

Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

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East 96th Street Store to be recognized May 20 as Goodwill's Store of the Year

The **East 96th Street Store**, 9510 Corporation Drive, Indianapolis, an exceptional example of Goodwill's mission in action, will be honored May 20 as Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana's Store of the Year.

Each year, Goodwill honors one of its retail stores that best demonstrate its commitment to helping people maximize their economic self-sufficiency and to operating an efficient retail store that contributes to Goodwill's financial performance.

At the East 96th Street Goodwill Store, which opened in 1997, the staff combines teamwork, dedication to customer service and a commitment to hiring people with barriers to employment to help meet business goals.

"What makes me the most proud of this store is that we're a group of people from different backgrounds, and we all come together for a common goal," said Ric Wilson, store manager. "We have a really good relationship with our customers, and we probably know half of them by name."

Of the store's 47 employees, three are senior citizens, and seven have barriers to employment. One of those employees is Crissy Dietz.

Crissy, who faces some social barriers and has difficulty speaking, came to the store three years ago. She hangs textiles on the sales floor, and although she was initially reluctant to operate a cash register, Ric says she has developed into one of the store's best cashiers. Crissy says she enjoys her co-workers and her customers. "I like seeing people and helping people out," she says.

Ric says the store takes pride in helping people succeed in their jobs and in life. "Providing employment to people with barriers is important because if you have a barrier, you still have bills to pay, you still have rent to pay, you may even have children to raise, and you have to have an income," he says. "If Goodwill can be a part of teaching you a job skill so you can sustain your lifestyle, raise your family, pay your bills, our mission is complete."

The East 96th Street Store 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.

Revenue generated from the sale of donated goods helps people find jobs and helps young people prepare for life and work. For more information about Goodwill, visit www.goodwillindy.org or call (317) 524-4313.