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For Immediate Release

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Indy Man Conquers Addiction, Pays It Forward
Goodwill employee to be awarded for contributions to non-profit's mission

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana announced that it will honor Jesse Hendrickson, manager at its retail store in the Meadows neighborhood on Indianapolis's east side, with its 2019 Employment Achievement Award. When Hendrickson first walked into Goodwill for his court-ordered community service in 2016, he was homeless and recovering from a decade-long drug addiction that had isolated him from his family.

"I was prescribed narcotics to deal with the pain I experienced from recurring kidney stones," Hendrickson explained. "I became addicted and developed a tolerance, eventually moving on to heroin."

He was arrested 24 times, spending most of his adult life incarcerated. He credits the community service at Goodwill, in part, for keeping him busy as he struggled to abstain from drugs, but he mostly credits his wife, Aubrey Kidd, whom he met at Goodwill.

Hendrickson did such a great job volunteering that he was quickly hired and immediately moved up the ranks. He was promoted to Site Leader in 2018, just two-and-a-half years after he first walked into Goodwill.

"Not only has Jesse taken a store that was underperforming and completely turned it around, but he's also intentional about extending opportunities to people who, like Jesse, are seeking a second chance," said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana.

Hendrickson recently celebrated four years of sobriety and the birth of his second child.

"I went from nothing to having a beautiful family and a roof over my head, and it is because of the amazing people at Goodwill," Hendrickson said. "I will never give up again because of the chance Goodwill gave me."

Hendrickson is being honored for his significant progress in overcoming barriers and demonstrating his commitment to supporting Goodwill's mission. He will be recognized during Goodwill's virtual event series, *Breakfast with Goodwill*, on July 1.

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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.