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For Immediate Release

Contact: Ivan Cropper, Vice President of Marketing  
317-417-0652  
ivan.cropper@goodwillindy.org

**Employer Partnership Brings Education and Jobs to Bloomington**  
*Cook Medical Honored for Its Commitment to Goodwill's Mission*

**BLOOMINGTON, Ind.** — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana announced that it will recognize Cook Medical with its Connections Award, which honors a community partner who has demonstrated a commitment to supporting Goodwill's mission and helping individuals become self-sufficient.

In summer 2019, Goodwill Commercial Services, which provides contract manufacturing and packaging solutions, opened its second production facility, in Bloomington. The facility currently employs 28 people — 89% of whom have an employment barrier, like a disability, criminal history or lack of a high school diploma — with plans to add another 15 jobs.

Its first customer, and the driving force behind opening the facility, was Bloomington-based Cook Medical, a leading medical device manufacturer that employs more than 12,000 people worldwide.

“If we’re going to be successful as a community, we need partners like Goodwill,” said Pete Yonkman, President of Cook Medical.

Cook was also an important supporter and advocate for opening an Excel Center in Bloomington. The Excel Center, Goodwill's tuition-free high school for adults, provides onsite child care, transportation assistance, accelerated courses, flexible scheduling and more. By removing common barriers that may deter individuals from completing their education, The Excel Center offers graduates a college or career path through industry-recognized certifications and dual credit courses.

“From the beginning, Cook Medical has been engaged in our mission and invested in our success,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “We have a fantastic partnership with limitless opportunities to make a difference.”

Cook Medical will be recognized during Goodwill's virtual event series, *Breakfast with Goodwill*, on July 29.

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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. 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.