



Goodwill Celebrated Four Individuals at the 16th Annual Hall of Honor

More than 400 attendees enjoyed an evening of celebration at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin, TX

AUSTIN, TX -- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas hosted a packed crowd of more than 400 business partners and community members at their 16th annual Hall of Honor event on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Austin. The event honored four individuals who overcame barriers to employment and achieved success in the workplace. The Doubletree Hotel was also recognized for supporting Goodwill as a business partner and helping individuals find employment in the community.

Honorees Gabriel Barron, Heather Davis, James Gogolewski and Calvy Schoen each overcame various barriers to employment, including homelessness, substance abuse issues and lack of education, to obtain work. Through Goodwill's support and employment services, which include resume and interview training, job coaching, basic needs assistance, or help with locating proper childcare, all four honorees have achieved meaningful employment in the community.

"The four individuals honored during the Hall of Honor didn't just achieve gainful employment in the face of barriers, they have achieved something Goodwill works to instill in everyone we help—a greater level of self-sufficiency," said Jerry Davis, president and CEO of Goodwill. "They are just a few shining examples of the more than 14,000 people that Goodwill served just last year. This event is Goodwill's mission at work, and our honorees should be very proud of their successes in both the workplace and in life."

During the banquet, videos featuring each honoree's story were premiered. It was an emotional evening, and the room full of attendees left with an important message about the power that work has to change lives. Visit www.austingoodwill.org to watch each honoree's video to learn more about their journey to overcome their obstacles to employment to find a meaningful job at an employer in the community.

This year's banquet was underwritten by sponsors, which allows Goodwill to invite and educate more community members about Goodwill's mission. The attendees collectively made a significant contribution this year to support Goodwill's programs that help people find jobs in Central Texas. To learn more about Goodwill's Hall of Honor Awards Banquet and to watch a video about each inductee, visit www.AustinGoodwill.org.

About Goodwill Industries of Central Texas:

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the mission of providing job-related services for people with barriers to employment. Revenue generated through the sale of donated goods is used to fund job training and employment programs for Central Texans. For more information about Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, go to www.austingoodwill.org.

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(from left) Goodwill Board Member Ted Delisi, Honoree Calvy Schoen and President and CEO Jerry Davis

Calvy turned to Goodwill for assistance as he looked for his first job. He was facing barriers to employment due to a cognitive disability and limited mobility. Calvy was connected with Goodwill's Community Rehabilitation Program, and after working with his Goodwill Case Manager, he successfully secured a job at HEB as a bagger. "Goodwill's job training prepared me for the real world," said Calvy.

Learn more about Calvy and the other inductees by visiting www.austingoodwill.org.