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For Immediate Release

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Scottsburg Retailer Creates Job Opportunities for People with Barriers
Goodwill store employs people with criminal histories, disabilities

SCOTTSBURG, Ind. — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana will honor its Scottsburg store at its upcoming Annual Awards Breakfast. Store leaders and employees will be recognized for their demonstrated commitment to furthering Goodwill's mission to change lives, by hiring and accommodating individuals with barriers to employment.

Of the 12% of Scottsburg residents who didn't graduate from high school, an astonishing 44% over the age of 25 live below poverty level. Other common barriers include criminal history, addiction and homelessness.

"After my daughter passed away, I was devastated and didn't know how to cope with my grief," Robin Bellamy, an associate at the Scottsburg Goodwill store recalled. "I ended up getting into trouble and going to prison for two years."

Although she earned her GED while incarcerated, Bellamy struggled to find work after she was released. "Nobody wanted to hire me because I'm a felon," she said.

After hearing that Goodwill considers applicants with a criminal history, Robin applied at the Scottsburg store and was offered a job. It's been two years since she started as a part-time cashier. She has since learned all of the various roles of an associate.

"Robin was upfront with us about her challenges," said Crystal Johnson, Site Leader at the Scottsburg Goodwill store. "We're all about second chances. We want to be a positive force in the community."

In addition to employment, the store has provided employees with transportation, food and even helped them secure housing.

"I didn't think I would be able to get an apartment with my criminal history," Bellamy said. "But Crystal contacted a local complex that she has a relationship with, and I got approved."

In June 2018, the Scottsburg store moved to a new location — a space twice as large as its previous home, with the capacity to staff twice as many employees, which means even more opportunities for people in the community.

"Goodwill offers a number of tools and resources to individuals who are committed to personal

and professional growth,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “Our retail stores help us identify those in the community within our purview who would benefit most from these services.”

Goodwill will recognize employees from the Scottsburg store at its upcoming Awards Breakfast, an annual event that celebrates the achievements of its employees, students, families and partners. The Awards Breakfast is Friday, May 10, 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 if you would like to arrange an interview.

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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.