

Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

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Indianapolis resident to be honored May 20 with Goodwill's Barbara Robinson Award

Southeast Indianapolis resident **Rhonda Gill** will receive the Barbara Robinson Memorial Award from Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana on May 20. The award is presented to an individual with a disability from Goodwill's Commercial Services Division who has demonstrated substantial desire and made significant efforts to overcome barriers.

Determination, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to learn make Rhonda Gill a success in the workplace and in life.

Working for Goodwill Commercial Services since 1983, Rhonda, who has a developmental disability and significant medical issues, helps assemble laboratory kits and subassemble medical supplies for Covance.

"I like working at Goodwill and meeting new friends, new people," she says. "Goodwill helps me do anything."

In 1984, shortly after moving to Indianapolis and starting at Goodwill, Rhonda's life was suddenly turned upside-down.

"I was in a group home, and I got a long-distance phone call, and they told me that my family was killed in a house fire – my mother, father, sister and brother, and my cousin," Rhonda says. "It was sad."

Despite this devastating personal tragedy, Rhonda persevered, learning to live independently, to manage her finances, and to seek out assistance available to her. She also has enjoyed participating in the Special Olympics since childhood.

"Rhonda's exceptional because I see her always trying to motivate herself and make herself better," says Walter Bebley, team lead for Covance.

Rhonda will receive the award at this year's Celebration of Achievement Awards Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 20, at the JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., in downtown Indianapolis. Tickets for this event are \$25 each or \$200 for a table of eight. To make reservations, please visit www.goodwillindy.org/breakfast or call (317) 524-4528.

Goodwill Commercial Services provides quality, reliable, on-time outsourcing services to assist local, national and international companies with their production and assembly needs and is certified to ISO 9001:2008 standards. Commercial Services also provides employment opportunities and work experience for people with disabilities and others who have limited vocational opportunities. For more information about Commercial Services, visit www.goodwillbusiness.org.