

Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

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Goodwill Honors Westside Indianapolis Man for Overcoming Barriers to Employment

Joe Forehand, a westside Indianapolis resident, will receive Goodwill's Barbara Robinson Memorial Award on May 6 for his success in overcoming barriers to employment and achieving self-sufficiency.

Joe has lots of energy and helps keep the Visteon assembly line in Goodwill's Commercial Services Division operating at a quick pace. Before he began working for Goodwill in 1983, Joe was a migrant worker, traveling state-to-state looking for jobs picking ripe produce as a means of supporting his drinking habit.

Eventually, the many years of heavy drinking and living on the streets took a physical and mental toll on Joe. He returned home to Indianapolis, sought counseling and supportive services from the former Central State Hospital and found a job at Goodwill, where he's been a constant source of encouragement to others.

"You can't plow a field looking backward or you'll hit a tree," he tells coworkers and friends. "You have to look forward."

The Barbara Robinson Memorial Award, named after a long-time employee of Goodwill who helped many individuals maximize their self-sufficiency, salutes those whose perseverance alone may be their only outward sign of success in the workplace.

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News Release



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Additionally, one other individual and two partnerships will be recognized at Goodwill's luncheon. The full list of honorees includes:

- Barbara Robinson Memorial Award – Joe Forehand
- Achiever of the Year – Houston Leek
- Employer of the Year – Polk Food Services
- Partner of the Year – Lincoln Technical Institute
- Goodwill Store of the Year – Noblesville

Keynote speaker will be Christel DeHaan, founder, Christel House International; awards will be presented by James McClelland, president, Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc., and C. Perry Griffith Jr., chairman, Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

Each award presentation will include a video of the recipient. Copies for use in editing can be arranged by contacting Cindy L. Graham at (317) 524-4212 or (317) 459-4162.

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