

Achieve

GOODWILL OF CENTRAL & SOUTHERN INDIANA

Spring 2019

A FRESH START: Second Chances at Goodwill

Success After
Incarceration

One Family,
Decades of Giving



President's message



Greetings,

When people hear Goodwill, they often think about our retail stores, where Hoosiers can donate the items they no longer use, and shop for great deals and unique finds. Most also know we provide employment opportunities to people with disabilities, criminal histories and other barriers. Some even think that's where Goodwill's mission ends, but it's actually where it begins.

When you donate and shop at Goodwill, you're not just supporting jobs for people with employment barriers — you're also giving an adult a second chance at a high school diploma, a new mom regular visits with a registered nurse and so much more. Thanks to people like you across central and southern Indiana, thousands of lives are being changed every day.

That's why I'm excited to introduce *Achieve*, our new corporate publication, where you'll see how your support for Goodwill helps people increase their independence and reach their potential. Over the past 25 years of delivering the *Working Times*, our previous publication, our organization has evolved. Employment continues to be a big part of what we do, but we also incorporated education and health into our mission. *Achieve* shines a spotlight on the employees, students and people that participate in our programs and whose individual achievements make it possible for us to achieve our broader mission.

In this issue, you'll read stories about people who faced a number of challenges but saw an opportunity for a fresh start and seized it. We hope you are inspired, and we invite you to get more involved with our mission of empowering people in the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kent A. Kramer
President and CEO
Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana

Success after incarceration

Referred to Goodwill's New Beginnings program by his parole officer in 2017, Christopher Holifield was determined to make a change, for himself as well as his children.

"I was keeping the wrong company and made some bad choices," Christopher admitted. "My biggest challenge after three-and-a-half years incarcerated was finding a job."

New Beginnings is a six-month, re-entry program designed to provide the support that people recently released from incarceration need to successfully transition back into society. They work full-time at Goodwill, while receiving support in housing, financial literacy, medical and dental care, and other professional and life skills.

"Having people there who motivate you, believe in you and lift you up when you stumble is the most valuable part of the program," Christopher said.

Christopher earned a forklift certification and received on-the-job training while working at Goodwill's Commercial Services production facility in Indianapolis. As a result of his success with New Beginnings, he was referred to Goodwill's job placement team for help finding permanent employment, eventually accepting a position at Fastenal Manufacturing. Within seven months, he was promoted to lead his department.

Christopher thinks a program like New Beginnings should be mandatory for those transitioning back into society after incarceration.

“People with my background can succeed. We just need support, guidance and leadership.”

—Christopher Holifield



Goodwill offers **New Beginnings** through our Commercial Services division as well as in our four retail outlet facilities. To learn more, visit goodwillindy.org/employment-services.



A Fresh Start:

Second Chances at Goodwill

By all indications, Bryan Gilbert was on a path to success — a curious learner pursuing a degree in journalism — but at 22 years old, his world was turned upside down. His mother passed away from diabetes complications, leaving Bryan devastated and without any parental guidance or family support.

“I was grieving and struggling with depression and untreated sleep apnea,” Bryan said. “I went from being a full-time student to a homeowner, with financial responsibilities that I wasn’t ready to manage.”

Bryan dropped out of college. He also lost his home and car and was sleeping on the kitchen floor at a friend’s house. After being laid off from a warehouse job, he worked a variety of odd jobs and collected scrap metal to make ends meet, but continued to fall further into debt.

Then he developed type 2 diabetes, which served as a wake-up call. He went on a strict diet and filed for bankruptcy, shedding both the weight and the debt that ensnared him for seven years. He finished his associate degree, graduating cum laude. He got a job in Goodwill’s retail e-commerce operation, quickly working his way

up and enlisting the services of a Goodwill Guide, who helped him seek employment opportunities outside of Goodwill, alongside TalentSource™, Goodwill’s in-house job placement team.

“When I told my Guide I wanted to buy a home, he worked with me to create a budget and taught me how to increase my credit score and save money,” Bryan said. “He also introduced me to Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership.”

Goodwill also connected Bryan with his current job as an Income Supports Coach and Re-Entry Case Manager at the John Boner Neighborhood Center, where he provides financial counseling to ex-offenders and others in the community. In addition to a bachelor’s degree in human services, Bryan earned a number of professional certifications and is currently enrolled in a master’s program. He no longer takes medication for depression and his sleep apnea and diabetes are under control. He is also a proud homeowner.

“The most important change for me was realizing I’m worthy of being a coach and capable of helping others succeed,” Bryan said.



Sarah Siegel was just 17 years old and still a sophomore in high school when she first started supporting herself, without the guidance of a parent. She was struggling to balance a full-time job with classes and eventually left school.

“Back then, I felt like I was just one in a sea of many — I was lost,” Sarah said.

After suffering the loss of a pregnancy and taking on the responsibility of caring for a sick parent, Sarah struggled with depression.

“There were days I couldn’t even get out of bed — all I could do was cry. I quit my job and tried to focus on taking care of my mom,” she said. “After seeing an ad for The Excel Center [Goodwill’s high school for adults], I knew it was time to stop making excuses about getting my diploma.”

Initially embarrassed to return to high school at the age of 25, Sarah quickly adjusted and thrived, crossing the stage as a graduate in February 2019. With the help of a certification she also earned at The Excel Center®, Sarah now works as a certified dental assistant. She graduated first in her class from the Dental Academy.

“The Excel Center has truly given me something to celebrate about myself,” Sarah said.

Learn more about The Excel Center at [excelcenter.org](https://www.excelcenter.org)

Goodwill invites you to our **2019 AWARDS BREAKFAST**

Join us as we celebrate these extraordinary honorees and see how your support makes their achievements possible.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019

8–9:30 a.m.

JW MARRIOTT

10 South West St. | Indianapolis, IN

GOODWILL'S 2019 ANNUAL AWARD HONOREES

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mohammed Alhamwi

2018 graduate of The Excel Center

EMPLOYMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Angel Beyersdorfer

Team Leader 2 at Retail Outlet – South

HEALTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

India Daye

2018 graduate of Goodwill Nurse-Family Partnership and The Excel Center

INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOL OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Daesha Cottrell

Senior at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School

CAREER SERVICE AWARD

Michael Lovell

Forklift driver at Retail Outlet – West

GOODWILL RETAIL SITE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Scottsburg, Indiana

CONNECTIONS AWARD

Major Health Services

Shelbyville, Indiana

Sponsored Table of 10 — \$1,000

Sponsors will receive preferred seating, have their name/logo displayed at the event and be recognized online. A portion of the purchase is a tax-deductible contribution to Goodwill.

Single Seats — \$50 each

Table of 10 — \$500

Register online by Friday, April 26, at goodwillindy.org/breakfast.

TITLE SPONSOR:



One Family, decades of giving

In 1929, Helen Krebs Barth boarded a trolley in New Albany, Indiana. She was headed to Louisville to see a speech by Rev. Edgar J. Helms, the Methodist minister who had founded Goodwill in Boston nearly 30 years earlier. Rev. Helms was spreading the message of Goodwill and encouraging people to develop operations in their own struggling communities.

It was here that Mrs. Barth met Rev. William Bartle, a pastor at a church in New Albany, who had boarded the same trolley, also heading to see Rev. Helms. Together in 1930, Mrs. Barth and Rev. Bartle founded Goodwill Industries of Southern Indiana with 13 employees. Mrs. Barth could often be found there, sorting donations. She passed on her spirit of volunteerism to her daughters and grandchildren.



Descendants of Helen Krebs Barth, all former or current members of Goodwill's Board of Directors. From left to right: The Honorable J. Terrence Cody (grandson), Meri Anderson Krebs (granddaughter), Allen Anderson Krebs (great-grandson), and Elizabeth Anderson Krebs Hilbrich (great-granddaughter)

In fact, every year since Goodwill was incorporated in southern Indiana nearly 90 years ago, someone from Mrs. Barth's family has served on the board of directors. Ten years ago, the torch was passed to Elizabeth Hilbrich, her great-granddaughter.

"My grandmother would say, 'Never have a garage sale, when you can give to Goodwill,' so my family would make several hauls a year," Elizabeth said. "In addition, financial donations support Goodwill in ways that retail revenues cannot, because they enable the organization to grow, innovate and adjust to the needs of the people it serves."

Mrs. Barth's family has witnessed the evolution of her vision, including a merger with Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana in 2017. The combined entity — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana — now includes more than 70 retail stores and serves thousands of Hoosiers each year.

"The mission today is beyond anything my great-grandmother could have imagined," Elizabeth said. "The merger brought an adult high school to southern Indiana, expanded employment opportunities and Nurse-Family Partnership®, a program for first-time, low-income moms. I'm amazed with the leadership at Goodwill and honored to be able to continue my family's tradition."

More Ways to Get Involved

- Make a financial gift
- Organize a donation drive
- Refer people to Goodwill for a job, program or other service
- Shop online at clickgoodwill.com
- Subscribe to our blog: blog.goodwillindy.org



GOODWILL OF CENTRAL & SOUTHERN INDIANA

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United Way agency

upcoming events



Goodwill Awards Breakfast

Friday, May 10, 8–9:30 a.m.
at JW Marriott
10 South West Street, Indianapolis

Nurse-Family Partnership Graduation

Tuesday, April 23, 6–8 p.m.
The Children's Museum, Indianapolis

New Beginnings Graduation

Friday, May 17, 3–4 p.m.
Goodwill Commercial Services
413 N. Tremont Street, Indianapolis

The Excel Center Graduations

Thursday & Friday, June 13–14,
Time and locations vary

Indianapolis Metropolitan High School Graduation

Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m.
Puma Den Gymnasium
1635 W. Michigan Street, Indianapolis

For a full listing of upcoming events and RSVP information, please visit goodwillindy.org/events.