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## **Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Says Goodbye to Single-Use Plastic Bags Embraces Change: Prioritizing Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (August 21, 2024)** — In a bold move towards environmental sustainability, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) announced today that it will discontinue the use of single-use plastic bags in all its retail stores across the state, effective September 3, 2024.

This groundbreaking initiative underscores Goodwill's longstanding commitment to the sustainability, safety, and beauty of our planet. By eliminating nearly 3.5 million single-use plastic bags per year, which often end up in landfills or as litter, Goodwill aims to significantly reduce waste, prevent litter, beautify communities, and safeguard wildlife.

"We're thrilled to take this crucial step towards a greener future not only in Arkansas but for our planet," said GIA President and CEO Brian Marsh. "Our customers have always been at the heart of our mission, and now they'll play an even more vital role in our sustainability efforts. By utilizing reusable bags, they become true partners in our journey to protect the environment."

To support this transition, Goodwill will offer branded reusable bags for purchase at checkout for a nominal fee. These durable bags not only serve as sustainable alternatives but also as a symbol of customers' commitment to environmental stewardship.

Goodwill encourages customers to start bringing their own reusable bags before the September 3 implementation date. This proactive approach will help smooth the transition and maximize the initiative's environmental benefits from day one.

For more information about this initiative or to learn about other ways Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is working towards sustainability, please visit [GoodwillAR.org/gogreen](http://GoodwillAR.org/gogreen).

**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](http://GoodwillAR.org) for more information.