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For Immediate Release

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Young Mom Overcomes Educational Challenges, Receives Top Honors

Goodwill's Nurse-Family Partnership connects expectant mother with resources

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana will honor Dominique Daye, a Nurse-Family Partnership® participant and graduate of The Excel Center®, with its 2017 Health Achievement Award. Although a teenager at the time, when Daye learned she was pregnant, her priorities became her son and planning for their future.

Daye was referred by Eskenazi Health to Goodwill's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), a program that pairs low-income, first-time mothers with registered nurses, who make home visits and provide women and their families with resources to ensure healthy pregnancies and child development. Indiana ranks 41st among the states on the significant health measure of infant mortality – the death of a baby before its first birthday.

"My nurse provided me with information about what to expect while I was pregnant and after Jaycob was born," said Daye. "She helped me feel more prepared for his arrival."

According to the National Conference for State Legislatures, only 40% of teen moms finish high school, negatively affecting their lifetime earnings. In the short-term, a traditional high school education did not allow Daye to work and support her son.

When she decided to enroll at The Excel Center Meadows in Indianapolis, Goodwill's high school for adults, she committed to a four-hour round trip from O'Connor House, a home for single mothers and their children located in Carmel, where she lived until she could secure a place of her own.

"I knew school would be even more difficult once Jaycob arrived, and I wanted to get it out of the way," said Daye. "The Excel Center is flexible and works with students based on their needs."

In May 2016, Daye graduated from The Excel Center and moved into her own apartment. When she transferred jobs to a location closer to her new home, she negotiated a higher wage based on what she had been earning previously for comparable work.

"My nurse encouraged me to focus on the positive and keep moving forward," said Daye. "I knew I could count on her for support."

Daye's primary concern is providing a safe, nurturing environment to her son, but she continues to strive toward her goals, which include enrolling in the nursing program at Ivy Tech.

"We are proud of the strides Dominique has made and excited to see what comes next for her," said Kent Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. "At Goodwill, we believe in

the value of each person and offer services to help them overcome challenges and reach their potential, but their achievements are all their own.”

Daye says she would recommend Nurse-Family Partnership to friends and family. “I’m proud of where I am now.”

Goodwill will recognize Dominique at its upcoming Awards Breakfast, an annual event that celebrates the achievements of its employees, students, families and partners. Dominique is being honored with the 2017 Health Achievement Award for her outstanding commitment to Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership program. The Annual Awards Breakfast is Friday, April 28 at 8 a.m. Register to attend by April 21 at goodwillindy.org/breakfast.

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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.