

**Christopher A. Beck bio** interviewed by Wanda Bruce Graham



Development Program, Engineering Systems Engineer, Team Leader GMT325 Program, and Systems Support Supervisor for EDS General Motors – Truck Group, Shreveport, LA from 1986 until 1997.

Christopher “Chris” A. Beck is the Account Business Manager, HP Enterprise Services – Nissan North America Account. He has held this position since 2009. In 1997, Chris and his family arrived to Tennessee because of his position as a Business Development Specialist for the EDS Saturn Account at Spring Hill, TN. He also held the position of Account Manager, Saturn SPO, Business Services, and VSSM, EDS Saturn Account/General Motors-Spring Hill, Spring Hill, TN from 1998 until 2006. In 2006, he became the Business Development Manager, EDS AT&T-TNII Account in Nashville, TN from 2006 until 2009. His previous professional experiences included four different positions from Engineering Systems

Chris a native of Austin, TX and his wife, Cheryl, who grew up in Shreveport, LA, were married in 1990 in Shreveport, LA. They are the proud parents of three daughters: Megan (19), a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Madison (17), a senior at Franklin High School, and Mallory (12), a seventh grader at Freedom Middle School. Chris met Cheryl at his first job out of college at the General Motors plant in Shreveport, LA. Cheryl was working as a summer intern from Louisiana Tech and assigned to the production line building GM trucks. Chris and his family moved to Franklin in 1997, when his career brought him to the area for a position with EDS at Saturn in Spring Hill, TN. Chris Beck’s father was an educator and coach at St. Edwards University and his mother worked as a nurse and full time homemaker. They currently live in Rockport, TX. Chris grew up in and around Austin, TX, where he attended Catholic grade schools and graduated from Pflugerville High School (Pfluger is of German origin). He also has three brothers and a sister who still live in Austin, Texas. His summer job during his high school years included working at a local grocery store. Chris’ activities in high school included golf, basketball, cross-country running, and he also enjoyed intramural sports during his college years.

Chris Beck is a 1986 graduate of the University of Texas where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. It’s no surprise that his favorite subjects in college were math, science, and engineering. He really enjoyed problem solving and these three disciplines are all about problem solving. He spent his college

summers in a coop program working for IBM. His continuing education has included Engineering System Development Program, 1986 and Manufacturing Enterprise Leadership Program, 1995. Chris completed the Information Technology Business Management Certification program at Belmont University in 2005, the EDS Client Delivery Development Program, Plano, Texas in 2006, and the Cisco Channel University's Fast Start Program in Nashville in 2008.

As mentioned before, Chris met Cheryl at General Motors plant where she worked as a summer intern. When asked to share something amusing or special about how he met Cheryl he said her dad's secretary asked him to come to her dad's office to fix a faulty computer. The entire time Chris checked out the computer, Cheryl was hiding in the office determining if she should go out on a date with Chris. It's obvious he passed the test.

Chris and his family are members of Saint Philip's Catholic Church in downtown Franklin where Father Bala is their pastor. One thing he really likes about Saint Philip's is the active involvement of the church within the community and the support for a variety of ministries. Cheryl is the leader for the Women of Faith Ministry and both Chris and Cheryl volunteer in the youth ministry program.

As a family they enjoy a variety of activities including being at a beach whether off the Florida Panhandle, or in Gulf Shores Alabama. They really enjoyed the beach. Chris' interests include being a very proud Soccer Dad and the entire family has been involved with the Williamson County Soccer Association since Megan was seven. His oldest daughter Megan has also been a cross-country runner and is very health conscientious; she's majoring in chemistry and the science of nutrition. Chris is especially proud of his three daughters and gives the most credit to his wife for the wonderful young ladies they have become. Chris is a golfer, runner, likes to fish and collects sports memorabilia. One of his more famous items includes a signed Wayne Gretzky hockey helmet and a jar of sand from the 1999 U.S. Ryder Cup Championship victory. At the Ryder Cup, the crowd was so large that at the 18th hole he and others ended up in the sand trap and that's when he collected the sand.

Chris Beck not only serves as a board member for HFHWC but shares his professional expertise with numerous other associations and the community. He is currently a National Science Foundation Visiting Committee member and also serves on the Nashville Technology Council, Economic Development and Education Committees. He served on the Board of Directors of the Nashville Technology Council for four years; chaired the EDS Tennessee - Marketing Support Council for a year; served as a board member, Center for Information Technology Education of Technology Education (CITE) of Tennessee for five years; served on the board of the Nashville State Community College Foundation for three years.

Chris began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in 1986 in Louisiana with his company there. When his career brought him to Williamson County he met our board president, Tim Knight through the soccer association. Tim invited him to participate in the HFHWC - Habitee fundraiser and Chris also volunteered for several build days. His daughters, Megan and Madison have helped on our Habitat High builds. Chris has been on the board since the Fall of 2010.

His favorite parts of the Habitat experience are the build days. Chris said there is a sense of accomplishment when you've worked and you can look back at the home and say you've completed something. When asked to complete this interview with a few quotes about Habitat, **Chris said: "Habitat for Humanity is really about changing people's lives for the better. Habitat for Humanity also provides for a stronger community through volunteering. It helps you meet and connect with other people in our community who enjoy giving back."**