Virginia Finster, as a single mother of two, realized going back to school was the only way she would have financial security for her and her family. However, she had little money or time to start a new career. With the help of Goodwill San Antonio and the Good Careers Academy, Virginia had the flexibility to work and go to school, eliminating the financial burden associated with earning a certification. In just a short time, she obtained a trade certification in a high-demand occupation as a Licensed Certified Pharmacy Technician. Virginia now has a career path and the financial means to further pursue a career as a Pharmacist.

Good Careers Academy not only provided Virginia the opportunity to build a career, it helped her gain back her self-confidence.

“I now have a marketable skill, a career. Always! And Goodwill gave that to me.”

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Kevin Bergner has joined Goodwill Industries of San Antonio as Interim President and CEO. Kevin, a former Major General in the United States Army, is responsible for leading the agency in all areas to include the development of the organization’s vision and strategic plans. With 30 years of military service as well as executive experience at USAA as chief administrative officer and then president of their property and casualty insurance business, Kevin has proven experience in strategic planning, leadership development and transformational management.

“I am honored and humbled to join the leadership team at Goodwill San Antonio,” Bergner said. “The Goodwill team’s mission is an important one in our community and the employees of Goodwill are people who make a difference every day in the lives of the people they serve. I will work closely with the board and executive team to make sure Goodwill employees are well-supported in continuing their service to our community.”

Kevin graduated from Trinity University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, and was commissioned in the United States Army as a Field Artillery officer. He later earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from City University of New York. He served twice in Germany, as well as three deployments in Iraq. In 2006-2007, he served as a Special Assistant to the President of the United States and senior director on the National Security Council. Later, he served as the Army’s Chief of Public Affairs. He was a Major General when he retired from the United States Army in 2010.

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**Good Careers Academy**

Goodwill San Antonio operates three Good Careers Academies in San Antonio. Accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and the Texas Workforce Commission, the training certification programs include:

- Administrative Assistant
- Apartment Maintenance Technician
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Certified Medical Secretary
- Certified Nurse’s Aide
- Certified Pharmacy Technician
- Commercial Drivers License
- Computer Support Specialist

If you know someone looking for a new career, share Virginia’s story or visit GoodCareersAcademy.com for more information.

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**Goodwill San Antonio Opens 20th Store and Donation Station on Walzem Road**

Significantly contributing to the economic development in the Walzem Road revitalization area, a new Goodwill store and donation station opened on Thursday, January 14th following a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony. Twenty-two (22) new jobs were created.

The inaugural celebration was attended by several city and state dignitaries and several Chamber of Commerce leaders. Shoppers enjoyed finding great Goodwill treasures, including name-brand items, at amazing prices.

Conveniently located at 5722 Walzem Road, this new facility offers a superior Goodwill shopping experience as well as a convenient donation station for individuals to drop off their gently-used donations of clothing, electronics, furniture and other household items.

Hours of operation for both the store and the donation station are 9 am – 9 pm Monday-Saturday, and 11 am - 7 pm on Sunday. Shop and donate with us today!

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**Goodwill San Antonio Now Makes It Easier to Recycle & Reuse Electronics**

Goodwill San Antonio is excited to announce the launch of the **Goodwill Electronics Recovery Program**. Individuals are encouraged to donate their computers, tablets, mobile phones, and other electronics at any of our 34 donations stations conveniently located throughout the communities we serve.

Through this new program, we now have an avenue to reuse electronics that still work, and recycle electronics at the end of their useful life in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of environmental protection, worker health and safety and data protection.

Businesses wanting to safely discard their electronics can schedule a donation pickup at goodwillsa.org.

In addition to the Goodwill Electronics Recovery Program, we will soon open a Computer Works store at our Highway 281 and Bitters location this summer. You will be able to find laptops, desktops, computer accessories, mobile phones and tablets at affordable prices.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn for updates on the Goodwill Computer Works store and our Goodwill Electronics Recovery Program.

We gladly accept your computers, mobile phones, tablets, and printers.

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**Affordable Tuition & 85%+ Placement Rate**

For Good Career Academy Graduates

$27.5 Million

Since 2009, the amount of combined wages earned by Good Careers Academy students, over a full year of employment following graduation

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**When you shop at or donate to Goodwill, you are a job creator.**
The Container Store® teamed up with Goodwill San Antonio to help customers “Kiss Clutter Goodbye”. Through May 15, The Container Store encouraged customers to declutter, donate and get organized. The spring campaign included two Goodwill San Antonio donation drive weekend events at The Container Store’s San Antonio location, as well as a monetary donation initiative in support of the Goodwill San Antonio mission of helping change lives through the power of work.

On the weekends of April 23 – 24 and April 30 – May 1, Goodwill had a donation truck onsite at The Container Store located at 333 NW Loop 410, in San Antonio from 12 – 4pm. Goodwill team members were on hand to accept donations of new or gently used clothing, with special need of electronics, small appliances, furniture and other household items. Everyone who donated onsite during the “Kiss Clutter Goodbye” weekend events received a donation tax receipt and a free, co-branded bag to take home as a reminder to declutter and donate items to Goodwill all year long. Customers who made a monetary donation of $5 or more at The Container Store registers throughout the campaign also received the free donation bag.

These “Kiss Clutter Goodbye” weekends also included prize drawings and demonstrations from 12:00 to 4:00 pm of some of The Container Store’s favorite decluttering solutions and techniques, as well as appearances by expert guests, and Contained Home professional organizers.

To learn more about the “Kiss Clutter Goodbye” promotion, visit The Container Store’s culture blog at whatwestandfor.com/goodwill.

Junior League of San Antonio 92nd Annual Rummage Around Event with Goodwill

On Saturday, February 27th, the Junior League of San Antonio and Goodwill San Antonio hosted the 92nd Annual Rummage Around shopping event. Thousands of patrons shopped for high-end, value-priced treasures at nine Goodwill stores across San Antonio.

Through this partnership, members of the Junior League of San Antonio donated new and gently-used brand name merchandise to Goodwill San Antonio in preparation for the annual event. In return, Goodwill San Antonio provided gift cards to the Junior League’s 15 non-profit partners. Proceeds from the event helped serve the missions of the Junior League of San Antonio and Goodwill San Antonio.