The day Kevin was sentenced to 15 years in prison, he realized he needed to make a change so he wouldn’t spend the rest of his life in the prison system. He dedicated himself to this new perspective and sought ways to use his time productively; it was while incarcerated that Kevin discovered his passion and talent for leather-working. He became so skilled at his trade that his work was featured in a nationally-publicized magazine. Finally, Kevin felt he had a plan and a direction for his future.

Continue Kevin’s story inside...
Hello Central Texas,

I am truly pleased to share with you what a huge year we had in 2017! We made record-breaking revenue, which allowed us to place Central Texans into more than 3,000 jobs, provide people with over 10,000 career advancement services, graduate 150 students from The Goodwill Excel Center adult high school - including 10 at our first ever campus extension at the Lockhart Women’s Correctional Facility - and see 305 people complete training at the Goodwill Career & Technical Academy. And those are just the highlights! The list goes on and we’re grateful to all of you who helped make that happen.

In 2017, the City of Austin, in conjunction with Texas Workforce Solutions, released a Master Community Workforce Plan that estimated the Austin metro area would have more than 60,000 middle-skills jobs to fill by 2021. The Goodwill Career & Technical Academy (GCTA) is poised to help build this essential workforce, with people trained to excel in middle-skills positions through industry-recognized certifications. That’s why, during our 60th Anniversary Year, we are embarking on an anniversary capital campaign to build a new and improved GCTA with more space, updated classrooms, equipment, and the ability to serve an additional 1,000 students each year! I invite you to learn more about our ambitious endeavor at goodwillcentraltexas.org/60years and encourage you to share with your network how, together, we are transforming lives in Central Texas.

In Partnership,

JERRY DAVIS

KEVIN PAVES A PATH TO SUCCESS! (continued)

Upon release, Kevin was living in a halfway house, with little support and looking for work. He was directed to Goodwill so that he could partner with a Case Manager. He participated in multiple career-advancement trainings which led to a position as a Forklift Driver at the Goodwill Distribution Center. Kevin was thankful for the opportunity but knew he needed to continue his trajectory to pursue his dream career in leather-working. It was about this time that his mentor from another Goodwill program completed a Certified Driver’s License (CDL) Training at the Goodwill Career & Technical Academy (GCTA), and encouraged Kevin to do the same. Kevin decided to go for it, and quickly completed the training, securing a position as a truck driver with Austin Wood Recycling. His new job has long hours and takes him all over Texas but Kevin says he doesn’t mind, in fact he enjoys the challenge of the job and appreciates the sense of purpose it provides.

“Goodwill...opens doors for you. I never realized what Goodwill could do for you!”

Kevin gives credit to his Case Manager with empowering him to get this far, “...anytime I need to talk, she makes time for me right away...if I’m having trouble figuring out next steps, she helps me find the resources that I need.” Kevin still plans to open a leather-working shop one day. After meeting with a Goodwill Financial Literacy Trainer, he was able to obtain his first credit card and begin establishing credit, working towards buying his own home. His goal is to have a leather-working workshop at his house, where he can continue his craft, and create beautiful works of art that bring joy to others. “Goodwill...opens doors for you. I never realized what Goodwill could do for you!”
FUNDER’S CORNER

BBVA Compass and Goodwill Central Texas have a productive and long standing relationship, starting back as early as 2011 when BBVA made their first community investment with Goodwill for financial literacy services. It was a natural fit, then, for the BBVA Compass Foundation to be one of the first contributors to our 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign.

Earlier this year, the Foundation generously awarded Goodwill $250,000 to help build a new hub for financial education as part of the future Goodwill Career & Technical Academy (GCTA). The BBVA Compass Center for Financial Education will provide financial literacy services to GCTA students, as well as students of The Goodwill Excel Center and Goodwill Program Participants. Instruction will focus on overall financial health and the basics of personal finance, budgeting, saving and managing credit.

“Goodwill Central Texas has been tireless in its efforts to empower people to work and educate our communities, and our financial commitment reflects our sharp focus on accelerating those efforts and bridging the knowledge gap so that more people can take better control of their financial lives,” said BBVA Compass Austin Market CEO Joe Petet. “This partnership will serve as a model for our efforts to establish a network of financial education centers throughout the bank’s footprint.”

Thank you to BBVA Compass for their investment in our community! We look forward to our continued partnership.

RETAIL CORNER

reStitch is your new favorite online thrift store, offering shoppers an affordable, “buy-it-now” resale experience, stocked with value-priced, women’s apparel. Shipping is free on orders of $24.99 or more and every time you shop you are helping empower people in our community through work. Check it out at www.goodwillcentraltexas.org/restitch!

You already know that you love to shop Goodwill, but did you know that you can shop Goodwill online 24/7? Explore all of our online shopping experiences at goodwillcentraltexas.org/shop-online!
St. David’s HealthCare includes seven of the area’s leading hospitals and is one of the largest health systems in the United States. As a Goodwill Staffing Group (GSG) employer partner, St. David’s has utilized staffing services across multiple divisions but most frequently with the Environmental Services Department (EVS). Since the partnership began in July 2016, St. David’s has retained multiple, full time employees through GSG. These employment opportunities have enabled many of our program participants to become self-sufficient and better provide for their futures. Says Kevin Davies, Director, Environmental Services Department, “We have a strong criteria for our team; Goodwill Staffing has done a great job providing us work-ready employees that well-represent our St. David’s brand.”

Thank you to St. David’s for your partnership and for generating life long connection to work.