

Overcoming enormous hurdles, Sevala Benton achieves glowing success

Sevala Benton has overcome her share of obstacles, skills that contributed to making her business, Lone Star Mailing and Printing Services, a success. Benton escaped her homeland, Bosnia, in the early 1990s with her two small children, eventually ending up in a German refugee camp. Her husband was killed in the Bosnian War in 1994. Shortly after his death, Benton moved to Chicago, where her parents and sister were living.

After settling in the states, Benton learned English and began working for a fitness machine company where she worked her way up from line worker to supervisor of office services. In 1998, Benton came to Texas to attend a seminar and decided she had had enough of the Chicago winters and that she loved the warm weather, job opportunities and schools in Texas.

Benton settled in Kingwood and eventually opened Lone Star Mailing and Printing Services in 2004. The shop offers graphic design, printing, direct mail, invitations and announcements, banners and signs.

Benton said, "We offer anything from business cards to billboards and everything in between. From conception to completion, we can meet

all your design, printing and mailing needs." She credits the success of Lone Star to happy customers, quality products and competitive pricing.

Benton has many fans who appreciate the challenges she has faced.

Local resident Don E. Miller said, "She started with nothing in the U.S. but her iron will to succeed. She raised two remarkable daughters and started her own business from scratch. Sevala has garnered the respect of everyone who knows her. If we are truly a nation of immigrants, then Sevala is the poster child for the American dream. Her epic journey is movie material."



Benton's friend, Gwendolyn Crawford-Condoleo, added, "Sevala is one of the hardest working women I know. She is creative, kind, reliable, honest and generous beyond words. Sevala goes out of her way to support the community. I have seen her mentor young people as they start a business, hire a friend that needed a job, give countless hours of her time and talents to area non-profits and support numerous

fundraising events. Her personal story is an inspiration to all who know her. She has never forgotten where she came from and always wants the best for everyone she meets. Sevala is a beautiful and loyal friend. She genuinely loves her family and friends and her positive attitude is a true joy to be around."

Benton found love again when she met her second husband, Terry Benton, in 2008. The couple married in 2010 and the two now work together at Lone Star.

Benton's two daughters, Merima and Emina, have grown up and have gone on to find success in their own right, with Merima working for the corporate division of Nordstrom in Washington D.C. and Emina working on a masters degree in human rights and humanitarian action in Paris.

Benton received the Women of Achievement Award – Entrepreneur of the Year in 2007 and the Evelyn Walters Woman of Excellence Award in 2013. Benton embodies her personal philosophy that, "Every successful person begins with two beliefs: The future can be better than the present and I have the power to make it happen!"

Lone Star Mailing and Printing Services is located at 245 FM 1960 Bypass in Humble and can be reached at 281-319-6245 or at www.lonestarmailing.com.



Sevala Benton, Owner

Lone Star
Mailing & Printing
Services, LLC

OPENED DOORS:
2004

FAVORITE QUOTE:
"Believe, hope, study and work hard
– you will gain in the end."