



Panama

Asociación Panameña de Industrias de Buena Vountad (Goodwill Panama)

Founded in 1970

Listos para trabajar! (Ready to Work)



International Development

Goodwill Panama

www.goodwillpanama.org

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Goodwill® Panama offers professional training to young people and adults with physical or mental disabilities, along with basic labor and vocational training in production workshops. Additionally, it offers technology training and labor adaptation in an integrated setting through the Alliance with Commerce and Industry (ACI) program.



The program provides placement opportunities of up to four months for its participants. During this time, individuals receive paid job training in the areas of administration, production, packing, janitorial and food service. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, individuals may be hired directly.

Goodwill Panama offers vocational training in areas such as blacksmithing, beauty, plumbing, baking, gardening and landscaping, and sewing. The agency operates as a social enterprise; only two percent of its revenue comes from donations. In addition to the ACI program, income is earned through the following commercial activities: repair and retail sales of donated goods, repair and retail sales of bicycles and wheelchairs, manufacture and retail sales of iron doors, small restaurant and catering service, and packaging and assembly.

Fast Facts for 2008

- Staff: 37
- People served: 1,985
- People placed in competitive employment: 136
- Total number of services provided: 3,408
 - Training: 541
 - Evaluation and orientation: 1,444
 - Administration workshops: 10
 - Vocational courses: 261
 - Elementary school: 70
 - High school: 561
- Total revenue: \$1.5 million (USD)



Success Snapshot:

Eric Simmons

Eric Simmons, a 43-year-old man with a developmental disability, obtained his primary education in a combined program at the *Colegio Gil Colunge*, and went on to complete his education at a special vocational school. With his mother's support, Eric enrolled in a job training program with Goodwill Industries®.

He first received training in the cabinet-making and packaging workshop; later, he entered the Alliance with Commerce and Industry Program, where he received training at various companies. One of those companies was KFC *Vía España*, where he was evaluated for four months and was ultimately hired due to his good performance. He has been working as a KFC associate for the past 12 years.

"With everything and his disability, Eric is an excellent person and a good worker," his supervisor says. "He dedicates a lot of time to his work, he helps a lot, and you would never know that he has a disability. His work has been evaluated as excellent."

Eric is grateful to Goodwill for all of the training that he received and to KFC because his progress is continuing. **"The least that I ask for is to keep improving with my work,"** he says. **"I'm earning some money, and there aren't any problems with anyone, not with my bosses or the customers, and I can keep advancing."**



Eric Simmons nació en la provincia de Panamá, el 14 de febrero de 1965, presenta lento aprendizaje, actualmente cuenta con 43 años. Realizó sus estudios primarios en la aula integrada del colegio Gil Colunge, luego culmina sus estudios en la Escuela Vocacional Especial. Al finalizar sus estudios ingresa a Industrias de Buena Voluntad con el apoyo de su mamá,

En nuestra institución recibe entrenamiento en el taller de Ebanistería y Empaque, luego pasa al programa Alianza con el Comercio y la Industria en donde se capacita en varias empresas, pero recibe entrenamiento como aseo en KFC Vía España en donde fue evaluado por cuatro meses, y al final contratado por su buen desempeño, han pasado 12 años y Eric aún se mantiene como asociado de KFC.

En la empresa su supervisor nos dijo "Eric con todo y su discapacidad, es una excelente persona, buen trabajador, dedica mucho tiempo a su trabajo, ayuda bastante, no pareciera que tuviera ese problema. La experiencia de trabajar con él la evaluó excelente".

*Eric le da las gracias a Industrias de Buena Voluntad por toda la formación que recibió y a KFC **"ya que él sigue hacia delante, lo poquito que busco voy mejorando con el trabajo se gana unos reales y no hay problemas con nadie, ni con los jefes, ni los clientes y uno se va superando"**.*