



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE EARNING JOBS WITH GOODWILL'S HELP GOODWILL® COMMEMORATES THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

AUSTIN, TEXAS—For decades, Goodwill® Industries of Central Texas has worked with people with disabilities to find employment, become independent and support themselves and their families. Since the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, it has helped increase access to services, such as employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and prohibit employment discrimination. While many individuals with disabilities have benefited from this law, Goodwill knows that many still face challenges to finding jobs and becoming independent. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, people with disabilities have a more than 14 percent unemployment rate, compared to 9.4 percent of people without disabilities¹.

“People with disabilities have unique skills and talents that add to the diversity and vitality of a workplace,” said Jerry Davis, President and CEO of Goodwill. “Many people with disabilities need little to no accommodation to do their jobs, and advances in technology are helping to increase productivity for workers, including those with disabilities.”

According to the ADA, National Network, there are more than 54 million people or nearly one in six Americans who have some form of physical or mental disability that substantially limits their daily activities, including working, walking, seeing, hearing or caring for themselves.²

Goodwill's Community Rehabilitation Program offers assistance for people with disabilities that are seeking entry into the workforce through various community programs. By providing job placement assistance, on-site job skills training, and access to an assistive technology lab, Goodwill is helping people with disabilities gain the self-sufficiency and independence that employment can provide.

“Goodwill commemorates the 20th anniversary of the signing of the ADA by continuing to work with our friends and neighbors with disabilities build their careers and improve their lives,” said Davis. “We must look past a person's disability and remember that each person is an individual capable of making a positive contribution to his or her community.”

For more information on Goodwill and to read success stories, visit www.austingoodwill.org.

About Goodwill Industries of Central Texas:

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the mission of providing job-related services for people with barriers to employment. Revenue generated through the sale of donated goods is used to fund job training and employment programs for Central Texans. For more information about Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, go to www.austingoodwill.org.

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¹ <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t06.htm>

² http://adaanniversary.org/2010/ap01_ada_overview/ap01_ada_overview_09_natl.html