

Giving Back to His Military Brothers and Sisters

Following high school graduation, Gilbert Mendez made the life-changing decision to join the United States Marine Corp, serving 2 tours in Iraq. Following his service in the United States Marine Corp, Gilbert's transition to the civilian world was characterized by a loss of direction and self-doubt. That was, until he connected with Goodwill San Antonio.



As Gilbert entered into one of the career programs Goodwill offered, he immediately recognized values that were aligned with his own when he was asked one simple question - "How are you doing?"

What initially started out as a place to gain career assistance, quickly became his place of employment. Today, Gilbert is employed with Goodwill San Antonio as a Veterans Program Support Specialist, giving back to his brothers and sisters in the military. He provides veterans with personalized job search and resume assistance, mock interviews, and career counseling to help veterans discover what they want to do.

"I know the importance of having a job after the military. I get excited every time I help place a veteran in employment because I know what that job means to them and their family. More importantly, I know they can do it."

From his own experience, he understands many veterans are at a loss when it comes to finding meaning and purpose after a military career. He knows firsthand the challenges associated with transitioning, and is thankful to now be in a position to help other veterans navigate the civilian world.

When asked what the Goodwill San Antonio Veterans program means to him, Gilbert confidently remarks, "Hope". Hope that gives someone opportunity. Hope that gives someone a better life. Hope that enabled him to find his purpose by helping other veterans discover theirs.