
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND CAREER SERVICES - NATIONAL STATISTICS

Goodwill Industries is the leading nonprofit provider of employment services for people with disabilities and other job seekers. An employment resource for people with disabilities for decades, Goodwill job training and career services benefited nearly 170,000 people with physical and/or mental disabilities last year alone. That represents at least 15 percent of the 1.1 million people Goodwill helped in 2007.

National Statistics Regarding People with Disabilities:

- People with disabilities are the largest and fastest-growing subgroup of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The aggregate income of people with disabilities tops \$1 trillion. This includes \$220 billion in discretionary income.
- Of adults with disabilities age 18 to 64, only 32 percent are employed, compared to 81 percent of their non-disabled counterparts. (National Organization on Disability, www.nod.org).
- Most employers report no cost or low cost for creating workplace accommodations for people with disabilities. According to the Job Accommodation Network's polls, nearly 50 percent of employers said accommodations needed by employees and job applicants with disabilities cost absolutely nothing.
- Forty-eight percent of adults with disabilities say the Internet has significantly improved the quality of their lives, compared to only 27 percent of adults without disabilities. (National Organization on Disability, www.nod.org).
- About 54 million Americans have a disability (U.S. Census Bureau).

Goodwill and Employment Programs:

Goodwill prepares people with disabilities for a variety of positions in industries including retail, banking, hospitality, foodservice, package and assembly, manufacturing and healthcare. Job readiness or "employability" classes help people prepare for the demands of the workplace. Job seekers can access job listings as well as resume writing help at Goodwill's in communities across North America. Goodwill career counselors work one-on-one with job seekers to identify training and employment opportunities and develop individualized career plans.

Goodwill and Commercial Services:

Goodwill places someone into a good job every 53 seconds of every business day. Goodwill also meets employers' temporary manpower needs by fulfilling industrial contracts for national and local businesses and government agencies. These contracts help people learn necessary job skills while earning a paycheck. Commercial services offered by local Goodwill agencies include document management and destruction, packaging and assembly, manufacturing, and food service. In 2007, Goodwill earned \$624 million through these commercial contracts, working with clients that include General Motors, Briggs & Stratton, and the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army.

The Solution:

Workplace success can be enhanced by implementing assistive technology that helps improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Goodwill provides training and support for a broad range of assistive devices, including screen readers, dictating software, special keyboards, and voice output devices. Technology services can include adaptive computer assessments, installation and training, equipment loan program, and job development for individuals using assistive technology. Goodwill also works with employers to support reasonable accommodations and workspace adjustments that support workplace success.

About Goodwill:

Founded in Boston in 1902, Goodwill Industries trains people for careers in fields such as financial services, computer programming and health care. To pay for its programs, Goodwill sells donated clothes and other household items in more than 2,200 retail stores and online at www.shopgoodwill.com. The organization also builds revenues, and creates jobs, by contracting with businesses and government to provide a wide range of commercial services, including janitorial work, packing and assembly, and food service preparation. In 2007, 1.1 million people benefited from Goodwill's career services. Goodwill Industries International reported \$3.2 (b) billion in revenues, and channels 84 percent of its revenues directly into its programs.

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