



Volunteer Information

Mission:

The mission of Goodwill of Greater Washington (GGW) is to provide education, job training, employment and placement services for people with disabilities and disadvantages who reside in the District of Columbia and suburban Maryland and Virginia.

Last year, we served almost 1,400 people within our assigned territory, defined as the District of Columbia; the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William; the Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's; and all incorporated cities and towns within.

History:

Goodwill was founded in 1902 by Dr. Edgar J. Helms, Jr., a Methodist minister in Boston who discovered what people in need really wanted was "not charity, but a chance" to work. He would collect donations from the wealthier sections of Boston, then hire workers to fix and sell the items, using the proceeds to pay their salaries.

GGW was founded in 1935 as Goodwill Industries of Washington, D.C. In 1948, the name was changed to Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries to honor a long-time benefactor, Anne Hubbard Davis, who anonymously donated more than \$250,000 during the 1930s and '40s to help our fledgling Goodwill continue its workforce development mission during the Great Depression and lean rationing years of World War II.

Today, we're known as Goodwill of Greater Washington to encompass an ever-expanding metropolitan area. We are part of Goodwill Industries International, a network of more than 200 independent Goodwills in North America and two dozen countries around the world. Collectively, Goodwill Industries is the world's largest employer of people with disabilities, and since 1902 has helped almost six million people get jobs.

Program Services:

Goodwill provides people with disabilities and disadvantages the opportunity to learn, work, earn and become contributing members of the community. A disadvantage is considered a barrier to employment and can range from a history of substance abuse and incarceration to long-term unemployment and/or reliance on some form of public assistance. Other barriers may include illiteracy or the lack of basic math skills and English language proficiency. Almost 80 percent of GGW's workforce of 480 employees are people with either disabilities or disadvantages.

Goodwill's workforce development programs are supported by revenue generated from the resale of donated goods and vehicles, custodial and pest control contracts, special fund-raising events, and corporate, foundation and public monetary donations. Goodwill is an IRS-certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations and certain volunteer expenditures are tax deductible on itemized returns.

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Volunteer Opportunities:

Goodwill volunteers come from every ethnic group and income level. Some volunteer to fulfill community service requirements for school or minor legal infractions. Others volunteer for the personal satisfaction of helping those less fortunate. Regardless of the reason, you are helping us provide jobs to people who simply seek a hand up, not a handout. Volunteer opportunities currently include:

- Retail (customer service, stocking shelves and handyman) – in Arlington (Glebe Road and Columbia Pike), Falls Church, Gaithersburg, Manassas and Rockville
- Production (sorting, furniture assembly, researching and pricing donations) – in Arlington (Glebe Road), Gaithersburg and Manassas
- Donations (customer service and receiving donations) – in Arlington (Glebe Road), Gaithersburg and Manassas
- More opportunities will be posted online at www.dcgoodwill.org as they become available.

Volunteer Requirements:

Goodwill Industries is a nonprofit organization that's been in business helping others since 1902. As such, all volunteers are fully expected to adhere to all dress and conduct policies, and the rules and procedures set forth by respective Goodwill work site managers. In general, these policies are:

- Inappropriate clothing, speech or gestures will not be tolerated. This includes clothing with inappropriate photos, verbiage and alcoholic beverage endorsements.
- Theft, consuming alcoholic beverages and drug use will not be tolerated. Violators will be reported to the police.
- Failing to treat fellow workers and customers with respect will not be tolerated.
- All volunteers serve on a "One Strike" basis. There are no second chances.
- Volunteers must be 16 years old or older, be able to take supervision and complete work assignments, and be capable of interacting with customers and working alongside employees who have disabilities or disadvantages.
- Volunteers younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult supervisor (such as Scoutmasters), parent or legal guardian. We're sorry but there are no volunteer opportunities for youth younger than middle school age.
- All group volunteers will have one person appointed as the Team Leader.
- Job Coaches must accompany volunteers who have mental or physical disabilities. A 3:1 ratio of three disabled volunteers per one Job Coach will not be exceeded.
- For court-ordered community service volunteers: You cannot volunteer at Goodwill if your conviction was for firearms or a violent crime.
- All volunteers will adhere to the rules, procedures and safety regulations set forth by respective Goodwill work site managers.

Contact:

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