

PRESS RELEASE



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Goodwill to reveal newly-expanded career services hub

Bowling Green, KY – On Tuesday, December 18 at 11:00 AM, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky will formally reveal its newly-renovated and expanded career services office, renamed the Goodwill Center for Education and Employment, at 1806 US Hwy. 31W Bypass. Formerly known as Job Junction, the space now includes multiple training rooms, additional offices, and expanded services.

Joined by the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Bruce Wilkerson, and various nonprofit and employer partners, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky President & CEO Amy Luttrell will make remarks about Goodwill’s recent shift towards providing long-term support services that not only help people land a job, but prepare them for a career path to ultimately change the course of their lives and break cycles of poverty.

“We’re not satisfied with simply placing people into jobs. It’s time to move the needle on poverty in Kentucky,” said Luttrell. “Those who have disabilities or other challenges in finding a career path often need extra support to achieve long-term success. Getting out of poverty is a long process and looks different for every person, so Goodwill is strengthening its commitment and partnerships to make the greatest impact we can.”

Since opening its career services office in Bowling Green in late 2013, Goodwill has served more than 6,000 South Central Kentuckians and placed nearly 4,500 into employment. A key component of Goodwill’s enhanced service model is Soft Skills Academy, a program Goodwill has piloted across Kentucky in partnership with corrections departments, fellow nonprofit organizations, and other community partners, all of which refer participants who are eager to engage in or reenter the workforce. Each participant of Soft Skills Academy learns critical workplace skills including attitude, conflict resolution, dependability, safety, self-presentation, and team building. During the training and upon earning a Work Ready Certificate, participants work one-on-one with Goodwill career coaches to prepare for and secure employment, ensuring the job seeker’s skills are matched appropriately with an employer’s needs and requirements. After placement, Goodwill career coaches stay engaged with both the employee and employer to assist with any issues that could put the person’s continued employment at risk.

Following the ribbon-cutting at 11:00 AM, light refreshments and tours will be provided. For more information, contact T.J. Shockley-Hunt, Regional Manager of Career Services, at (270) 781-4930.

About Goodwill Industries of Kentucky

In the 2017 fiscal year, Goodwill placed Kentuckians into more than 3,400 jobs across the state – both inside and outside of Goodwill – and paid nearly \$15 million in wages to Kentuckians with disabilities or other challenges in finding and maintaining employment. Goodwill’s programs and employment services are funded through a combination of grants, corporate and individual giving, and its retail stores, which sell donated clothing and household items at 65 locations across Kentucky.

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