

October 12, 2017  
For Immediate Release

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**Double-Amputee Adjusts to Life After Addiction**  
*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. Michelle Williamson, a double-amputee, recently completed Goodwill's Janitorial Training Program.

"I can't stand still for too long on my prosthetics, but I'm fine as long as I keep moving," Michelle said.

Previously, Michelle struggled with addiction. She was homeless when she acquired frostbite, resulting in the loss of both legs. Now nearly seven years clean, her primary concern is caring for her two sons and setting a good example for them.

"I wouldn't change anything about my life right now, but my goal is to become entirely self-sufficient," said Michelle.

She is considering enrolling at The Excel Center, Goodwill's high school for adults, to earn a diploma.

"Michelle's personality lights up the building," said Amy Trueblood, Janitorial Training Program Supervisor at Goodwill. "There's nothing she can't accomplish."

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 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.