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For Immediate Release

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## **Goodwill Receives Major Gift from Longtime Supporter**

*Permanent home for The Excel Center valued at over \$1 million*

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.** – Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc., a subsidiary of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, today announced a major gift from longtime donor and former board chair Gene Zink and his family. This generous donation — a building valued at more than \$1 million — will become the permanent home for The Excel Center, Goodwill’s high school for adults, in the Meadows area of Indianapolis’ east side.

“I’ve had the privilege of seeing The Excel Center grow from its infancy into a leading institution for adults seeking to earn their high school diploma,” Zink said. “We are pleased to donate a building that will help Goodwill continue to change lives for many years to come.”

2020 marks The Excel Center’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With flexible schedules, expedited courses, free on-site child care and transportation assistance, The Excel Center works to remove barriers that may contribute to an adult student’s ability to earn a diploma.

“We’re not only grateful for Gene and his family’s generous gift, but also for their longtime dedication to Goodwill’s mission,” said Kent A. Kramer, CEO and president of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “This donation allows us to continue providing a quality high school education to adults in the Meadows neighborhood on Indy’s east side. Our focus is on improving lives through education and work opportunities and this gift helps advance that goal.”

According to the U.S. Census, there are 460,000 working-age adults in Indiana who lack a high school diploma — a circumstance that significantly limits an individual’s future job prospects and earning potential.

Visit [excelcenter.org](http://excelcenter.org) to learn more.

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### **About Goodwill Education Initiatives**

Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc. (GEI) is the not-for-profit charter school operator created by Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana that governs The Excel Center, Goodwill’s high school for adults, and Indianapolis Metropolitan High School for traditional-age high school students. Goodwill’s high schools provide licensed teachers and online support, free onsite childcare, transportation assistance and a flexible and supportive environment that gives each student a realistic path for their educational success and career.

**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. An independent, local nonprofit, Goodwill 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.