



For Immediate Release:

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**Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Opens New Walk-in Center for
Services in Fairfield, Announces Partnership with 4C for Children
*Expanding Community Services***

*Free job training/career services and childcare navigation help now available at Dixie
Highway location*

FAIRFIELD, Ohio (June 17, 2025)—Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries (OVGI) today announced the official opening of its new walk-in Opportunity Center in Fairfield, a one-stop resource hub designed to help individuals connect with job training, career placement and support services. The grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting marks a significant step forward in the organization's mission to promote independence and economic self-sufficiency. The Opportunity Center is inside OVGI's retail store located at 4605 Dixie Highway, Fairfield, OH 45014.

The center provides immediate access to career development services including resume assistance, interview preparation, skills training and referrals to local employers. It supports individuals with disabilities, veterans and anyone facing employment challenges. This is OVGI's second walk-in Opportunity Center this year, following the February opening of a similar center at their Woodlawn headquarters.

Partnership Addresses Childcare Barriers

Goodwill also announced a new partnership with 4C for Children, a leading regional childcare resource and referral agency. The organization provides barrier-free childcare assistance for families with varying levels of access to resources including finances, transportation and support for children with disabilities. Through this collaboration, families using the Opportunity Center will be able to receive direct support navigating childcare options, understanding Ohio's Step Up to Quality standards and accessing financial assistance for childcare costs and early childhood education.

"Collaborating with 4C for Children exemplifies our commitment to removing every possible barrier to employment," said Mark Hiemstra, President and CEO of OVGI. "We recognize that childcare challenges are often the primary obstacle preventing individuals from pursuing career opportunities, and by integrating these navigation services directly into our workforce development programs, we're creating a truly comprehensive pathway to economic independence."

"This exciting new partnership between Ohio Valley Goodwill and 4C for Children is a game changer for working families. Families cannot thrive if they are unable to secure adequate support in obtaining housing, employment and childcare. This collaboration brings together both our agency's strengths and expertise to help families meet all those needs and will best serve our entire community," said Vanessa Freytag, President and CEO of 4C for Children.

4C's childcare navigation services are available at both the new Fairfield Opportunity Center and OVGI's Woodlawn headquarters. The navigators work directly with clients, providing options (with or without referrals) and ensuring families can access appropriate childcare solutions regardless of their circumstances.

"The partnership between OVGI and 4C for Children represents a strategic response to the growing need for comprehensive support services that address the root causes preventing individuals from entering and maintaining employment," Hiemstra said. "This also represents the first of what OVGI expects to be many strategic alliances designed to address complex challenges facing individuals seeking economic independence."

Expanding Community Services

With the opening of the Opportunity Center, OVGI is fulfilling a promise to the Fairfield community and the Tri-State region to make its services more robust and accessible. The center features workforce specialists and coaches ready to help both job seekers and employers meet their immediate needs, creating a dynamic hub for economic development in the region. The success of the center depends on building strong referral networks, and with the consolidation and departure of other job placement services in Butler County, OVGI aims to be a conduit in the area for the public to access services of OVGI and its partnering agencies.

"We want people to see us as a resource and an anchor," said Gladys Ahovi, Vice President of OVGI's Community Impact & Investment Services. "Our goal is to become the go-to destination where job seekers and employers can connect, where barriers, like access to childcare, are removed, and where comprehensive support ensures long-term success for everyone involved."

OVGI's "Mission Possible" Plan in Action

The center represents OVGI's "Mission Possible" 5-Year Action Plan—unveiled in February—a commitment for OVGI to invest more than \$230 million back into the Greater Cincinnati area over the next five years through job training, employment placement services and community-based programs.

It is the strategic evolution of OVGI's century-long commitment to transforming lives through the power of work for veterans and people with disabilities and other barriers to employment. These services fall under the three pillars of OVGI's Community Impact & Investment Services division: GoodWorks Pathways, GoodLife Services and GoodSupport Housing.

Comprehensive Services to Address Employment Barriers

The Fairfield Opportunity Center offers a full spectrum of workforce development services designed to help community members overcome barriers to employment and build sustainable careers. Core services include:

- **Skills Training Programs:** Hands-on training in high-demand industries and emerging fields, providing participants with marketable skills that align with current job market needs.
- **Career Counseling Services:** One-on-one guidance to help individuals identify career paths, develop professional skills, and create actionable employment strategies.
- **Employment Placement Assistance:** Direct support in job search activities, including resume development, interview preparation and connections with local employers actively seeking qualified candidates.
- **Wraparound Support Services:** Additional resources to address common employment barriers, including housing and the new childcare navigation services through the partnership with 4C for Children, ensuring participants have the stability needed to succeed in their career development journey.

The center's programs are specifically designed to serve individuals facing various challenges to employment, including those with disabilities, limited work experience, educational gaps or other circumstances, that may have previously limited their career opportunities.

Community Leadership Support

The Fairfield Opportunity Center has gained strong support from local leaders who recognize its potential to strengthen the regional workforce and provide vital services to community members.

Lee Ann Emmons, Superintendent of the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, emphasized the center's importance for individuals with disabilities seeking employment opportunities. "Ohio Valley Goodwill has been an invaluable partner in creating meaningful employment pathways for the individuals we serve," Emmons said. "The new Fairfield Opportunity Center will expand access to critical job training and support services, helping more people with disabilities achieve economic independence and contribute their talents to our community."

Building Stronger Communities Through Economic Empowerment

OVGI's approach to workforce development extends beyond individual job placement to encompass broader community strengthening. By helping individuals achieve economic independence while simultaneously addressing fundamental barriers like childcare access, the organization contributes to the overall economic health and stability of the communities it serves.

The Fairfield Opportunity Center expects to serve hundreds of community members annually, providing not only employment skills but also the confidence and support networks necessary

for long-term career success. Programs at the center are designed to be responsive to local economic conditions and employer needs, ensuring that training aligns with available opportunities in the regional job market.

Future Opportunity Centers

OVGI plans to open additional Opportunity Centers in the coming months. The Clermont County location opens to the public on July 15, 2025. And a West Side location will open in 2026. These are the third and fourth OVGI Opportunity Center locations. The first location opened at OVGI's headquarters in Woodlawn in February, 2025.

Editor's Note: Click [here](#) to view and download video of OVGI's Fairfield Opportunity Center at work.

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About Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries

OVGI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, empowering individuals, and elevating the human potential through the power of work. Goodwill, a valuable community partner for more than 100 years, envisions the Ohio Valley region as a vibrant, sustainable community, rich with opportunities for individuals to live dignified and purposeful lives. The organization also has a long-standing commitment to the environment to re-use, renew, and recycle. Through its network of donation centers and retail stores that fuel Goodwill's mission, the organization diverts tens of millions of pounds of donated product from area landfills each year. For more information, visit [OVGI's website](#).

About 4C for Children

4C for Children is a local nonprofit organization that supports everyone who cares for young children by educating childcare professionals, helping families find childcare and offering resources to all families. We strive to create a welcoming workplace and are committed to growing, innovating and implementing to help ensure fairness for all. For more information, visit [4C for Children's website](#).

Media Contacts

Kristen Swilley, OVGI Media Representative, Wordsworth Communications
kswilley@wordsworthweb.com | 770.658.4289

Bridget Castellini, OVGI Media Representative, Wordsworth Communications
bcastellini@wordsworthweb.com | 513.515.9673