



Goodwill
Southwest Florida



Job-Link

Success Story

Daisy Martinez

2017 Chet Perry Breakthrough Achiever

Today, Daisy Martinez, 32, has a broad smile and dimples so deep, one can barely notice the scars across her face until she points them out. Two years ago, she was in a very different place in her life.

"I was in an abusive relationship with a man, he attacked me in front of my 8-year-old daughter when I came home from work one day," Martinez recalled.

As she lay unconscious from the beating, her daughter ran to a neighbor for help. The boyfriend took off. Martinez was taken to the hospital; her sister took care of the little girl.

"I had to leave everything behind, my job, my home, because he knew where I worked and lived."

Her older sister, Kaysy Maradiaga, is a Job-Link Coordinator at the Goodwill Job-Link Center on Palm Beach Blvd. in Tice. She helped place Martinez and her daughter at the ACT Shelter. She also assisted with updating her resume, practicing interviewing skills and obtaining proper clothing so she could apply for a new job, all typical services offered at Goodwill Job-Link Centers.

"I was lost, hurt and confused. Goodwill has some great people who helped motivate me," she said.

She was hired in July 2016 as a part-time cashier at the Palm Beach Donation & Retail Center and has since been promoted to shift manager with full-time benefits. After she became employed with Goodwill, she and her daughter were able to move out of the shelter and into stable housing.

"She always comes to work and does what she's asked to do. She's a team player," says Store Manager Mainor Munguia.

She now leads 12 employees and tries to be a role model. "I'm going to keep pushing so I can be a store manager and some day run my own business," Martinez said. Her sister knows that to be true.

"I nominated her because of her professional growth. She literally started from nothing. I'm so proud of her and I know that the sky is the limit for her," says Maradiaga.

Martinez's vision for her own retail business is one where women can feel pampered with salon services and boutique clothing. Her other goal is to teach children how to dance to all forms of music. Her dimples get deeper as she smiles and says, "I love to dance."

