



**GOODWILL  
SAN ANTONIO**

**Good News**  
Spring 2018



## **Maria - Courage, Positivity and Conviction**

Abused. Broken. Empty. These are the words Maria uses to describe life growing up in a home filled with domestic violence. As the oldest of five children, she witnessed the abuse between her parents and many times bore the brunt herself. She found love and acceptance in fragmented relationships, and became a young mother to nine children only to repeat the cycle she grew up in.

Hoping to exchange loss and a troubled past for a new start, Maria traveled to San Antonio with her children and partner. But struggles soon followed and with nowhere to live, they bounced among multiple shelters. Stress and uncertainty led to abuse.



But when the abuse flowed over to her children, she knew something had to change. Maria explains, "I was tired of living the way I was. I don't know where my courage came from, but that was enough." She left with nothing – no money, no vehicle, and no support. However, she now had the will to change and stand on her own.

Maria sought refuge at a women's shelter, and through various referrals, connected with Goodwill San Antonio. Goodwill provided an immediate opportunity for employment and provided assistance with child care. In February 2017, Maria started working as a Retail Associate for Goodwill and soon moved into transitional living with her children at a local shelter.

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## **SNEAK PEEK**

Get Ready to  
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Earth Day is Every  
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Warmer Weather =  
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DisabilitySA and  
Goodwill Host  
Conversation 360-  
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More Than a Career at  
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94th Annual  
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a Huge Success

# Get Ready to Celebrate Fiesta with Goodwill San Antonio

Break out the confetti as our 2018 Fiesta Medal will soon be available for an \$8 donation at select Goodwill San Antonio locations. This year's medal features our mission to help change lives through the power of work. Follow us on our social media pages for the official release date and more exciting updates!



We are also excited to participate in the 2018 Texas Cavaliers River Parade on Monday, April 23, 2018! This year's parade theme is Magnificent Missions with the Goodwill San Antonio float theme being "Mission to Slam Dunk". Among the float participants will be our very own Good William and our four 2017 Going Above and Beyond Award Winners. These winners were selected from more than 200 nominations from 1,300 employees. Each of the four winners represent a different area of our organization.

## The 2017 Going Above and Beyond Winners:



**Marjorie Cantu**  
Support Services  
Information Technology  
Database Systems  
Analyst



**Janie Espinoza**  
Workforce Development  
Education and Training  
Senior Manager



**Daniel Fabian**  
Contract Services  
Grounds Maintenance  
Crew Leader at Fort Sam  
Houston



**Gloria Ramon**  
Retail  
Donation Attendant  
Garden Ridge  
Donation Station

The recipients of this award are outstanding contributors who have been selected for providing exceptional mission-driven service, exceptional business performance results, and who have been recognized for going above and beyond to exceed customer expectations.

Keep an eye out for our river parade float on KSAT 12 on Monday, April 23, 2018.

# Earth Day is Every Day at Goodwill

Did you know Goodwill San Antonio diverted **14.6 million pounds** of items from our local landfills last year? We were able to do so because of you!

By donating to Goodwill San Antonio, you are not only making a difference in our environment, you are also supporting our mission of *helping change lives through the power of work*.

## Here's how your Goodwill does good in our community

As a non-profit organization focused on sustainability, we are committed to being good stewards of both our Earth and the donations you entrust us with. We give a second life to your donations through our stores, our Clearance Center, and our responsible recycling efforts so we can provide a second chance for individuals with disabilities and other life barriers here in our community.

## Through your donations, Goodwill San Antonio is able to...

- Offer free career services through our Good Career Centers – career interest assessments, resume development, online job search assistance, and mock interview sessions.
- Provide affordable short term training programs in high demand fields, including medical, pharmaceutical, administrative assistance, and commercial driver's license through our Good Careers Academy.
- Provide affordable goods to the community.
- Provide a responsible means for recycling and disposing of household items and electronics.

## Ways you can have an impact:

- Donate gently-used household goods, furniture, clothing, and electronics.
- Host a corporate donation drive.
- Sponsor students enrolled in the Good Careers Academy.
- Employ a Good Careers Academy graduate.
- Hire Goodwill for electronic recycling/data sanitization, transcription services, document management, commercial landscaping or call center needs.
- Take advantage of our free home pickup service for larger, bulky donations such as tables, dressers and other furniture.
- Share our mission to **help change lives through the power of work**.
- Follow us on social media and share our mission with family and friends.



Learn more about the Goodwill San Antonio mission at [goodwillsa.org](http://goodwillsa.org).

# SPRING CLEANING Starts with CLEARING CLUTTER



It's the time of year for new beginnings and renewed opportunities. A time to create a fresh start by organizing both your home and your mind. This spring, simplify life by clearing

out the clutter. As Martha Stewart would say, "that's a good thing".

Have a closet full of clothes and shoes you haven't worn within the last year? Unwanted furniture and computer parts filling up your garage? Donate and help neighbors in need! Goodwill San Antonio will gladly accept your gently used items and find them a new home. Use these [seven spring-inspired suggestions](#) to help brighten up your home and your mood while making an impact in the community.

Your household goods, electronics, and furniture help give a new start to individuals with life barriers by providing meaningful training, career services and employment opportunities. Your donations help someone like Christy find a job, despite a disability; and help someone like Brandy begin the path to a pharmaceutical career. The power of your donations help veterans like [Travis](#) find stable employment following military service.

Goodwill donations stations are conveniently located to make drop offs quick and easy. Use our [donation locator](#) to find a donation station in your area. You'll feel better having everything out of the way with the added bonus of helping change lives for people in your community.

If you have large, bulky items or too much to load into your vehicle, our Home Pickup team is a click away. Schedule online at [goodwillsa.org](#) to have our smiling crew carefully remove those items off your hands.

In the next few months when college students wrap up semester exams and prepare for summer break, Goodwill San Antonio will also be partnering with local universities for campus move-out activities. Donation bins will be delivered to dorms where students can easily donate items they no longer need or do not want to take with them.

# MORE THAN A CAREER at Goodwill San Antonio

Remember when you were in high school and were asked, "What do you want to be?" Did you have an answer? Several students visiting Goodwill San Antonio as part of SA Works' third annual Job Shadow Day answered Physical Therapist, Doctor, Attorney, Art Curator, and the military, while several others were still contemplating their future career path.



Led by the Goodwill San Antonio High School Career Navigator Team, students were welcomed by our President and CEO, Kevin J. Bergner, before being divided into smaller groups to explore careers in Finance, Marketing, and Risk Management. Each presenter spoke about career paths available in each field as well as provided insight into their daily responsibilities associated with their position. More importantly, Goodwill staff shared a common reason why they work for a non-



profit stating, "All of us choose to work at Goodwill because we want to serve something bigger than ourselves."

Sessions were held at one of our [Good Careers Academy](#) locations where

we offer affordable certification training programs in high-demand career fields. Students gained a firsthand experience as they listened to presenters and participated in hands-on activities in our Pharmacy Technician classroom and our medical and computer labs.

The student's visit to Goodwill San Antonio was nothing short of an eye-opening experience. Not only did students gain a better understanding of the opportunities available in each field, they also learned a valuable lesson – the importance of giving back to our community.

# “Success and Disability”

DisabilitySA and Goodwill San Antonio teamed up to host an inspiring and engaging conversation designed to help people with disabilities navigate success through meaningful employment. The event featured a moderated panel discussion comprised of people with



*Panelist, Lowell Butler,  
Goodwill San Antonio Career  
Navigator*

disabilities who are achieving success in the workplace or in higher education. Through interactive dialogue, panelists shared real-life experiences that helped shape their success despite any obstacles they have overcome.

The discussion was geared towards young adults with disabilities who are exploring higher

education and employment opportunities. One of our very own Goodwill Team Members, Lowell Butler, served as one of the panelists. Lowell is a Goodwill San Antonio Career Navigator who works with students obtaining their GED through RestoreEd.

## **Panelists also included:**

- Emma Faye Rudkin, Musician & Co-Founder, Aid the Silent
- Melissa Cochran, Whataburger
- Michael Guajardo, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind
- Mariah Kilbourne, UTSA Small Business Development Center

Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from community organizations providing employment training or placement services to individuals with disabilities.

## **Maria** (continued from page 1)

Maria has since gained full-time employment in a Goodwill store and is learning to be self-sufficient. Her Goodwill team has become her extended family, providing continued support and encouragement. Maria works hard because she wants to do something more for her and her children. Maria's counseling is helping her learn how to trust, how to cope, and more importantly, how to love.

Working for Goodwill, Maria is now taking care of her children and providing for them in ways she has never done before. Maria says with hopefulness, “I may be living in a shelter, in one room with my kids, but I am grateful for what we have—a roof, food and we are all together. We are truly blessed.”

Continuing to build family time with her children is important to Maria. “I wasn't a good mom to them before. I know I am a good mom now. I help them with homework. I go to their school events. They come first,” she explains. “I'm proud of the mother I've become.”

Thankful for the stability she has gained, Maria now contemplates life in the future. She hopes to someday gain a management position, and is saving for her own apartment and vehicle. With the support of Goodwill, Maria knows she is on the path to where she wants to go. “Enough was enough. I wanted to stop the cycle. This job, this blessing, has enabled me to move forward.”

# The 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior League Rummage Around Event a Huge Success

On February 24th, our Goodwill hosted the 94th Annual Rummage Around shopping event in partnership with the Junior League of San Antonio. This year's event proved to be the best yet with shoppers receiving 25% off of amazing treasures at 11 of our participating locations. More importantly, through this sale, we were able to once again have a significant impact on our community by supporting local non-profit partners.



Since 2009, Goodwill and JLSA have partnered to serve both individuals and families in our community through the annual Rummage Around shopping event. JLSA members work year-round to donate new and gently used, quality merchandise that is sold

in select Goodwill stores the day of the event. Sales from the day help to provide more than \$28,000 in Goodwill gift cards to area non-profits who serve individuals and families in need.



Proceeds from this year's sale granted Goodwill gift cards to support 10 nonprofit partners including Any Baby Can of San Antonio, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio, Clarity Guidance Center, Family Endeavors, Family Service Association of San Antonio, Good Samaritan Community Services, Magdalena House, Roy Maas Youth Alternatives, Southwest Key Programs, St. Peter-St. Joseph Children's Home.

Next year, we will be celebrating our 10-year partnership with the Junior League of San Antonio, so mark your calendars now for **Saturday, February 23, 2019! Good Times. Good Buys. Good Causes.**



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Goodwill Industries of San Antonio is a 501(c)(3) non-profit social enterprise.

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