



Goodwill Industries of Tulsa

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

With students heading back to school, it's time for new rhythms of life. For some, that means returning to work. Others may need new habits and patterns to stretch their dollars. Some could need new skills to make the career jump they've been dreaming of.

For individuals looking to find new rhythms, Goodwill has programs that can help. Inside this newsletter, you'll find information on:

- upgrading skills with Goodwill TulsaWORKS Career Academy
- finding a job with Goodwill Job Connection
- assisting individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining community employment
- navigating financial issues with the Tulsa Financial Empowerment Center, Goodwill's VITA program, and Bank On Tulsa

Learn more about our programs by visiting [GoodwillTulsa.org](https://www.GoodwillTulsa.org) or calling (918) 584-7291.





# Earn New Skills

## JOB TRAINING SERVICES

An important aspect of Goodwill's mission is to provide job training, and the Goodwill TulsaWORKS Career Academy offers training that leads to credentials/certificates and employment in sought-after industries. Another aspect of our mission is to provide support services, and we often rely on partnerships for these additional supports that help students overcome barriers to employment. We have two new partnerships that are helping TulsaWORKS students succeed:

1. An Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) representative visits the TulsaWORKS office two days a week to assist individuals eligible for SNAP benefits. This representative also can connect individuals to utility assistance, housing or rental assistance, childcare, and other services. Connecting with DHS can help students manage other issues that might stand in the way of successful training, allowing them to focus on their studies and look toward positive employment outcomes.
2. CAP Tulsa, which offers early childhood education programs for children of lower-income families, has a representative visit Goodwill's offices each month. Students caring for small children can speak with CAP Tulsa about getting connected with early education programs.

The combination of job training and support services offered by Goodwill helps put our students on the pathway to success, at home and at work.

### SEEING SUCCESS:

"Despite record inflation and the current workforce environment, our private security program continues to see plenty of new clients looking to find work in the security industry. One of our recent clients was hired as security dispatch at TU while he pursues his undergraduate degree." - Adam Erby, TulsaWORKS Career Navigator



# Find Meaningful Work

## SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Fall doesn't mean the start of school for everyone. For some, it's a time to move into the workforce. Goodwill believes everyone deserves an opportunity to find purpose and confidence through work regardless of barriers to employment. That's why Goodwill's Vocational Services offers training, placement, and supported employment to individuals with disabilities.

For youth with disabilities and their parents or guardians, the process of shifting from the familiarity and routine of school to the unfamiliar surroundings of work can be a very stressful time. Goodwill's Vocational Services staff helps these individuals identify the type of work they would like to do, finds jobs available in the community, assists with applications and interviews, and acts as an intermediary between an employer and the individual.

Scan the QR code to the right to watch videos showing examples of the success of Goodwill Vocational Services.



# Find a Job

## J O B P L A C E M E N T S E R V I C E S



Goodwill Job Connection continues to grow its efforts to connect job seekers with Tulsa-area jobs. Employers in the Tulsa area utilize the Job Connection staff to post and disseminate new openings.

New this year, Job Connection's 17th & Yale office now has a large monitor that displays open jobs and hiring events to the public.

The Job Connection staff also offers resume assistance, career exploration, and job leads to anyone seeking help with their career.



# Organize Your Finances

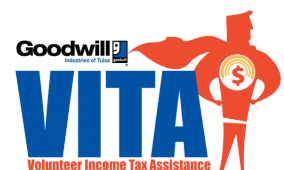
## F I N A N C I A L C O U N S E L I N G A N D R E S O U R C E S

A new job means changes to finances. For those wanting to plan for their future, or those needing help navigating a tight situation, Goodwill's financial resilience programs offer a range of helpful services.

The Tulsa Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) — created in partnership with the City of Tulsa — provides no-cost financial counseling to Tulsa residents. Momentum is growing for the program, which has helped more than 400 clients this year. The FEC is increasing its focus on teaming with area programs and seeking opportunities to offer financial counseling to the clients of partner organizations. As an example: An FEC client recently faced eviction, with five days to pay \$820 in back rent and fees. Their FEC counselor helped them apply successfully for funds from a local church, which covered the entire amount due and made it possible to avoid eviction. The FEC counselor also worked with the client to plan ahead, securing funds through the client's retirement plan for a month's rent in advance.

Bank On Tulsa connects individuals to certified low- or no-cost bank accounts. Individuals without bank accounts can spend tens of thousands of dollars in fees just accessing their money. This summer, Bank On certified a new bank account, bringing the total available in the Tulsa area to 10. The Bank On staff continues to host community workshops and attend outreach events to educate the public on banking options. Compare certified bank accounts at [GoodwillTulsa.org/BankOnTulsa](http://GoodwillTulsa.org/BankOnTulsa).

Goodwill VITA uses trained volunteers to offer free tax preparation and filing to those with an annual household income of less than \$58,000. This summer, VITA stepped in to help more than 120 Afghan refugee families make amendments to their taxes. VITA volunteers have helped complete more than 220 tax returns during an expanded summer tax program, helping taxpayers collect nearly half a million dollars in federal refunds.



## Our Mission:

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa, Inc. provides work opportunities, job training, and support services for people with disabilities or other employment barriers.

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