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For Immediate Release

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Indiana University Health-Goodwill Partnership Confronts Community Challenges

Local organizations team up to impact lives through health and employment services

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana’s partnership with Indiana University Health began in 2011, the same year as Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP), which was implemented to support vulnerable, first-time mothers in Indiana. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Indiana ranks 41st among the states in infant mortality, a significant health statistic that measures the occurrence of death before a child’s first birthday.

“Goodwill and IU Health have a common goal in tackling Indiana’s infant mortality rate, which is among the worst in the nation,” said Kent Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana.

Nurse-Family Partnership pairs low-income, first-time mothers with registered nurses, who make home visits and provide support to ensure women experience healthy pregnancies, and their children achieve critical milestones through their second birthday.

The team at IU Health was instrumental in the early days of NFP as volunteers of its Community Advisory Board. IU Health also gave \$300,000 to Nurse-Family Partnership that allowed Goodwill to expand the program beyond Marion county and into Tippecanoe and White counties. It has since been extended to Delaware, Madison and Lake counties, serving more than 2,000 families since 2011.

“IU Health has long been a leader in the effort to reduce Indiana’s unacceptably high rate of infant death,” said Dennis Murphy, president and CEO of IU Health. “Nurse Family Partnership is an evidence-based program with a great track record of success; we are proud to have supported its expansion to communities outside of Indianapolis.”

IU Health has also been a committed supporter of Goodwill’s mission to help individuals increase their independence through employment. Of those released from Indiana Department of Correction facilities, 38% will return within three years. Realizing lack of employment is a primary predictor of recidivism, Goodwill implemented New Beginnings in 2011, a six-month reentry program that helps recently incarcerated individuals build a job history and gain new skills. Graduates of the program recidivate at a much lower rate of 3.7% and 96% are placed in higher-paying jobs. A direct contribution of \$100,000 from IU Health enabled New Beginnings to pilot a program with individuals working in retail, and allowed 22 to graduate from that program.

Successful graduates from any of Goodwill’s job placement programs, including New Beginnings and Disability Services, may then be matched with jobs at IU Health, which has so far hired nine recommendations from Goodwill.

“IU Health’s multi-dimensional partnership with Goodwill has allowed us to provide needed health and employment services,” said Kramer. “We are grateful to have the support of such a significant health care provider and employer in our community.”

Goodwill will recognize IU Health at its upcoming Awards Breakfast, an annual event that celebrates the achievements of its employees, students, families and partners. IU Health is being honored with the 2017 Connections Award for its demonstrated commitment supporting Goodwill’s mission to help people increase their independence and reach their potential. 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.

About Indiana University Health

Named among the "Best Hospitals in America" by U.S. News & World Report for 19 consecutive years, Indiana University Health is dedicated to providing a unified standard of preeminent, patient-centered care. A unique partnership with Indiana University School of Medicine – one of the nation's leading medical schools – gives our highly skilled physicians access to innovative treatments using the latest research and technology. Learn more at www.iuhealth.org.