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Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Receives 2024 Arkansas Recycling Coalition Community Involvement Award

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (September 30, 2024) — The Arkansas Recycling Coalition (ARC) held its annual awards presentation at the Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort in Hot Springs, Ark., on Tuesday, September 10. The presentation took place during the Arkansas Recycling Coalition's 33rd Annual Conference & Trade Show. Each year this educational event attracts many professionals in the reduce, reuse, recycle and sustainability field from around the state and nation.

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) was the recipient of ARC's 2024 Community Involvement of the Year Award. This award honors a company/agency/association who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of waste reduction, recycling, and sustainability in Arkansas over the past year.

In Fiscal Year 2023, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) kept 38,278,596 pounds of product out of Arkansas landfills, which included nearly 10 million pounds of textiles. In 2023, GIA created a sustainability management position to solely focus on short-term and long-term strategies and initiatives to further develop GIA's ongoing sustainability efforts. Goodwill also initiated the process of discontinuing the utilization of single-use plastic bags in three of its stores in March 2024, and fully eliminated their usage in all retail locations throughout the state in September of this year.

On hand to accept the award from ARC's President Harold Ford was Trent Wunstel, GIA chief operating officer, and Nicolette Stokes, GIA sustainability manager.

"We are honored to be recognized by ARC for the Community Involvement Award," said GIA President and CEO Brian Marsh. "Sustainability is at the root of who we are as a business, and we will continue to challenge ourselves and our community to be good stewards of our environment."

Major award sponsors for this year's event included Nucor-Yamato Steel, Eco Solutions 4U, CARDS, McKee Foods and Southeast AR Economic Development District.

Founded in 1989, ARC unites companies, government agencies, nonprofit organizations and individuals in a common effort to promote reduce, reuse, recycle and sustainability as a primary means of waste management in Arkansas.

For more information, visit www.recycleark.org and www.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®, 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 for more information.