

April 20, 2017  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Cindy Graham, Vice President of Marketing  
Cell: 317-459-4162  
[cgraham@goodwillindy.org](mailto:cgraham@goodwillindy.org)

## **Westfield Retailer Creates Job Opportunities for People with Barriers**

*Carey Road Goodwill employs Hoosiers with disabilities, criminal histories*

**WESTFIELD, Ind.** – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana will honor its Carey Road store in Westfield at its upcoming Annual Awards Breakfast. Store leaders and employees will be recognized for their demonstrated commitment to furthering Goodwill’s mission to empower people through education, health and employment, by hiring and accommodating individuals with barriers.

“Goodwill offers a number of programs to individuals who are committed to personal and professional growth,” said Kent Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “Our retail stores help us identify those in the community within our purview who would benefit most from these services.”

Goodwill employs more than 2,700 people in its retail stores throughout central and southern Indiana, nearly two-thirds of whom have one or more barriers to employment, including disability, criminal history and lack of a high school diploma.

Hoosiers with disabilities earn \$20,700 less in median household income each year than those without. Leaders at the Carey Road store work with Janus Developmental Services in Noblesville to provide opportunities to those with disabilities, which has resulted in the placement of individuals with hearing and vision impairments, and autism. Carey Road invests in the mentoring and socialization required to place individuals with disabilities into higher functioning roles, taking advantage of the Job Accommodation Network to find solutions.

In Indiana, 17% of adults ages 18-24 lack a high school diploma, earning nearly \$8,000 less in median income each year than those with a diploma. Carey Road encourages employees who want to earn a diploma to enroll at The Excel Center in Noblesville, Goodwill’s high school for adults, providing flexible work scheduling to help them complete their education. One Carey Road employee not only graduated from The Excel Center, but is now its childcare director and has received a scholarship to go to college.

Carey Road also has a relationship with the Noblesville probation department, providing jobs to many individuals with criminal histories. According to the Indiana Department of Correction, 38% of those released from their supervision will be rearrested within three years. Unemployed individuals are more likely to recidivate, but recently incarcerated individuals are also more difficult to employ, creating additional challenges to overcoming a criminal background.

“With more than 70 retail sites in central and southern Indiana, receiving the Retail Site of the Year award is quite an accomplishment,” said Kramer. “We are proud of the work Carey Road is doing, and invite the community to join us in celebrating their achievements.”

Goodwill's Annual Awards Breakfast is April 28 at 8 a.m. Register to attend by April 21 at [goodwillindy.org/breakfast](http://goodwillindy.org/breakfast).

###

**About Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana**

Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana changes lives every day by empowering people to increase their independence and reach their potential through education, health and employment. The organization serves 39 Indiana counties and operates more than 70 retail locations, as well as charter schools for adults and youth, a maternal-child health program, a child care center and more.