

# Learn About...

## Assistive Technology Program

### What is the Program?

Goodwill's Assistive Technology (AT) Program promotes awareness and provides services related to assistive equipment, job accommodations, and accessibility. Individualized assessments can determine what aids or accommodations can help people with disabilities complete their activities most comfortably and independently. The program offers training and support in choosing, acquiring, and using appropriate solutions. Individuals can also try equipment from the AT Program's inventory hands-on to see if it fits their lifestyle and meets their needs.



### Who Does the Program Serve?

AT services and equipment from the inventory are available to all Goodwill clients, employees, and programs. The AT Program also supports community members and employers. In 2009, the program served over 130 individuals, some from as far away as Baltimore!

### How Does the Program Benefit Participants and the Community?

Goodwill's AT Program helps individuals live, work, and learn more successfully by increasing their access to the world around them through aids and accommodations. Assistive technology and its related services enable people to overcome barriers, gain independence, and achieve their goals!

### A Personal Story:

Kim is enrolled in Goodwill's Administrative Office Skills Training course. The AT Program provided Kim, who is legally blind, with a large-print keyboard, low-glare lighting, and screen magnification software. At first she feared her low vision might prevent her from mastering the coursework. But with the right accommodations, she is now confident in her skills.

Combined with her work ethic and optimism, the equipment has helped her not only keep pace with her classmates, but excel in class. After 15 years out of work, Kim plans to use assistive technology to help her succeed in a customer service or data entry position upon graduating.

### Special Program Accomplishments

The program serves as a Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center, helping individuals learn how to increase their computers' ease of use. It is also a volunteer center for Pennsylvania's Telecommunications Device Distribution Program, which provides free accessible telecommunication equipment—like large print and captioned telephones—to eligible citizens with disabilities.