



**Goodwill
Industries
of Central
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Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

Date: for immediate release

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Disability does not stop Southport man

Twenty-one-year old Jacob Wantz never knows when he might have another seizure. When one does occur, his body convulses for several minutes, and after he gains consciousness, his memory of that day's events is temporarily lost.

Because of his condition, Wantz is not able to drive or perform other tasks that could potentially put him or others in danger. Wantz, however, has not been stopped by these obstacles. He wants to be self-sufficient, and with the help of Goodwill's Greenwood staff, Wantz is currently pursuing that goal by working in the cafeteria at the University of Indianapolis.

At age six, Wantz was diagnosed with epilepsy – a disorder characterized by seizures that temporarily weaken the function of the brain. Now, after having seizures at least six times a month, these convulsions have become a part of Wantz's life. "It just happens, and I deal with it," Wantz said.

Though Wantz became accustomed to having seizures, he could not get used to doing absolutely nothing after graduating from high school three years ago. Following his participation in a disability class at a church and volunteering at Handicamp – a camp for disabled individuals – Wantz decided to take a computer course through Goodwill's Business Career Education (BCE) program. After completing the class in December 2002, Wantz wanted help finding a job, and was referred to Goodwill Career Consultant, Roxanne Fischer. "I wanted to get a job so I could eventually live on my own," Wantz said.

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News Release



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Fischer helped Wantz determine what jobs he could perform that would not put him or others in danger in case a seizure did occur. After job shadowing employees in different professions, Wantz decided to work in the cafeteria at the University of Indianapolis. “He wanted a job where he was helping people,” Fischer said. “As a cafeteria worker, he is providing services to students, and he loves it.”

Wantz’s success, however, does not end there. While school was not in session for the summer, Wantz volunteered at Goodwill’s greenhouse so he could learn and meet new people. Although he currently lives with his parents, Wantz hopes to earn enough money this year so he can begin searching for his own home.

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