

July 22, 2021
For immediate Release

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Goodwill Employee Receives the SourceAmerica® Evelyne Villines Award
Commercial Services employee awarded for natural leadership

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — SourceAmerica announced that it recently honored Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana employee Corey Starks with the 2021 Evelyne Villines Award, which recognizes an individual with a disability who has advanced from work on an AbilityOne® contract into management within their nonprofit agency.

Corey began his 12 years of employment as a janitor with Goodwill Commercial Services and was promoted within the first year. In the ensuing years, he has worked to overcome limited reading and comprehension skills, allowing him to move from an entry-level role to a leadership position.

Although his learning disability creates additional challenges navigating a workplace setting, Corey is eager to learn. Since joining Goodwill, he has earned an advanced certification from the Cleaning Management Institute (CMI) and plans to earn more.

“He’s a perfect example of what you can achieve despite the barriers you may experience,” said Justin DeGuzman, Employee Resource Development Specialist for Goodwill Commercial Services.

He now leads a team of three employees and acts as an interim Team Lead in the area he previously worked in. Corey has learned his new role through keen observation and by applying his own experiences to his leadership skills.

“Some [persons with] disabilities just need structure, and they will be the best workers,” Corey said.

Not only has Corey achieved milestones professionally, but he has also celebrated personal successes. He has been able to move into his own apartment, where he now lives independently for the first time.

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About Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana

Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana is a nonprofit which 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 SourceAmerica

SourceAmerica is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create employment opportunities and choices for people with significant disabilities. They assist federal and commercial customers by identifying nonprofits that are best suited to fulfill their contract requirements, providing employment for people with disabilities. SourceAmerica is one of three nonprofit organizations that implements the AbilityOne Program. The SourceAmerica Achievement Awards honor employees, nonprofit agencies, and business partners for their exceptional work ethic, success, and leadership.