

WorkQuest

FOCUS

on Jobs for People with Disabilities

WorkQuest Newsletter LVI

July 2022

Goodwill North Central Texas: Changing lives through the power of work



Michele Herrera works at the Texas Department of Transportation on a temporary employment services contract the agency holds with Goodwill North Central Texas.

When hearing the name Goodwill, many people just think about a thrift store. But at Goodwill North Central Texas, their mission goes far beyond just providing affordable goods.

Goodwill North Central Texas, a Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) in the *WorksWonders* Program, is dedicated to providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities, disadvantages and anyone facing barriers to employment — including youth, seniors, veterans and military families, immigrants, and people with other specialized needs.

Michele Herrera is one of the many individuals whose life has been changed by Goodwill North Central Texas. She currently works as a record keeper at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and is employed through a service contract the agency holds with Goodwill North Central Texas.

Having experienced homelessness in 2017, Herrera found out about the Goodwill Jobs Program through True Worth Place, a homeless resource center in Fort Worth. She met a representative of Goodwill North Central Texas and was provided with the tools necessary to begin filling temporary employment positions through Goodwill Staffing Services in 2019, before she moved on to her current role with TxDOT. Herrera says that finding out about this opportunity allowed her to start her path toward employment and gave her the opportunity to provide for herself and her children.

Goodwill North Central Texas employees currently fulfill a number of roles throughout the organization, including janitorial positions, administrative positions, data entry operators, and other various

temporary employment service positions. The opportunities provided by Goodwill North Central Texas have helped individuals with disabilities gain skills and credentials that will set them up for success in finding meaningful employment that will allow them to become financially independent.

In addition to providing these employment opportunities, they also provide the individuals in the communities they serve with additional resources including career fairs, resume writing assistance, interview preparation, job skills and training and more. These resources allowed them to be able to place several of their employees into permanent employment.

“Goodwill made sure I didn’t go out into the workforce unprepared,” said Herrera. “I am very blessed to have this opportunity because it has allowed me to finally be able to support myself and my children without having to work several low-paying jobs.”

Goodwill North Central Texas is proud to be able to change lives through the power of work and attributes its success to the hard work of its employees.

“We recognize the unique contributions of all human beings,” said David Cox, president and CEO of Goodwill North Central Texas. “We don’t just provide employment, we also give individuals the empowerment and self-esteem to become more independent and self-sufficient.”

As for Herrera, she has become a valuable asset to the TxDOT team and says her job has given her life a new meaning. “My job means everything to me,” said Herrera. “It has truly restored and redeemed me.”



A Message from President and CEO **Fred M. Weber, Jr.**

This summer, WorkQuest is offering regional compliance seminars to Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) around the state. These seminars serve to inform the CRP staff and employees of any State Use procedures and legislative updates that will help them when contracting through the *WorksWonders* Program. This year's seminars will also see the return of safety training as an effort to equip CRPs with the information necessary to operate in a safe and efficient working environment, which includes roadway, janitorial and chemical safety. To find out more about seminars being offered near you, please visit WorkQuest.com.

WorkQuest staff is hard at work planning the 15th annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner and 34th annual Products and Services Expo. The dinner, which will take place the evening of Sept. 19, is a celebration of the accomplishments of the many hard-working CRP employees, as well as the customers that purchase their products and services. The expo, which takes place the following Tuesday morning (Sept. 20), allows representatives from CRPs to interact with purchasers who utilize their products and services, demonstrate how certain products work, and introduce any new products or services that are available. Visit our website or call our office for more information about how you can attend these events.

As we look toward the fall and the end of 2022, WorkQuest is also in the process of preparing for the upcoming 2023 legislative session. WorkQuest will continue to monitor legislation that could affect the *WorksWonders* Program in order to ensure the further success of our mission to employ Texans with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Weber, Jr.
President/CEO

2022 CRP Compliance and Safety Seminar Dates

Houston – July 11
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Hilton Houston Westchase
9999 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas 77042
713.974.1000

San Antonio – July 27
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel
6909 North Loop 1604 West
San Antonio, TX 78249
210.690.0300

Corpus Christi – July 28
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Emerald Beach Hotel
1102 S. Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
361.883.5731

Tyler – August 16
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott
7424 S. Broadway Ave.
Tyler, TX 75703
903.509.4411

UT Arlington – August 17
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
UT Arlington
140 W. Mitchell St.
Rm E200G
Arlington, TX 76019

San Angelo – August 23
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott
2572 Southwest Blvd.
San Angelo, TX 76901
325.703.6400

Austin – August 29
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Holiday Inn Austin Midtown
6000 Middle Fiskville Rd.
Austin, TX 78752
512.451.5757

“Larry Sargee, Region I marketing manager, retires; WorkQuest welcomes Brian Powell to take over role

After 26 years with WorkQuest, Mr. Larry Sargee retired from his position as the regional marketing manager for services for the Region I area in May 2022.

During his time with the organization, Mr. Sargee was integral to the management and fulfillment of service contracts between *WorksWonders* Program Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) and procurement agencies within 154 counties across the region.

In addition to his role as a contract manager, Mr. Sargee was a certified trainer and responsible for performing specialized trainings for Program CRPs, such as the ISSA Cleaning Management Standard (CIMS) training, which was especially useful to CRPs during COVID-19.

“WorkQuest thanks Mr. Sargee for his more than two decades of dedication and commitment to ensuring individuals with disabilities across the state of Texas are provided employment opportunities,” said Fred Weber, president and CEO of WorkQuest. “We wish him well and hope he enjoys a happy retirement.”

Taking over the role of regional marketing manager for services for the Region I area, WorkQuest welcomes Mr. Brian Powell!

Before coming to work for WorkQuest in May of this year, Mr. Powell worked with the *WorksWonders* Program as the executive director of Oak Creek Center – a Program CRP.

“WorkQuest is excited to announce Brian Powell as our new regional marketing manager for services in the West Texas region,” said Roxy Van Loo, state sales director for WorkQuest. “Operating out of Abilene, Texas, he will be responsible for the coordination of services provided to county, city and state agencies throughout Region I. Given his previous experience working within the *WorksWonders* Program, we are pleased about the unique perspective Mr. Powell will bring to the role.”

WorkQuest is looking forward to further expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities with Mr. Powell as a member of the WorkQuest team!

2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner and Products and Services Expo

Year after year, WorkQuest is glad to honor its *WorksWonders* Program employees and customers for their contribution and ongoing support to the Program at the annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner. Additionally, the annual Products and Services Expo allows Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) partner representatives to showcase their products and services while getting to make connections with their current and potential customers.

This year, WorkQuest will host its 15th annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner on Monday, Sept. 19 and its 34th annual Products and Services Expo on Tuesday, Sept. 20. The events will be hosted in person at the Doubletree Hotel, located at 6505 N IH-35 in Austin, Texas.



2021 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees at the annual banquet in Austin.

WorkQuest appreciates everyone who participates in the Program including the individuals who provide services, temporary employment services and products at its 15th annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner. In addition to the pinnacle honor of the evening, the 2022 Artie Lee Hinds Award, some of this year’s recognitions will include Most Motivational Employee, Most Inspirational Employee and Spirit of State Use Award. WorkQuest is excited to celebrate the *WorksWonders* Program and is looking forward to welcoming everyone to this year’s events.

For more information and to stay up to date on this year’s events, please visit WorkQuest.com.

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15th annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner

Monday, September 19, 2022

Doubletree Hotel Austin

6505 N IH-35

Austin, Texas 78752

34th annual Products and Services Expo

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Doubletree Hotel Austin

6505 N IH-35

Austin, Texas 78752

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