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For Immediate Release

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Goodwill Empowers Richmond Residents Through Jobs and Education
Local retailer serves Hoosiers with barriers

RICHMOND, Ind. — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana announced that it will honor its Richmond retail store with its Retail Site of the Year Award, which recognizes a site that did an exemplary job meeting production goals as well as providing employment opportunities to people with barriers like a disability, criminal history or lack of a high school diploma.

“When you donate and shop at your local Goodwill, you’re supporting jobs and mission programs in your community,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana.

The leadership at the Richmond store provides job trials to third-party employers who want to hire people with barriers. They also work with the local high school to provide work experience to students and in tandem with The Excel Center® — Goodwill’s tuition-free high school for adults — to connect students with jobs.

“One of the best parts of my job is having the ability to develop people — not just put numbers in a book — but actually help them and push them to the next level,” said Charles Sergeant, site leader at the Richmond Goodwill store.

Melisa Dils, who has worked her way up to Team Lead at the Richmond store, took advantage of the Goodwill Guides program, which pairs employees with a career and life coach.

“I got my driver’s license back after going 14 years without one,” Melisa said. “I also cleaned up my credit, improved my score and got my first credit card at 44 years old.”

The Richmond team will be recognized during Goodwill’s virtual event series, *Breakfast with Goodwill*, on August 5.

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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.