



American Heart Association®  
Social Impact Funds



## SHOWCASE

# PAR-Recycle Works

## Turning E-Waste into Opportunity



For individuals returning from prison, reentry is often an uphill battle. Barriers like stigma, limited job opportunities and lack of training make it difficult to rebuild a life. Social Impact Funds portfolio company PAR-Recycle Works (PAR) works to overcome these obstacles by creating paid transitional jobs in electronics recycling and pairing them with workforce development and community support for returning citizens in the Philadelphia area.

**Through its innovative model, PAR diverts thousands of pounds of e-waste from landfills while providing hands-on experience in recycling, logistics and operations. Participants earn income, gain marketable skills and receive guidance to transition into permanent employment.**

Over the past nine years, the organization reports it has employed more than 230 people, with 65% moving into permanent jobs and a recidivism rate 90% below the national average (under 5%), a powerful testament to the program's success.

### THE CHALLENGE

👤 Individuals returning from prison struggle with **barriers to re-entry** like stigma, limited job opportunities and lack of training.

### PAR IMPACT

Over the past 9 years:

✅ Employed  
**230+** people

⊕ **65%** of participants found permanent jobs

⬇️ Recidivism rate of **under 5%** is **90%** below national average

Support from the Social Impact Funds enabled PAR to earn R2-RIOS certification — Responsible Recycling (R2) Recycling Industry Operating Standard — by defraying the costs of consulting and third-party audit fees required in the lengthy certification process. This achievement signals top-tier compliance and sustainability, critical for attracting corporate partners and large-scale recycling contracts.

R2-RIOS certification expanded supply partner growth to 250+ companies including the Philadelphia Eagles, The University of Pennsylvania, Vanguard and Temple University. Through these relationships, more electronics were recycled, more jobs were created and more lives were transformed. Every device processed represents less waste in landfills, and every job created represents a second chance for someone rebuilding their life after incarceration.

With this expansion, PAR has grown its staff from one to six people, many of whom are justice-impacted graduates of PAR. Sixty-five individuals were placed in new jobs and 99 individuals received career training skills.

As PAR continues to expand its reach, it offers hope and opportunity for returning citizens by combining environmental responsibility with economic vitality, demonstrating that second chances can fuel stronger communities and a healthier planet.

**PAR provides paid, hands-on experience and pathways to permanent employment for individuals returning from prison, while diverting e-waste from landfills.**



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## Explore the Breakthroughs Transforming Health and Opportunity for All.

Learn more about how the Social Impact Funds are catalyzing solutions that improve lives and communities.

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The **Social Impact Funds** are part of American Heart Association Ventures, the group that leads and coordinates the venture capital programs of the American Heart Association. [heart.org/SocialImpactFunds](https://heart.org/SocialImpactFunds)



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