

Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

Date: January 14, 2015
Contact: Cindy L. Graham, Vice President of Marketing
Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.
Work: 317-524-4212 **Cell:** 317-459-4162
Email: cgraham@goodwillindy.org

Schools join forces with Goodwill to impact community, environment

Goodwill's fourth annual Township Youth Donation Drive runs now through February 1. Students, parents, friends and neighbors of participating schools are encouraged to donate at least two 13-gallon bags of clothes, books, toys, electronics and other goods to Goodwill stores. Donors can bring larger items such as furniture, too.

Schools will receive credit if the donor tells a Goodwill employee that the donation is in support of a specific, participating school. The list of participants is posted at goodwillindy.org/schools. The top school receives a traveling trophy and a celebration event. Districts with participating schools include Decatur, Perry, Pike, Warren and Washington Townships, and Indianapolis Public Schools.

Perry Township was the first district to participate in a drive for Goodwill, starting in 2012.

"Perry Township understands that a strong community and a strong school system go hand in hand. Our students are learning the value of taking care of each other through our partnership with Goodwill," said Vickie Carpenter, assistant superintendent. "We want to give back to our community that has always supported our students and our schools."

"This drive represents the start of our donation collection process for 2015," said Eric Schlegel, vice president of retail operations for Goodwill. "Many people bring in their donations at the end of the year, but this is a great chance for those who couldn't make it in or who found additional items to donate to Goodwill as they put away their holiday gifts and decorations."

Encouraging students to donate sends a positive message at an early age, according to Schlegel.

"Not only are these students keeping items out of landfills, they're also helping create jobs and education opportunities in their own districts and beyond," he said. "We're grateful for the support of staff and students at each and every participating school."

DeJuan Pendergrass, a junior at IPS Gambold Preparatory Magnet High School, is one such student.

News Release

“There’s a level of importance when talking about and actually participating in the drive,” said Pendergrass. “To me, it’s an enlightening way to learn about Goodwill, which does so much for our community as a whole. Coming from a community service standpoint, you really see how much of an impact your contributions, small or large, may have on someone who needs a good chance or second chance at improving their life.”

Goodwill employs more than 2,100 in retail operations, and two-thirds of those workers face employment barriers ranging from disabilities to limited education. The collection and sale of donated goods allows Goodwill to provide jobs and services to its employees and others.

—END—

Revenue generated from the sale of donated goods helps fund education and employment in central Indiana. For more information, visit goodwillindy.org or call 317-524-4313.