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For Immediate Release

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**High School Dropout with a Criminal History Beats the Odds**  
*Goodwill to honor a former employee and student for his achievements*

**ANDERSON, Ind.** — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana will honor Dylan Snell, a former employee and graduate of The Excel Center®, Goodwill’s high school for adults, with its 2018 Employment Achievement Award. At just 18 years old, Snell found himself homeless and without a high school diploma. A criminal history left him deeply in debt, with limited job opportunities.

“My parents were struggling, so I had to take care of myself at a young age,” Snell said. “I was 15 years old when I started bouncing around from couch to couch, relying on the goodwill of friends, hoping I wouldn’t wear out my welcome at any one place. I don’t pity myself because it made me who I am today.”

When Snell enrolled at The Excel Center, he lacked support, opportunities and experience, and he had to make a lot of big life decisions on his own at a young age. With the guidance of staff, he didn’t just earn his diploma — he eventually accepted an employment offer from Goodwill, where he worked his way up to assistant store manager.

After four years at Goodwill, Snell began considering external opportunities with the assistance of TalentSource™, Goodwill’s job placement team. His qualifications and experience were a great fit for Kirby Risk Electrical Supply, where he accepted a position as a Commodity Sales Support Representative in August 2017.

“Dylan has a positive outlook and is a team player who steps up to help coworkers when needed,” said Jessica [last name], [title] at Kirby Risk. “He is a valuable addition to our team.”

At just 23 years old, Snell is succeeding professionally, has paid off his debt and earns enough to support a home and reliable transportation. He now mentors individuals who face challenges similar to those he overcame.

“According to the Indiana Department of Correction, 45% of individuals released from incarceration who lacked both a high school diploma and a job were reincarcerated,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “Dylan persevered and came out on the better half of those odds.”

Goodwill will recognize Snell at its upcoming Awards Breakfast, an annual event that celebrates the achievements of its employees, students, families and partners. The annual Awards Breakfast is Friday, May 11, at 8 a.m. at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis. All media are invited to attend. Please contact Cindy Graham at [cgraham@goodwillindy.org](mailto:cgraham@goodwillindy.org) if you would like to arrange an interview with Dylan Snell.

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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.