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For Immediate Release

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Blind Since Birth, Anderson Man Celebrates 10 Years On The Job
Goodwill Empowers Individuals Through Employment

Indianapolis, Ind. - In acknowledgement of [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#), Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana is recognizing the valuable contributions of our employees who overcome daily barriers. Geno Cox, blind almost since birth, will celebrate 10 years as an associate at the Anderson Goodwill store this November.

“Prior to Goodwill, I had difficulty finding a job in Indiana,” Geno said. “I ended up living out of state for 10 years, relocating to where I was able to find work.”

Geno moved back to Indiana after his father was diagnosed with cancer. In November 2007, he applied for a job at Goodwill.

“I didn’t expect anything right away, but the store manager hired me immediately,” said Geno. “I’m blessed to have a job in my home town.”

He quickly stood out, displaying an extraordinary work ethic. In 2009, Geno was honored with Goodwill’s Achiever of the Year award.

“Geno isn’t deterred by his inability to see,” said Austin Baker, Manager at the Anderson Goodwill. “He’s very productive, taking advantage of his other senses to hang more than 1,000 textiles each day.”

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, individuals with disabilities are twice as likely to be unemployed as individuals without disabilities.

“Goodwill employs more than 3,500 Hoosiers – 35% of whom have a disability,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “We encourage other employers to consider the many ways that they can help employees overcome their individual challenges.”

National Disability Employment Awareness Month's (NDEAM) roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Upon its establishment in 2001, the Office

of Disability Employment Policy assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

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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.