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For Immediate Release

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Former Dropout Earns an Education and a Career
Goodwill and Eskenazi Health Partner to Provide Career Opportunities

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Today, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana honored Eskenazi Health with its 2018 Connections Award, a distinction that recognizes the significant contributions of a community partner to Goodwill's mission.

Sarrah Schilling, who recently earned a diploma and Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) credential from The Excel Center®, Goodwill's high school for adults, is currently completing her clinicals at Eskenazi Health.

"I got married at a young age and didn't see the value of finishing high school," Schilling said. "After my marriage ended, I had three young children to care for. I realized I couldn't influence them to finish high school, let alone go to college, if I didn't set an example for them."

Schilling had forgotten a lot of what she learned in high school and had to begin at a remedial level in both math and English. It took 18 months, but in February 2018, she proudly walked across the stage, with both a diploma and a CMA Certification.

"I was overwhelmed with emotion. As soon as I saw my kids in the crowd, I couldn't hold back the tears any longer," Schilling said.

Goodwill's job placement team referred Schilling to her current externship with Eskenazi Health.

"Eskenazi Health has been a valuable community partner for Goodwill in both hiring and referring moms-to-be to our Nurse-Family Partnership® program," said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana.

One in three candidates referred by Goodwill have been hired by Eskenazi Health, which is also a primary referral partner for the Nurse-Family Partnership program.

"Our relationship with Goodwill has benefitted Eskenazi Health by supplying strong job candidates and by helping young children and new families get off to a good start in life," said Dr. Lisa Harris, CEO of Eskenazi Health. "While Eskenazi Health and Goodwill play different roles, we are both aiming for the same goal, which is creating a healthy vibrant community."

Schilling will attend Ivy Tech beginning in August 2018.

“I have an education and career I never thought I could accomplish, and I’m still not done,” Schilling said. “My children and I have an entirely new outlook on life.”

Please contact Cindy Graham at cgraham@goodwillindy.org if you would like to arrange an interview with Sarrah Schilling.

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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.