

Goodwill Donation Q & A

What is Goodwill®?

Goodwill® Industries of Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia is a nonprofit, community-based organization. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. Its mission is to put people with special needs to work.

What does Goodwill® do with the proceeds from donations?

The revenue from the sale of donations in our retail stores help fund training programs and career services for local residents in the community with barriers to employment. By donating items to Goodwill®, you help local residents find jobs, which builds self-esteem and self-sufficiency.

I know that Goodwill® provides employment for people with disabilities and disadvantages in the community. Do those people work in the Goodwill® stores?

Actually some do work in Goodwill® stores located throughout Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia, but most go to work with other companies in the community. At Goodwill®, we provide extensive job coaching and career training to prepare individuals to enter the workforce.

What items does Goodwill® accept?

Goodwill's® motto is, "Donate to us what you would give to a friend". We gladly accept gently-used clothing, jewelry, accessories, small household items, books, toys, home medical equipment, computers and cars. Goodwill® makes every effort to accept all donations; however, there are some items that we cannot accept because of safety and storage reasons. They include:

- Air Conditioners
- Appliances not in working order
- Bowling Balls
- Child Car Seats/Walkers/High Chairs/Playpens
- Clothing that is badly soiled, stained or torn
- Console televisions or stereos
- Cosmetics or skin care products
- Doors, cabinets, sinks, tubs, or other construction materials
- Encyclopedias
- Fireworks or Firearms
- Food
- Furniture that is ripped or stained
- Kerosene or Electric Heaters
- Lawnmowers/Weedwackers
- Mattresses and Waterbeds
- Paint or other toxic substances
- Peripheral Equipment
- Propane tanks
- Recall items (i.e., car seats, cribs, play pens)
- Refrigerators/Stoves
- Typewriters
- Washers & Dryers
- Weapons

I want to donate my car to Goodwill®? Will you come and pick it up?

Yes. Goodwill® does offer a pick-up service for car donations. If you have a car that you would like to donate please call, 866-233-8586 and we'll arrange for a convenient FREE pick up. We accept cars, boats, and RVs in working or non-working condition. In return, you get a tax deduction and the satisfaction knowing you are helping others in your community.

Can I donate electronics to Goodwill®?

Yes. We accept donations including: computers, printers, scanners, fax machines, and other peripheral equipment.

What happens to items that Goodwill® cannot use or sell in the retail stores?

We carefully sort through all of the items donated to Goodwill®. After a thorough inspection, the items that we cannot re-sell are sent to our recycling/salvage center and sold to other organizations and salvage companies who can use them to make things like industrial rags.

How often does your inventory change?

With thousands of items arriving in each of our stores daily, you'll be sure to find whatever you need at Goodwill®. At Goodwill®, you never know what's in store.

What happens if I donate an item by mistake?

Goodwill® will make every effort to find your items; however, we receive millions of items a year. Once an item enters our efficient processing cycle, it's often impossible to find a specific item.

Does Goodwill® offer a pick-up service for donations?

No. We do not offer a pick-up service but we do have convenient donation centers throughout Southern and Central New Jersey and Philadelphia. Please visit our website at http://www.goodwillnj.org/Stores_and_Donations/donation_center_locations.html to find a donation center near you.'

Does Goodwill® have clothing bins in my community?

No. The clothing donation bins located in local gas station, supermarket, movie theatre, and strip center parking lots are not associated with Goodwill®. To be sure that your donations are going to Goodwill® and supporting a great cause, be sure to drop them off at one of our convenient donation centers.

Does Goodwill® accept home medical equipment?

We welcome donations of home medical equipment at all of our locations. Home medical equipment is full sanitized and then sold at the most affordable prices around. Please visit www.goodwillhomemedical.org for more information or to shop online.

Do I get a receipt for my donations for tax purposes?

Yes. Every time you make a donation to Goodwill® you will be offered a tax receipt acknowledging the date that Goodwill® received your donation. All of Goodwill's® donation centers are staffed by company representatives who will assist you. It is also recommended that donors keep itemized lists of their donations as well.

How do I determine the value of my donation for tax purposes?

The Internal Revenue Service allows a deduction for each item, but the donor determines each item's value. Generally®, an item's value should be based on fair market value - what the item would sell for in a thrift store. For general guidelines, please visit www.goodwillpromo.org and www.irs.gov.

What are Goodwill's® hours of operations?

Each Goodwill® store has different hours of operation. Visit us at http://www.goodwillnj.org/Stores_and_Donations/donation_center_locations.html to find out the hours of operation at your local donation center.

What types of programs do my donation fund?

Goodwill operates training facilities in Southern NJ & Philadelphia that offer programs that meet both the needs of the individuals with special needs who we serve and of the local workforce. Programs offered include: Computer Skills Training, Forklift Certification, CDL-B Training, Light Industrial Skills, Supported Work and Diagnostic Vocational Evaluation. We also operate The Helms Academy where individuals can attain their high school diploma while earning college credits for FREE!

Can I host a clothing drive for Goodwill?

Absolutely! Businesses, schools, churches, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and other civic organization are encouraged to host Goodwill Clothing Drives. Simply call us with the dates of your drive (856.439.0200, ext. 99224). You can host a drive for a day, a week, a month. The choice is yours! We'll send you promotional flyers to post and distribute. On the designated day, we'll dispatch attractive Goodwill donation bins to your location. Now, you're ready to collect donations!