Nurse-Family Partnership® Celebrates 2,500 Babies

1,000+ ADULTS Earn Diplomas at The Excel Center®

Empower People, Change Lives
When Goodwill decided to implement the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Indiana, it was based on the fact that children need the best possible start in life to become successful adults. Goodwill’s employment and education programs help Hoosiers who are already experiencing barriers, but Nurse-Family Partnership aims to intervene before those barriers even arise.

Since 2011, Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership program has paired first-time, low-income moms with a registered nurse who makes home visits through the woman’s pregnancy and up until her child’s second birthday.

Nurses are an invaluable resource, teaching new moms how to have a safe and healthy pregnancy while preparing them for what to expect during delivery and beyond. In addition to counseling moms on the importance of breastfeeding, immunizations and the dangers of smoking, nurses provide support on housing, transportation, education, employment, child care and more.

There have now been more than 2,500 babies delivered as part of Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership program. As a result of our success, the Indiana State Department of Health recently allocated an additional $6.5 million to the program. This will allow us to reach even more of the thousands of eligible Hoosier women.

Goodwill empowers people to increase their independence and reach their potential through education, health and employment. In this issue of Achieve, you’ll see how our commitment to these mission pillars is changing lives every day. The following stories wouldn’t be possible without the Hoosiers who donate and shop at our stores, as well as the financial support of our donors and community partners.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Kent A. Kramer
President and CEO
Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana
The Excel Center, Goodwill’s unique high school that offers adults a second chance to earn a diploma, celebrated a record-breaking school year, graduating 1,012 adults in 2018-19 — the highest number in its history. The Excel Center allows students to pick up right where they left off in school by providing support and resources that help address previous barriers to educational success.

After David Ramirez was expelled from a traditional high school, he struggled to find another that would accept him at 18 years old. Eager to earn his diploma, David enrolled at The Excel Center. He found support through his instructors and coaches when faced with issues such as a lack of transportation to and from school.

“Transportation was a barrier because my mother was working full-time, and I did not have a vehicle,” David recalled. “My life coach helped me get to school multiple times.”

David graduated from The Excel Center in June 2018 and now works full-time at Ferrer Mechanical Services — a position he received with the help of the craftsmanship certification he also earned at The Excel Center. He is currently enrolled in a program at Vincennes University, where he is pursuing his journeyman license and a degree.

David credits his drive and success to The Excel Center and the hands-on approach of the staff.

“I didn’t know they would be so helpful and involved in my life,” David said. “I wouldn’t have landed the job I have now or felt like I needed to start a career without The Excel Center.”

Since 2010, The Excel Center has graduated 4,533 adults, along with providing 6,689 industry-recognized certifications and 8,930 college credits. Through the integration of certification training and dual-credit requirements, The Excel Center has positioned graduates for careers that offer better-than-average wages.

The average wage increased 280% two years after graduating. The school serves Hoosiers in 15 locations throughout central and southern Indiana.

Visit excelcenter.org to learn more.
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THIS MEANS THEIR MOMS:

- Welcomed a registered nurse into their home for ongoing visits
- Had regular physical assessments and were encouraged to seek prenatal care
- Learned to avoid pregnancy risks through healthy diet, tobacco cessation and more
- Were counseled on the benefits of breastfeeding and how to get started
- Learned to bond with and keep their baby healthy and safe
- Were given a book and informed about the importance of reading to their baby
- Had school readiness support for their child
- Received resources, support and guidance on housing, education, employment and child care

THOUSANDS of Lives Changed

Nearly 4,000 families have been served by Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership since 2011.
Launched in 2011, Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program pairs first-time, low-income moms with a registered nurse who makes home visits through pregnancy and up until a child’s second birthday. This summer, we celebrated 2,500 babies born as part of the program, along with families like the Deahls, whose lives were changed significantly after the arrival of their son, Allistor.

Megan Deahl is legally blind and has cerebral palsy, requiring her to use a wheelchair. She didn’t believe she would be able to conceive a child, so becoming a mom was a welcome surprise. Her husband, Nathan, also has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Like most first-time parents, the Deahls were eager to know everything possible about providing safe and competent care to their child.

“Physical limitations were their primary barrier,” said Angel Alter, Nurse Home Visitor. “We had to become creative and figure out how Megan and Nathan could prepare themselves and their home environment to accommodate a newborn baby.”

Megan experienced a long and difficult birth. “Most of the hospital staff were wonderful, but some questioned whether we could care for our baby because of our disabilities,” Megan recalled. “Angel assured them that we were prepared. She’s been a wonderful advocate for us.”

Angel also worked with a local organization to secure a $3,000 grant for the Deahls that allowed them to purchase a special crib for Allistor that is just the right height, allowing Megan to easily change his diaper and put him to bed.

“All new moms should have access to Nurse-Family Partnership,” Megan said. “It’s an amazing program.”

Learn more about Goodwill’s Nurse-Family Partnership: goodwillindy.org/nfp
Leaders often emerge out of adversity, and if there’s someone who knows a thing or two about overcoming challenges, it’s Sarina Kenney. A diagnosis of cerebral palsy left her developmentally delayed and unable to walk or talk until she was 4 years old. After landing in the foster care system as a young child, she was eventually adopted but separated from her brothers. Many years later, as a single mom, her primary goal was providing a stable home for her son.

When she started working at Goodwill as an entry-level associate at the Floyds Knobs store, she was seeking consistency in her employment. She worked with a Goodwill Guide — a career and life coach — to set goals and create a plan for professional advancement.

“Goodwill has played an important role in my life,” Sarina said. “They have given me opportunities that I believe I would not have been given anywhere else.”

In 2019 — five years after being hired as a cashier and several promotions later — Sarina was promoted to Site Leader. Responsible for all operations and employees at her store, Sarina embraces her leadership style, focusing on promoting individual achievements to facilitate teamwork and overall store success.

Now thriving in a stable career, Sarina was able to purchase her own home and provide her son with the life she dreamed of. She also reconnected with her brothers, whom she visits at least yearly.

Looking for a career? Check out: goodwillindy.org/careers
longtime volunteer and donor bequeaths $2.4 million to Goodwill

The Goodwill Foundation of Central & Southern Indiana is proud to announce the Miller Family Fund for Success, seeded by a major gift from the estate of Peggy Miller, a longtime Goodwill Service Guild volunteer and charter member of the Jack Dustman Society, which recognizes those who make gifts totaling $50,000 or more to Goodwill.

In 1945, Peggy was a young child when her mother, Dr. Maurine Miller, became the first clinical psychologist in the United States to work at a Goodwill organization. For 24 years, Dr. Miller’s team pioneered vocational rehabilitation programs to facilitate job training and placement for people with disabilities. She received national recognition for her work.

“My mother emphasized that Goodwill gives people a hand up, not a hand out,” Peggy said in a 2007 interview with the Goodwill Foundation. “Goodwill helps people become active participants in society by helping them find jobs.”

In 1970, upon Dr. Miller’s death, the Miller family established a memorial fund that provides internships to students interested in careers in vocational rehabilitation. And now, seeded with Peggy’s $2.4 million gift, the new Miller Family Fund for Success will support Goodwill’s education, health and employment programs for many years to come.

“Dr. Miller recognized that each individual has different skills to contribute, and she helped match them with roles that allowed them to increase their independence and reach their potential,” said Kent A. Kramer, President and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “Not only did she change how we think about hiring people with disabilities, but through her daughter’s generous gift, Goodwill can continue to fund the programs that are empowering people to change their lives every day.”

Make a gift: goodwillindy.org/donatenow

recognizing a century of service

Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana is pleased to honor two of our longest tenured volunteers — board members Sue Hetherington and Tom King — for a combined 100 years of service to Goodwill at the local and national levels. Thank you, Sue and Tom, for all you’ve done to change lives in our community!

Pictured left: Kent A. Kramer (President & CEO), Sue Hetherington (60 years of service), and Tom King (40 years of service).
upcoming events

Nurse-Family Partnership Graduation
Wednesday, November 6, 6-8 p.m.
The Children’s Museum
3000 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

New Beginnings Graduation
Friday, November 15, 3-4 p.m.
Goodwill Commercial Services
413 N. Tremont Street, Indianapolis

The Excel Center Winter Graduation
February 13 and 14, 2020
Times and locations vary by campus

Annual Awards Breakfast
Friday, May 8, 2020, 8-9:30 a.m.
J.W. Marriott
10 South West Street, Indianapolis

The Excel Center Spring Graduation
June 4 and 5, 2020
Times and locations vary by campus

Indianapolis Metropolitan High School Graduation
Saturday, June 13, 2020, 11 a.m.
1635 W. Michigan Street, Indianapolis

For a full listing of upcoming events and RSVP information, please visit goodwillindy.org/events.