

# Rosa - Even After Multiple Setbacks, You Can Move Forward

Rosa was in a painful and abusive marriage, with no voice and no opportunity to realize her own potential. She struggled both emotionally and physically until one day found the courage to escape with her four children.

Rosa and her children were building a new life, when in an instant, the world stopped turning - September 11, 2001. Rosa worked in the travel industry and after the attacks travel bookings declined significantly. She was consequently laid off.

Unemployed, desperate and depressed, Rosa with her children and mother moved from New York to San Antonio to be closer to her uncle. The move was to signify a new start, however, for the next 2 years Rosa was unable to secure employment. She was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome as a result of her past abuse, and other mental issues.

Her uncle encouraged Rosa to apply at Goodwill. He had previously worked for the organization and was familiar with the support Goodwill provides to individuals facing tough obstacles. Rosa applied and began working for Goodwill San Antonio's Business Services division as a Records Associate

Rosa was more than grateful to Goodwill for the opportunity for employment, yet the stress of working as a single mother raising four kids, coupled with being in a new environment, was more than she could handle. Rosa was on a downward spiral, failing to take her prescribed medications and contemplating suicide. Although she kept busy with work, Rosa was haunted by thoughts of when she would end it all.

It was then what would otherwise seem as an insignificant conversation with a colleague ended up having a significant impact on Rosa's life.

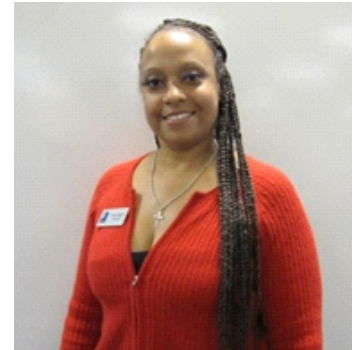
*"Without knowing it, my co-worker said the right words to make me realize I mattered, and life matters."*

Recognizing the many trials and tribulations she was facing, Goodwill quickly provided access to chaplain services and connections to resources that aided Rosa in the areas of food and financial stability as well as her overall health and well-being. Support from Goodwill's case management team ensured she was responsibly taking her medications while helping her build a plan for the future.

Rosa dreamed of a career in Education, and with the flexibility and support from Goodwill, she worked full-time while taking classes to become an elementary school teacher. Rosa's journey has been every bit raw and arduous, but it is one she looks back on and is immensely proud of. Working for Goodwill the past twelve years, Rosa has not only established a new sense of purpose, but has worked diligently to put her four children through college and is months shy of graduating with a college degree herself.

*"I told my children not going to college wasn't an option. But I can't just say that; I have to be the role model."*

Rosa's difficult past has helped shape her, but in no means does it define her. Her strength and perseverance to overcome is what accelerates her to look ahead and create a life as she designs.



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