SPOTLIGHT: MEET NIKKI

Nikki felt like her job was going nowhere fast. She was looking for a career with personal growth and a solid future. And she wanted to love it! Now, Nikki has embarked on a great career path as a Nursing Assistant and is already taking pre-nursing classes to achieve her next goal, becoming a Registered Nurse!

How did this happen? A beautiful relationship between Capital Idea and Goodwill Central Texas changed everything for Nikki.

When Nikki attended a Capital Idea orientation, she learned about the Goodwill Career and Technical Academy (GCTA) Nursing Assistant program and pre-nursing courses at Austin Community College (ACC). She jumped at the opportunity to enroll in both institutions.

“I was a medical assistant for 10 years,” said Nikki. “I knew that's not what I wanted…I wanted a career in nursing as a Nursing Assistant and eventually to be a Registered Nurse.” She enrolled in the GCTA Nursing Assistant program that day.

In May, Nikki graduated from the program. Just 1½ weeks later, she was offered a full-time job at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Center with a much higher salary than her old position.

The best part of her job is seeing patients heal and go home. “I’m proud to be a part of their recovery process, and it makes me so happy to see their healing go so far, so fast,” she says. “That's just one reason I really want this future for myself, and why I love this job,” Nikki relates.

She’s already working hard towards her Registered Nursing degree by taking all the prerequisites at Austin Community College.

Nikki admits it is a lot of hard work, but it will be worth it for her future and for her family’s future. Though she’s juggling school and a full-time job, she expects to graduate with a nursing degree in December of 2019! She and her husband have four children, three in high school and a two year old.

“I’m showing my kids that anything is possible, and because of them, I know I won’t quit. What I’m pursuing will make a great impact on their future, and it will encourage them to always push themselves further in life and chase their dreams.”

Nikki’s promise: “I will succeed!”

“Goodwill has helped me and my family become more self-sufficient. With their help, anything is possible.”
- Nikki
Dear Central Texas,
Fall is upon us! And our 21st Annual Hall of Honor event is right around the corner. We hope you will attend – you are sure to be inspired!

Also noteworthy, we’re only weeks away from opening new stores: the much-anticipated Outlet North near Grand Avenue Parkway, our new Whitestone store in Cedar Park, a new store in Kyle, and we’re moving our Norwood store across the street to Clock Tower Drive. There’s more than one reason for the updated Clock Tower store. Of course, it will be bigger, but we migrated the store for a greater reason: to allow for the expansion of our Goodwill Career and Technical Academy. We will increase our “Just In Time” occupational training opportunities for everyone in the community who seeks career development.

In Partnership,
Jerry

P.S. If you need a little inspiration today, please enjoy the video of our 2016 Graduating Class from The Goodwill Excel Center by visiting goodwillcentraltexas.org and clicking on our YouTube link. I am so proud of every one of our new graduates!

HealthSouth: Caring for Central Texas

HealthSouth, a hospital specializing in rehabilitation, is an incredible business partner and a strong supporter of the Goodwill Central Texas vision of empowering 100,000 Central Texans to transform their lives through work. If this business name rings a bell, you’re right. You just read about them in our Spotlight cover story about Nikki. HealthSouth attends many of our Nursing Assistant hiring events and employs graduates from the Goodwill Career and Technical Academy (GCTA). There are even future plans to partner directly with the GCTA so Nursing Assistant students can perform their clinical practice hours at their facilities.

When HealthSouth hires our Nursing Assistant graduates, they’re offering a fresh start in a rewarding career with competitive starting pay! As Nikki says, “They care about every person that comes through their door, patient or employee, and it shows.”

For more information about HealthSouth, visit healthsouthaustin.com.

We’re Excited to Announce...

Jerry Davis, President and CEO of Goodwill Central Texas, was awarded the Austin Business Journal’s CEO of the Year, in the non-profit category on September 22. Congratulations, Jerry!

Mark Hiemstra, COO of Goodwill Central Texas, accepted the award on Jerry’s behalf.

Read more about the award in the Austin Business Journal.

“Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. It’s a true honor to be recognized in this community. Together, we can make it even better.”

– Jerry Davis

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CREATE YOUR BEST HALLOWEEN COSTUME EVER AT GOODWILL!

NEW COSTUMES
STARTING AT $9.99

FUNDER’S CORNER: GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES!

Recently, Goodwill Central Texas (GCT) was awarded almost $4M in total grant funding for three new programs from the U.S. Department of Labor: TechHire*, LifeLaunch*, and Training to Work.

1. TechHire will empower 234 youth, young adults and other career seekers through the Goodwill Careers in Technology program. Two high-growth IT career pathways will be made available to them: Computer User Support Specialist and Computer Programmer.

2. The LifeLaunch Youth Reentry Program allows GCT to work with opportunity youth by providing employment and career training opportunities, and robust support services as they are exiting the criminal justice system.

3. Lastly, the Training to Work 3 Program will create opportunities for hundreds of participants as they reintegrate into the community after being released from incarceration. With the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism, Goodwill will offer career and technical skills training in industry-recognized certifications.

DELL FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

A group of representatives from the Dell Foundation attended our Philanthropitch presentation in April. After reading a summary of our pitch, Michael and Susan Dell were so impressed by our training and educational programs that they granted us $125,000 for the Goodwill Career and Technical Academy “Just in Time” Training series. Thank you, Dell family!

Find out more about the Goodwill Career & Technical Academy at excelcenterhighschool.org.

*GCT was named a sub-grantee by Goodwill Industries International in two of the awards: TechHire and LifeLaunch!
You’ve been on all of the Real Goodwill Tours and you’re ecstatic about the amazing things that Goodwill does for Central Texas. Share it with the rest of your community! Here are four easy ways to be a Goodwill Ambassador!

1. **Call Us.** Wow, that was easy! Just call 512.637.7100 and ask for Development and we’ll send you an Ambassador Starter Kit (you can also email realgoodwill@goodwillcentraltexas.org).

2. **Encourage your social and professional network to come on a Tour.** They’ll get to tour the FIRST adult charter high school in Texas, where people over the age of 26 can earn their high school diploma.

3. **Can’t come to us? We’ll come to you.** That’s right, we take our show On The Road. Host a special tour event at your office, in your home, or at your local Goodwill store.

4. **Be a hero.** Keep sharing what you know about Goodwill, and you will change people’s lives!

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**Tours Run the Second Friday of Every Month**
9:30am - 10:30am

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**GOODWILL CAN HELP YOU GET THE CAREER YOU WANT!**

- Education and job training
- Career navigation
- Career opportunities

**CONTACT US AT 512.637.7580**

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**SENIORS DAY**

**NOW EVERY TUESDAY!**

30% OFF everything in store

*Exclusions apply. Visit goodwillcentraltexas.org*