Central and Southern Indiana Goodwills Announce Merger

Indianapolis-based Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana and Clarksville-based Goodwill of Southern Indiana will merge to form Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, the organizations jointly announced today. The new Goodwill will serve 39 counties and tens of thousands of Hoosiers through direct employment and job-seeker services, early childhood learning and other education programs, and health services.

“Opportunities for Goodwill territories to combine are rare, so this is a significant day in the history of both our organizations,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana.

The merger resulted from discussions between the two Goodwills’ chief executives about how to collaborate to offer programs and services to more Indiana residents and their families.

“Kent and I quickly realized we would be stronger if we joined forces than if we continued as separate organizations and territories,” said Goodwill of Southern Indiana CEO Candy Barksdale.

There are more than 160 independent Goodwill organizations in North America, with service territories defined by Goodwill Industries International. The merger of the central and southern Indiana Goodwills has been approved by the boards of directors in both territories. The organizations will seek the international board’s approval in October.

“Our board is excited about the opportunities this merger presents,” said Emmis Communications General Counsel Scott Enright, board chair for Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana. “Simply put, the combined resources of these two organizations will allow us to help more people who truly need our services.”

Enright will serve as board chair for Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. The board will include representation from both regions.

“We’re confident that community leaders from southern Indiana will continue to have a voice in the organization,” said Clark County Commissioners President Jack Coffman, board chair for
Goodwill of Southern Indiana. “We know this merger will strengthen both our business operations and our mission services. This is a good thing for our communities.”

Kent Kramer, who holds a bachelor’s degree from the Scott College of Business at Indiana State University and an MBA from the Falls School of Business at Anderson University, will serve as Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana’s president and CEO. He joined the central Indiana Goodwill in 2002 as vice president of retail operations and later served as chief operating officer before being named CEO in 2015.

“There are great things happening in both regions, and I’m excited to start working together to build our new Goodwill,” said Kramer.

Southern Indiana CEO Candy Barksdale intends to retire at the end of the year. However, she will remain as a consultant to the merged organization until June 30, 2017. Barksdale joined Goodwill of Southern Indiana in 2007 as a vice president, becoming CEO in 2008.

A transition team composed of leaders from both organizations will guide the merger. Their work begins immediately, in advance of the new organization’s official first day: January 1, 2017. Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana will serve the following counties:

- Bartholomew
- Blackford
- Boone
- Brown
- Carroll
- Clark
- Clinton
- Crawford
- Decatur
- Delaware
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Grant
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Harrison
- Hendricks
- Henry
- Howard
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Jennings
- Johnson
- Lawrence
- Madison
- Marion
- Monroe
- Montgomery
- Morgan
- Orange
- Randolph
- Rush
- Scott
- Shelby
- Tippecanoe
- Tipton
- Washington
- Wayne
- White

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