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For Immediate Release

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Goodwill to Receive \$6.95 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.
Expanded re-entry program is expected to reduce recidivism in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana announced today that it is the grateful recipient of a substantial \$6.95 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., which will enable the not-for-profit to expand its successful re-entry program, New Beginnings.

Every year, thousands of Hoosiers are released from incarceration and return to Marion County. One of their greatest challenges is successfully joining the labor market at a level that pays a living and family-sustaining wage. Consequently, this population often lives in poverty and in high-crime areas.

“The goal of New Beginnings is to transition participants from entry-level work at Goodwill to a skilled, in-demand career in the community,” said Trelles Evans, director of re-entry services at Goodwill. “With funding from Lilly Endowment, Goodwill can expand the program’s offerings as well as the number of individuals served.”

Launched by Goodwill in 2011, New Beginnings provides employment, educational training and coaching for recently incarcerated individuals through on-the-job training and classroom learning. Participants are supported through a number of wraparound services, including financial literacy, access to health care, referrals to stable housing and help developing a support system that will sustain them well beyond the program.

“Until now, Goodwill has only been able to serve a small fraction of the population eligible for New Beginnings,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill. “The growth of the program, thanks to the Lilly Endowment, is expected to result in a substantial increase in opportunities to those returning to the workforce after their release from incarceration.”

To date, 234 individuals have graduated from the program, and 90% of them have been placed in employment. Only 5.8% have been reincarcerated. According to the IDOC, for the most recent year of data collected (2016), the three-year recidivism rate for formerly incarcerated individuals returning to Marion County was 34%.

“We are heartened by the significant number of organizations that care deeply about these issues and are working tirelessly to address them,” said Rob Smith, senior vice president for collaborative strategies for the endowment.

Goodwill is one of 28 organizations being supported by Lilly Endowment through its Enhancing Opportunity initiative in Indianapolis. Lilly Endowment designed the initiative to improve the livelihoods of individuals and families facing complex and varied challenges associated with poverty and financial insecurity.

With its grant, Goodwill is excited to partner with several local organizations to bring its vision to life, including:

- Merchants Affordable Housing and Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (INHP), which will provide housing education, rental assistance, and other services to promote safe, stable housing;
- Public Advocates in Community re-Entry (PACE), Horizon House, Marion County Probation, Parole District Three and Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC), which will provide program referrals;
- Parole District Three, IDOC and Indianapolis Marion County Police Department (IMPD), which will partner to build community and engage in anti-racist work;
- Marion County ReEntry Coalition (MCRC), which will evaluate the effectiveness of the program;
- Indiana McKinney School of Law Professor Lahny Silva and the 1 Like Me program, which will provide legal education;
- Aspire Indiana, which will provide mental health and addiction services to participants;
- Cook Medical and Indiana Department of Transportation as committed employer partners.

With thousands of individuals re-entering Marion County annually, the need to expand New Beginnings continues to grow, and if scaled, can ensure more individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency. Ultimately, better services to more re-entering individuals will promote success for whole families, resulting in a thriving, more equitable Indianapolis community.

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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.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family – J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli – through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly & Company. The Endowment is primarily committed to the causes of community development, education and religion and has a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and its home state, Indiana.