



For more information, please contact:  
Jess Owens, Communications Manager  
Email: [jessica.owens@goodwillsew.com](mailto:jessica.owens@goodwillsew.com)

### **Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin Reopens Store & Donation Centers**

**Greendale, Wis. – May 15, 2020** – Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc., a diverse non-profit community organization which provides training, employment and supportive services for people with disabilities or disadvantages who seek greater independence, announced today it has reopened most of its store and donation centers in Wisconsin. Goodwill Store & Donation Centers will be providing services for its customers and donors Sunday through Saturday, at slightly modified hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to ensure stores are safe and comfortable for employees and customers, allowing for enough time to regularly sanitize and clean the stores. Goodwill Store & Donation Centers located in Illinois are still temporarily closed due to the state’s stay-at-home order requiring non-essential businesses to remain closed.

Goodwill’s announcement comes a few days after the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the statewide stay-at-home order. Municipalities have released their own stay-at-home orders, with varying restrictions for local businesses.

Based on current stay-at-home orders, Goodwill has established additional safety precautions to protect all customers and employees in accordance with local municipality ordinances each store is located in.

- The number of shoppers allowed in the store may be limited based on each municipality’s ordinances.
- All customers and employees will be required to wear face masks at all times while in the store. Goodwill is not able to provide face masks for customers.
- Social distancing guidelines will apply. Markings are located on the ground throughout the store to remind customers of the recommended six-foot distance, and every other cash register and fitting room will be used to help enforce this distancing.
- Plexiglass sneeze guards have been placed at registers.

“We are taking additional safety precautions because the safety of our employees, their families, the people we serve, our customers, and community, are always our top priority,” said Jackie Hallberg, president and Chief Executive Officer of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc. “As we work to safely reopen our retail store and donation center locations, we look forward to continuing to do what we do best – serving our customers and providing training, employment and supportive services for our community.”

For the safety of donors and employees, a no-contact donation process will be provided for donors when they drive up to the drop-off location. Goodwill is requesting that donations are made only in bags and boxes, with no loose donation items. All donations will be stored for at least 72 hours before they are handled by employees and made available for sale to the public.

All Goodwill retail employees will be screened daily and have their temperature taken by a manager when they report to work. Goodwill is providing all employees with face masks and gloves to wear while at work. As mentioned, all employees will be required to wear face masks.

As state and local ordinances change, Goodwill will continue to update store policies.

Though the Goodwill Store & Donation Centers in southeastern Wisconsin were temporarily closed on March 21 due to the COVID-19 emergency, other essential Goodwill businesses continued to serve the community, such as:

- Goodwill Laundry & Linen, the commercial laundry and linen operation has provided clean linens to local hospitals and clinics throughout the pandemic and continues to do so.
- Virtual workshops from Goodwill Workforce Connection Centers are hosted weekly on Facebook and job seekers can connect with specialists remotely for job readiness skills training.
- Goodwill's full-service recruiting agency, Goodwill TalentBridge, has been placing job seekers in essential jobs in our communities.
- Goodwill Great Lakes employees continue to prepare and serve meals to the Sailors and recruits at Naval Station Great Lakes.
- The Home Delivered Meal Program, serving vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities
- Certain essential services at the Racine County Aging and Disability Resource Center and the Kenosha County Job Center
- Goodwill DataShield, secure document destruction for essential businesses

For more information on the safety precautions Goodwill has taken for its retail and donation locations, please visit [www.amazinggoodwill.com](http://www.amazinggoodwill.com).

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#### **About Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc.**

Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin and Metropolitan Chicago is the largest Goodwill organization among 158 agencies in North America and has been providing services to the community for the past 100 years. With over 90 locations, Goodwill's mission to provide training, employment and supportive services for people with disabilities or disadvantages who seek greater independence helps those in need across a 23-county territory. In 2019, Goodwill served nearly 43,000 men and women with disabilities and disadvantages and helped 7,932 individuals enter employment. Visit [www.goodwillsew.com](http://www.goodwillsew.com) for more information.