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For Immediate Release

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Life After Incarceration: A Story of Persistence
Goodwill Celebrates Second Chance Month

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — In recognition of Second Chance Month, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana is celebrating the outstanding achievements of its employees, students and program participants who were previously involved with the criminal justice system, like Stephanie Carney, store manager at one of Goodwill's retail stores. When Carney was sentenced to 18 months in prison, she knew that she needed to make a change in her life.

"From the ages of 13 to 19, I was deep into my addiction," Carney explained. "I was running away from home, in and out of juvenile detention and girls school and living on the street. Eventually I was put on house arrest, lost my tracker, and then I ran."

In 2014, she became pregnant and gave birth to her daughter, Charlyse. Just a few months later, after being pulled over for a traffic violation, Carney was arrested on two active warrants and sentenced to prison.

Though she'd successfully stayed in recovery since her house arrest, being away from her infant daughter served as a wake-up call. She began studying to earn her high school equivalency and maintained good behavior. In turn, her sentence was shortened to just six months, and she was released days before her daughter's first birthday.

"I was eager to find work after I got out because I knew that staying busy working toward something would help keep me out of trouble," Carney recalled. "I searched for months but no one would hire me. Then I found Goodwill."

Within a year and a half, she worked her way up from a Goodwill associate to a team lead and earned her associate degree. She was also connected to [Goodwill's Legal Expungement Advice \(LEAP\) program](#), where she qualified to have her criminal record expunged.

Today, Carney serves as a site leader at one of Goodwill's retail stores. Since starting in this position two years ago, she's been able to purchase a brand new car and recently became a first-time homeowner.

“I’m grateful,” Carney reflected. “I don’t think I would have been able to accomplish everything I have without Goodwill on my side. I want to go higher, and I know that I have the support to do that.”

Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana currently employs nearly 700 Hoosiers with self-reported felony convictions. As a second chance employer, we help individuals who were previously involved with the criminal justice system to reintegrate into society and rebuild their lives.

To interview Stephanie Carney or to learn more about how Goodwill serves individuals like her, contact Jenny Kakasuleff at jennifer.kakasuleff@goodwillindy.org.

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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.