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Goodwill Recycles 990 Tons of Computers, Creates Jobs
Goodwill Houston Computer Works Store celebrates first anniversary

HOUSTON — As Goodwill Industries of Houston celebrates the first year of its Goodwill Houston Computer Works store (houstoncomputerworks.org), which sells discounted used computers and parts at 12230 Westheimer, it marks a milestone with its Reconnect program.

Reconnect (reconnectpartnership.com), a free computer recycling program for any brand computer, collected 990 tons — the weight of two double decker Airbus planes — of used computers during its first year of operation. The program has created jobs for Computer Works employees, who through Goodwill’s job training efforts, have learned to responsibly recycle or refurbish the donated materials.

Reconnect is managed by a partnership between Goodwill and Dell, Inc. ([link to Dell recycling page](#)). Houston is the second largest U.S. market in which Reconnect is available.

“Recycling 990 tons is a significant goal for Reconnect, and creating jobs in the current economy is a fantastic achievement. We’re planning for dramatic growth of the program in the coming year,” said Steve Lufburrow, President and CEO, Goodwill Industries of Houston, “I encourage everyone in Greater Houston storing used computers at home to take one easy step this month to mark Earth Day, and bring that equipment to Goodwill for responsible recycling.”

Consumers may drop off their used equipment at more than 50 Goodwill Houston stores or attended donation centers located throughout Greater Houston and receive a donor tax receipt. Computer Works employees then sort, consolidate and dismantle the equipment. Items are either refurbished and sold at the Goodwill Houston Computer Works store or responsibly recycled, using environmental and workplace standards set by Goodwill and Dell that also ensure data security.

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The precious metals found in computer parts have value and the proceeds generated from their recycling, combined with sales from the Computer Works store, are invested in Goodwill Houston's training, education and employment services.

ABOUT GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF HOUSTON

Since 1945, Goodwill Houston has provided training, education and employment services to people with disabilities and other barriers to employment, improving the lives of individuals, families and communities. With a vision of being the premier workforce development resource in greater Houston, based on the excellence of its people and its career services, Goodwill Houston aims to increase its impact in the community by 50 percent, having added 27 new retail stores by the end of 2013. For more details about Goodwill Houston programs and services, visit goodwillhouston.org, or call 713-692-6221.