education and career services to those with vocational disadvantages that can include physical and emotional barriers, welfare dependency, illiteracy and age. In 2007, we served 11,000 youth and adults on their quest toward self-sufficiency and placed more than 4,600 into competitive employment. For more information on Goodwill of Central Arizona visit www.goodwillaz.org.

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