

## Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

**Date:** September 17, 2015

**Contact:**

Cindy L. Graham, Vice President of Marketing  
Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

**Work:** 317-524-4212 **Cell:** 317-459-4162

**Email:** [cgraham@goodwillindy.org](mailto:cgraham@goodwillindy.org)

### Goodwill's Nurse-Family Partnership Graduates 83 More Moms Sept. 23

**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015

Doors open: 5:45 p.m.

Ceremony & refreshments: 6-7 p.m.

Family Playscape time: 7-8 p.m.

**Where:** [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Lilly Theater, 3000 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208](#)

**What:** Eighty-three first-time mothers who engaged with Goodwill's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) will graduate, demonstrating their successful participation in the community health program. Early in pregnancy, each mother was partnered with a registered nurse for ongoing home visits aimed at supporting mothers and families in providing the very best start for their children during the earliest, most developmentally critical years.

An important part of Goodwill's approach to increasing central Indiana families' economic independence, NFP began serving families in Marion County in November 2011 and currently engages with more than 500. This milestone of completing their NFP participation yields 83 additional families who worked with a nurse-home visitor from early in pregnancy until the child turned two. Families have the option to continue support with Goodwill until the child turns five. Positive infant health outcomes and ongoing educational attainment for mothers in this most recent graduation group include:

#### Infant Health Outcomes

- 87% born at full term
- 88% had a normal birth weight
- 90% breastfed (on average for nearly seven months)
- 95% up-to-date on immunizations

#### Mom/Family Outcomes

- 65% have completed high school
- 19 enrolled in post-secondary education

- 14 enrolled in high school or a GED program
- 17 attended Goodwill's adult high school, The Excel Center; 16 family members of NFP moms also attended
- 15 worked with Goodwill's job placement program

**Who:** NFP graduates (moms, children and other family members)

Eighteen-year-old, single mom Maya Hodgens plans to attend the ceremony with her son Antwan who will be 2 in November. Although Hodgens joined NFP in her fifth month of

# News Release

pregnancy, she and her nurse-home visitor Courtnie Leeper really bonded when Hodgens was put on bed rest in her seventh month.

“I was always happy to see Courtnie,” said Hodgens. “I’d be at home alone, not allowed to get up, and felt depressed. It was good to see her and talk to her. She motivated me.”

Hodgens relied on Leeper to learn about and find resources related to labor, breastfeeding, discipline and safety as well as how to cope when she and Antwuan’s father ended their romantic relationship and how to manage her priorities and stress as a single mom.

“Talking with my nurse is such a relief,” Hodgens said. “Best practices change, and nurses have the best updates. Also, when I felt I wasn’t doing well my first semester in college, we talked about how to manage my time and stress. She helped me realize that I need to ask for help and that if I do my best, I need to be okay with the outcome or grade I get.”

Hodgens, who loves education and learning, attends Ivy Tech full time with a dream of becoming a high school algebra teacher. She plans to continue in the NFP Graduate program to make sure she’s doing all she can to prepare Antwuan for kindergarten.

“Education is the most important thing,” Hodgens said. “My mom instilled that in me, and I’m instilling that in my son.”

—END—

## *About NFP*

NFP is a national home visiting program for low-income women who are having their first babies. Each woman is paired with a registered nurse who provides her with home visits throughout her pregnancy until her child’s second birthday. The first in Indiana, [Goodwill’s NFP implementation](#) has the capacity to serve 650 mothers in Marion County and more than 200 in other counties around the state. It is one of the largest sites in the country within a single agency and is the only site run by a Goodwill.

Frequently, an NFP family also connects with other Goodwill programs for education or employment. Goodwill considers a wide array of services and opportunities that can help individuals and families grow stronger and become more economically self-sufficient. Goodwill believes that over time the whole-person, whole-family approach can play a significant role in reducing generational poverty and the array of social problems that accompany it.

## *About Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana*

[Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.](#) is a social enterprise serving 29 central Indiana counties and employing more than 3,000 Hoosiers. Goodwill’s approach links value-added resources that include access to education, employment and health services that many families need to begin breaking the cycle of poverty.

With more than 50 retail stores, outlets and Vintage Vogue boutiques, Goodwill’s retail operations employ individuals with barriers to traditional employment, such as a lack of a high school diploma, criminal history or disability. In fact, two-thirds of the more than 2,100 retail employees face such barriers—and more than half are the primary source of income in their households. Revenue from the sale of donations stays local, supporting jobs as well as other education and employment services for thousands of Hoosiers. Learn more at [goodwillindy.org](#) or call 317-524-4313.