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For immediate Release

Contact: Jenny Kakasuleff, Communications Manager
317.345.4176
jennifer.kakasuleff@goodwillindy.org

Goodwill's Reentry Program Reduces Recidivism in Indiana
Grant funds will provide more opportunities for the previously incarcerated

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana is pleased to announce the expansion of its New Beginnings reentry program, made possible by a generous \$6.95 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

“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 reentry services at Goodwill. “With funding from Lilly Endowment, Goodwill can expand the program’s offerings as well as the number of individuals served.”

The program is designed to meet the needs of individuals reentering Hoosier communities after incarceration, like Maury Phillips, Jr., who was released from the Indiana Department of Correction in December 2020 after serving nine years of a 22-year prison sentence. Prior to that, he was incarcerated continuously between 2004-2010. His greatest barrier to rebuilding his life was securing employment with a criminal record and limited job experience.

Phillips heard about opportunities at Goodwill through friends and applied for a job at our Commercial Services facility on Tremont Street. Upon beginning his employment in February 2021, he learned about the New Beginnings program, which not only provides individuals reentering society with a full-time job, but also helps them overcome a number of barriers. Program supports include assistance with professional skills, housing, health care, financial literacy, substance abuse, mental health and much more.

“The most attractive part of the New Beginnings program for me was the commitment to helping me find a job outside of Goodwill when I finished,” Phillips said.

In June, he accepted a job offer as a maintenance technician making double what he was making before.

“I love my job because every day there’s something new to learn,” Phillips said.

If you’d like to learn more about Maury Phillips and the New Beginnings expansion, please join us for our summer graduation to celebrate and honor all of our graduates for their accomplishments. The event will be held July 30, at 2 p.m., at our Commercial Services facility:

413 N. Tremont Street in Indianapolis. Please RSVP to Jenny Kakasuleff at jennifer.kakasuleff@goodwillindy.org. You can also join us online at facebook.com/goodwillretail.

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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.