



Work Experience Opens Doors for Students with Disabilities

Goodwill Omaha's Work Experience program gives special-education students exposure to work situations in supportive, understanding environments. The program helps students take the first step toward making a smooth transition from high school to adulthood and the working world.

Goodwill Work Experience students gain exposure to real work environments and skills through a variety of assigned jobs at either a Goodwill Omaha location or one of our community partners' locations.

Students gain exposure to many work areas, including clerical, custodial, production and retail. In their job assignments, students perform the same duties that would be expected of permanent employees, under the guidance of an on-site supervisor and the direction of a trainer. Goodwill Work Experience trainers tailor each job to the specific abilities of the individual student and account for any special needs.



Benefits of the Goodwill Work Experience Program

Goodwill Omaha Work Experience students typically participate in the program daily throughout the school year, although days and times may vary. The program gives students opportunities that offer them many benefits:

1. Gain exposure to work skills through a variety of assigned jobs, including clerical, custodial, production and retail
2. Perform duties expected of permanent employees

3. Work under the guidance of an on-site Goodwill supervisor and the direction of a Goodwill Work Experience trainer
4. Perform duties adapted to each student's specific abilities and special needs
5. Work a schedule that permits students to attend their academic classes while allowing time for work activities
6. Receive a recommendation from Goodwill
7. Learn about community resources that can help students obtain the additional training or job that best suits them
8. Earn while you learn — Work Experience students earn minimum wage while gaining valuable vocational training in the program

Work Experience Program Eligibility

To enroll in Goodwill Omaha's Work Experience program, students must have an identifiable, documented vocational or disadvantaging condition. Eligible students must be between the ages of 16 and 21, attending a high school in Goodwill Omaha's service area (Omaha, Blair, Bellevue, Fremont, Papillion, Gretna or Council Bluffs). Most Work Experience participants are referred to Goodwill Omaha by their school district's transition or special-education programs

About Goodwill Omaha

Many people know Goodwill Industries, Inc., Serving Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa, as a place to donate used clothing and household items or find great bargains. But you might not know the mission at the heart of our organization: We provide job training and placement services to people with disabilities and other disadvantages.

The sale of donated items sold in Goodwill retail stores supports our mission programs. Here's how: People in the community donate gently used items to Goodwill. We sell those donated items in Goodwill retail stores. The proceeds from those sales subsidize our mission programs, giving thousands of individuals in the Omaha area the chance to earn a living, discover independence and succeed in life.

Goodwill provides opportunities through a variety of employment programs, including YouthBuild AmeriCorps, Employment Solutions and Work Experience. We also are affiliated with the federal AbilityOne program, which provides jobs at federal facilities to people with severe disabilities.

Goodwill is a private, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency governed by a local board of trustees. We are a member agency of Goodwill Industries International of Gaithersburg, Maryland, and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

For more information about Goodwill's Work Experience program, contact us at **402 522 7225**, or visit **GoodwillOmaha.org/WorkExperience**.

In 2019, 95% of participants who completed Goodwill Omaha's Work Experience program met two-thirds of their goals, and 97% of those who completed the program increased their productivity.

