

## Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries: Elevate, Empower, Achieve

For generations, **Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries** has been a pillar of support across **five counties in Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania**. While many know Goodwill for its retail stores and donation centers, the organization's mission extends far beyond shopping and donations. Every day, Goodwill works to **elevate good, empower individuals, and help people achieve their goals** — especially those facing barriers to employment or independence.

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### The Heart of Goodwill: Mission Services

Goodwill's **Mission Services** form the foundation of its work. These programs help individuals overcome challenges, gain valuable skills, and improve their quality of life.

#### Core Mission Programs

- **Job training and placement:** Preparing individuals for the workforce with skills that lead to lasting employment.
- **Vocational rehabilitation:** Supporting those recovering from injury or disability as they regain independence.
- **Work experience opportunities:** Creating pathways for individuals with disabilities to develop confidence and ability.
- **Community-based programs:** Addressing local needs through initiatives that build stronger, more inclusive communities.

Through these services, Goodwill provides more than assistance — it offers **empowerment, dignity, and the tools to achieve success**.

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### Focusing on the Future: Preschool Vision Screening

One standout example of Goodwill's community impact is the **Preschool Vision Screening Program**, which supports young children and their families across the region.

- In **2024**, trained Goodwill screeners **tested 1,993 children** for potential vision issues.
- Children showing signs of vision problems were **referred to eye specialists** for further evaluation.

Early detection of vision challenges can significantly improve a child's ability to learn, participate, and thrive in school. By identifying issues before kindergarten, Goodwill helps set children on a path toward **academic and lifelong success**.

This program demonstrates how Goodwill's mission reaches every stage of life — **empowering individuals from childhood through adulthood**.

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### Powered by Community Support

None of this work happens without the community. Goodwill's programs rely on the **generosity of donors, shoppers, and volunteers** who make Mission Services possible.

Every contribution — large or small — makes a difference:

- **Donations** of gently used items fund programs that provide training and employment opportunities.

- **Purchases** from Goodwill stores directly support initiatives like the Preschool Vision Program.
- **Volunteers** bring time, compassion, and energy to the work that strengthens our community.

Together, these efforts form a ripple effect of **positive change throughout the Mahoning Valley**.

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## Looking Ahead

At Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries, “**Elevate, Empower, Achieve**” isn’t just a slogan — it’s a guiding principle. The organization continues to lift others up through compassion, opportunity, and inclusion.

As Goodwill looks to the future, it remains dedicated to:

- Expanding its reach through **collaboration and innovation**
- Strengthening partnerships with groups like the **Early Childhood Resource Center** and **local schools**
- Ensuring that **everyone has the chance to thrive**

With the community’s ongoing support, Goodwill will continue doing what it does best — **helping people help themselves and elevating good every day**.