



in the works

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF DALLAS, INC.

*Goodwill Industries of Dallas exists to provide job training and employment to persons with disabilities and disadvantages to help them transform their lives through **the power of jobs.***

Goodwill Youth Earns GED, Finds Success

Goodwill Industries of Dallas' Youth Services Program provides educational services and GED certification classes to youth aged 16 to 20 years old. The young people in this program are typically classified as at-risk, which can mean a variety of things—they have dropped out of school, they have been adjudicated in the juvenile courts, they have limited educational experience, they have family issues and, in some cases, they are homeless or parents themselves.

Area attrition rates are high and the problem of drop-outs is neither getting worse, nor is it improving. Each year students slip through the cracks, because they lack the educational fundamentals and school becomes too difficult for them, they don't get the individual attention they need or their family simply does not see education as a priority.



Cecilia Gomez is one such student. She came to Goodwill in August 2008 for GED training after dropping out of school in the 8th grade. She found the environment at school hostile as she constantly faced pressure from other students to have sex, do drugs or join a gang. All she really wanted was to be left alone and to be able to learn. She felt safer to drop out and be with her family than be harassed at school everyday. Finally after some time, she found out about Goodwill's educational services through a friend.

After she was assessed by Goodwill coaches, it was determined that she required Basic Educational Remediation, which meant that she needed to be brought up to an 8th grade level in Math and English before she could begin GED classes.

Cecilia worked hard throughout 2008 and 2009. With the help of her instructors **Dan Ayers** and **Barbara Johnson** and her case manager **Georgette Caldwell**, brought her educational skills up to the level necessary for her to take the GED. She often felt frustrated, sometimes hopeless, but she persevered and went on to take her GED and pass all five sections.

"I've known Cecilia for two years. Within that time, she has developed from a shy, reticent young girl into a hard-working, focused young lady." Says Dan Ayers, "The pride I feel as a result of her growth is almost beyond words."

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host a donation drive

To set-up a donation drive, please call 214.638.2800 x137

sponsor a golf team

For more information, please call 214.638.2800 x240

volunteer for the day

To set-up a volunteer day for your office, please call 214.638.2800 x242

The Need for Services in Dallas is on the Rise

Each April, Goodwill across the country are required to take an accounting of the prior year's activities and services and report their findings in Goodwill Industries International's *Annual Statistical Report (ASR)*. The report examines the status of each Goodwill's mission support services, business lines and finances and draws on Goodwill member interviews and external economic forecasting sources to highlight important trends. Goodwill Dallas' report for 2009 shows that we served 1,981 individuals who sought jobs, job training and community service work including the 847 who were employed by Goodwill Dallas last year. But the demand outweighed the people served— we had **8,405 persons seeking jobs and services** who we were not able to serve due to lack of funding and the overwhelming demand attributed to the flagging economy.

32% of the people served had a variety of disabilities including physical disabilities such as visual and hearing impairments, neurological disabilities, learning disabilities, substance abuse, and emotional and developmental disabilities. The remaining 68% fell into the disadvantaged group, people who are unemployed, working poor, on welfare, at-risk or ex-offenders, older workers, homeless and those lacking a GED or adequate education to obtain a GED. Of the population served, 48% were female and 52% were male. 56% were African American, 21% were Hispanic, 20% were Caucasian.

All in all, Goodwill Dallas continues to serve Dallas and its surrounding cities in some very important ways... By offering job training and employment to persons facing a variety of barriers and by presenting the public a means for recycling their unwanted items for the benefit of the environment and the community. ♻️