

Goodwill San Antonio Partners With the Community to Re-engage Opportunity Youth

With more than 30,000 young people in Bexar County between the ages of 16 and 24 neither in school nor working, Goodwill San Antonio has partnered with the City of San Antonio and Communities In Schools on a comprehensive initiative to re-engage young adults who are currently disconnected from education, employment, or major social institutions.

The [NXT Level Youth Opportunity Center](#), inside the Frank Garrett Multi-Purpose Center at 1226 NW 18th Street, opened its doors on February 15th and is the first of its kind in Texas. The center aims to connect with the community's most vulnerable youth, by providing critical social and emotional support as well as education and career resources to help young people get back on track and navigate a successful future.

The center, managed by the City of San Antonio, is staffed with life and career coaches from Communities In Schools, a non-profit serving at-risk youth, and Goodwill San Antonio. Through supportive one-on-one sessions, participants and coaches from Communities In Schools and Goodwill work collaboratively to develop an Individualized Service Plan that provides guidance on overcoming life barriers and establishing an education or career pathway for forward advancement.

According to research conducted by [Measure of America](#) on disengaged youth, San Antonio ranked 20 out of 25 of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States with the highest rate of youth disconnection. Studies show adults who were disconnected as youth are less likely to own a home, less likely to be employed as an adult, and less likely to experience good health.

Investments in the NXT Level Youth Opportunity Center by the City of San Antonio, combined with support from JPMorgan Chase & Co. through a \$150,000 grant to Goodwill San Antonio, strengthen the economic and social health of the San Antonio community. With many young people wanting to further their education, obtain

work experience, and become productive citizens, such intentional investments provide the means and the motivation to re-engage youth who possess unlimited potential, support families, grow the workforce, and strengthen communities.

For more information on this program or to direct someone in need of these services, call 210-207-1700. Appointments are not needed.

“The reasons youth become disconnected from education and the world of work are varied and complex. Yet these young individuals merit our focus and support as they also represent our community’s greatest opportunity. They are today’s untapped talent pipeline, and tomorrow’s promise for our future workforce.”

- Steven Hussain, Chief Mission Services Officer,
Goodwill San Antonio

