



SPRING 2010

Goodwill

at work

The newsletter of Goodwill Industries of Central Texas

YOUNG STUDENT FINDS CONFIDENCE AND HOPE, WITH THE HELP OF GOODWILL



Britney Goucher

When Britney Goucher came to Goodwill, she was uncertain about her future and wary about the benefits that education had to offer her. Now, she is working toward major educational and life goals that she has set for herself, eager to reach for more.

Britney came to Goodwill through the WIA Youth Services Program, funded by Workforce Solutions—Capital Area, in September of 2007, as a high school student at-risk for dropping out due to truancy. Discouraged by the amount of credits required for her to graduate, she continued to struggle with finding the motivation to attend her classes and was eventually withdrawn from school for attendance.

Once she was connected with her Goodwill Case Manager she learned that, with a little hard-work, she could achieve her high school degree. Her first year of classes proved to be challenging because she had not taken her Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, was still lacking credits for her grade level and was having transportation problems. Working together with other community partners, her Case Manager helped connect her with resources, *(cont. page 3)*

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GOODWILL'S MANY SERVICES AND PARTNERSHIPS HELP CENTRAL TEXANS FIND AND KEEP JOBS IN OUR COMMUNITY

After going through a divorce, enduring the loss of her mother, losing her job as well as her home, Betty was struggling to get her life back on track. Despite these challenges, Betty remained strong and decided to utilize Goodwill's services to help her find a job.

“
The resources that Goodwill offers have been the foundation for my success, and I am extremely grateful.
- Betty Staehr

At Goodwill, people like Betty are connected with a Placement Specialist who helps with job search skills, such as resume writing, computer skills and networking. Going well beyond teaching Central Texans to find and obtain jobs in the community, Goodwill's many programs and community partnerships also help to address any outside issues that might stand in the way of an individual's success in the workplace, like homelessness and financial instability.

“The resources that Goodwill offers have been the foundation for my success, and I am extremely grateful,” said Betty.

In order to help job seekers gain more work experience and hands-on workplace skills, many candidates utilize Goodwill's Staffing Services to locate temporary employment in the community. For Betty, this resource not only offered her a quick placement into a temporary *(cont. page 2)*



OUR MISSION is to provide job-related services and opportunities for people with barriers to employment.



I am looking forward to the new opportunities that this year has to offer us, especially as the job market of last year begins to restructure and strengthen.



Friends of Goodwill,

When you think about it, life is a delicate balancing act—go to work, don't forget to pack your son's lunch, get a haircut so you look polished at work, save up to get your car fixed, etc. And for the people we serve who have barriers to employment, their balancing act has added challenges—being visually impaired and relying on public transportation, taking time to pack your son's lunch while studying for the GED, or going to a job interview wearing the same pair of jeans.

The people we serve face various obstacles to employment and challenges in life, including physical disabilities, young single parents, language barriers, and extreme poverty. Here at Goodwill, we know that without the balance of work and life, it's very difficult to be successful. So that's why our talented Placement Specialists, not only help people find, obtain and retain jobs, they focus on helping each client develop tailored and functional solutions that will allow them to achieve a successful balance of work with life. Sometimes this means reaching out to community partners to ensure that our clients have access to the right resources in order to reach their full potential.

It's no secret that managing finances is a large part of that balancing act. That's why it just made good sense for us to supplement our job training programs with financial education that would allow clients

to successfully manage their newly earned income. What started as a small collaboration of community partners and businesses offering financial fitness fairs and employee bag lunches on financial topics has emerged into something much bigger.

Recently, we received a grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation that would allow us to be one of the first Goodwill's in the nation to offer the Good AS\$et\$ Financial Strengthening program. This free program gives qualifying community members an opportunity to set and meet their financial goals and learn to effectively manage their income – services that compliment the job training programs we offer to Central Texans every day.

This collaboration with the Central Texas community has allowed this program to become successful. I am looking forward to the new opportunities that this year has to offer us, especially as the job market of last year begins to restructure and strengthen. Thank you for your continued support.

Gerald Davis, President and CEO
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas

OUR VISION — We envision a world where every person has access to meaningful work.

**AT A GLANCE
NUMBERS 2009**
(as of Dec. 31)

1,314

Number of People Placed in
Jobs in the Community

43,363

Number of Services
Provided

13,090

Number of
Individuals Served

(cont. Goodwill's Many Services) position at a local doctor's office, it lead to a full time and permanent job within only two weeks.

Helping to encourage job retention as well as success in life, Goodwill also offers a financial fitness program, which helps clients as they manage their newly-earned income. This program offers one-on-one tailored sessions for clients like Betty, even after they have steady employment.

Support from Goodwill in conjunction with other community agencies, ensures that each person gets the resources and attention they need. Goodwill focuses on success in the workplace and in life. It is a commitment made to the community and to people like Betty every day.



LEARN MORE ABOUT BETTY AND READ HER FULL STORY IN THE UPCOMING ANNUAL REPORT.



HALL of Honor

GOODWILL CELEBRATES ONE MISSION, MANY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE WORKPLACE

Goodwill's 15th annual Hall of Honor celebrated the accomplishments of three outstanding individuals who achieved success in the workplace and in life—Betty Staehr, Leitha Rogers and Richard Lopez. Each of the night's honorees, overcame unique obstacles to employment, and with the help of Goodwill, gained the skills they needed to successfully find, obtain and retain meaningful employment in the community.

"The three individuals honored during the Hall of Honor didn't just achieve gainful employment in spite of a barrier, they achieved something Goodwill works to instill in everyone we help—a greater level of self-sufficiency," said Jerry Davis, President and CEO of Goodwill. "This event is Goodwill's mission at work, and our honorees should be very proud of their successes in both the workplace and in life."

More than 250 community members and business partners were able to see firsthand how Goodwill can change lives through the power of work. Featuring special video and on-stage interviews with each honoree, this year's event brought further insight into their inspirational stories. The individuals honored overcame a variety of barriers to employment including being homeless, having substance abuse issues, and having a lack of education which made employment difficult to obtain. Through Goodwill's support and employment services, which may include resume and interview training, job coaching, basic needs assistance or help with locating proper childcare, these individuals have achieved gainful employment in the community.



Photos courtesy of Ron Parks Photography

"You get out what you put in," said Honoree Leitha Rogers. "I recommend the program to everybody I talk to, but you can't make anybody do it, they have to want to do it for themselves."

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Prevention and Preparedness Division also received the Business Award for supporting employment in the community by helping Goodwill fulfill its mission. Through their support, more than 750 Goodwill Staffing Services employees were placed in temporary position in that division since 2005.


This event was made possible by the generous support of our sponsors and the Central Texas Community. To learn more about this year's honorees and to watch their video interviews,

VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE AT WWW.AUSTINGOODWILL.ORG .

(cont. *Young Student Finds*) including tutoring assistance and help obtaining and navigating public transportation.

With a renewed sense of hope, she enrolled in summer school to catch up on her school credits. Her hard work, dedication and the extra support from her Case Manager allowed her to bring up her grades and earn all her credits to gain high school senior classification. She was also able to obtain a paid internship to gain experience in building green homes.

The support from Britney's Case Manager was integral, "having someone there to really push me, somebody that was always with me," made all the difference for her.

With support from Goodwill, Britney not only graduated in June 2009, she also gained internship experience and developed a new found interest in becoming a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA). Her Case Manager connected her to the resources she needed, and she was able to successfully obtain her certification. Motivated by her academic achievements, she is currently hard at work pursuing a job in the medical field and hopes to one day become a Registered Nurse. 





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If you have what it takes to be a positive role model and can commit to spending four hours a month, the Goodwill GoodGuides™ program is for you! As a GoodGuides™ mentor, you will build a lasting friendship and work with youth to develop education and career goals.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP AT-RISK YOUTH AS THEY BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AT WWW.AUSTINGOODWILL.ORG.

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Presented by Goodwill, the City of Austin, Workforce Solutions—Capital Area and Austin American-Statesman.

