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## **Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Purchases Land to Build Flagship Retail Store and Donation Center in Chenal Valley**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (December 5, 2024)** — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) has taken a significant step towards expanding its positive impact on the community having recently acquired land in the Chenal Valley area of Little Rock at 620 Kirk Road, across from Costco. This site will become GIA's 36th retail location in the state and mark the non-profit's first new-build construction.

This ambitious project will result in a 20,000 square flagship retail store and donation center, creating 30-50 new jobs and providing a vital outlet for local residents to support GIA's mission of changing lives through education, training, and employment.

"This landmark venture represents a commitment to our mission and the positive transformation we aim to bring to the lives of Arkansans," said Brian Marsh, GIA President and CEO. "We're thrilled to expand job opportunities while also advancing our sustainability initiatives through this new donation location."

While construction dates are yet to be finalized, the store is anticipated to open in late 2025. The architecture and design will complement local businesses, further integrating GIA into the fabric of the community. CBM Construction Co. of Little Rock will serve as the general contractor.

Donating to, and shopping at Goodwill supports the organization's mission service initiatives. The Excel Center is the state's only high school for adults 19+ to earn a high school diploma, tuition free. The Academy at Goodwill provides opportunities to become workforce ready by earning industry credentials and certifications that lead directly to employment in jobs that guarantee a living wage. Reentry Services helps individuals coming from justice-involved situations reintegrate and find employment and Career Services supports and helps hundreds of Arkansans find employment each year.

### **About Goodwill Industries of Arkansas**

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. In the last fiscal year, our career services team helped 498 people find

work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, GIA provided services to 6,345 Arkansans. Since opening in 2017, 190 adults in Arkansas have graduated high school and earned their diplomas through The Excel Center<sup>®</sup>, Goodwill's high school for adults 19 years or older. The Academy at Goodwill, licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education, is a trade school that provided training and certifications to 2,524 individuals in FY23 to secure new employment and advance careers. Goodwill also offers reentry services for those coming out of justice-involved situations to help train and find employment. Visit [GoodwillAR.org](https://www.GoodwillAR.org) for more information.