

Bringing opportunity back

► 38TH AND SHERIDAN PROJECT
ISSUE 10 | JUNE 2022



▲ The recently completed **Goodwill Commercial Services** manufacturing facility at **38th and Sheridan** officially opened for business on May 4. Employees at the site will build devices for Bloomington-based **Cook Medical**.

38th and Sheridan: A place to grow

Bringing back opportunity and a celebration ceremony



▲ Employees and guests take part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony held May 4 at the **Goodwill Commercial Services** manufacturing facility located at **38th and Sheridan** in Indianapolis.

While the morning started off with chilly weather, the day was quickly filled with warm regards and inspirational stories at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **Goodwill Commercial Services** manufacturing facility located at **38th and Sheridan**. On Wednesday, May 4, community members, employees from Goodwill and **Cook Medical**, government officials, nonprofit members, and others invested in the event gathered together to celebrate the milestone for a neighborhood that has been hit hard in past decades with job loss, poverty, and high crime. It was a day of celebration, hope, and new beginnings.

Continued on page 2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGES 2-5

38th and Sheridan:
A place to grow
(continued)

PAGES 6-8

A look inside

PAGE 9

Fighting food
insecurity

PAGES 10-11

Who's hiring?

PAGE 11

Fighting food
insecurity (continued)
How are we doing?

PAGE 12

Apply to work
in construction



▲ **Juanita Easterling**, director of Plant Operations at the new manufacturing facility, addresses the crowd at the ribbon-cutting event.



▲ Some of the manufacturing employees at the new Goodwill Commercal Services facility watch a speaker during the ribbon-cutting event.

Continued from the front cover

38th and Sheridan: A place to grow

“For me, this is homecoming”

With the crowd quickly on their feet, cheering and clapping for **Juanita Easterling**, the director of Plant Operations at the new facility, tears came to her eyes and a smile spread across her face as she approached the podium.

“I said I wasn’t going to cry, but these are happy tears,” she said. “These are tears of joy.”

After growing up in this neighborhood, then leaving, and living and working elsewhere for many years, Juanita found herself back where she started. But this time, she had returned ready to work, to help guide, to learn, and to encourage progress in the very same neighborhood where her grandparents still live.

“For me, this is homecoming,” Juanita said. “It’s not only important for me to do my best to represent this facility, but I also represent my family as well, and this community.”

With passion in her voice, Juanita thanked her family and all attendees for their support and the hard work that has gone into the project. Optimistic and determined, she shared her thanks for the opportunities given to her and her excitement for the things yet to come.

And then, with open arms, Juanita welcomed **Dora Figuera** to the stage.

“Here is the best”

With a shy smile and emotion heavy in her voice, Dora shared her story.

After immigrating from El Salvador to the United States in 1996, in pursuit of new opportunities, Dora was faced with adversity, but she always persisted. Despite her limited knowledge of the English language, she took English classes, continued her job search, got married, had three children. She often found herself thinking about returning to school to receive her GED one day. She cultivated a fulfilling personal life, but professionally, she desired more.



▲ Attendees at the May 4 event listen to one of the speakers.



▲ **Dora Figuera**, a supervisor in the manufacturing area at the new facility, tells the crowd about her life journey and how it brought her to Goodwill.

“Not only is this facility bringing 100 jobs to the area but it’s encouraging other organizations to look at Northeast Indy as an area of opportunity. Today is truly a new beginning.”

– **Ashley Gurvitz**, CEO at United Northeast Community Development Corporation

After working minimum wage jobs for 24 years, she found herself starting to question some of her values, but then her neighbor, **Ashley Gurvitz**, CEO at United Northeast Community Development Corporation (UNEC), told her about the opportunities at Goodwill. Hesitant and unsure, but dedicated nonetheless, she applied.

Within six months of working with the company, she received her first promotion. Then, with the creation of the new facility, she accepted the offer to be the facility's first supervisor. While she worried about her English being good enough and her education background, she pushed forward.

“I was nervous and excited,” Dora said. “Juanita never stopped encouraging me.”

After accepting the role of supervisor at the new Goodwill Commercial Services manufacturing facility, Dora has also signed up to start taking classes at the Goodwill Excel Center to complete her high school education.

“My family is proud of me, and I am proud, too,” Dora said. “I get emotional when I think of where I was just last summer, and where I am now. I would never have been given the opportunities or support like I am here. Here is the best.”

During her final thanks and with a large smile on her face, the crowd stood and cheered for Dora, who’s response was a humble, “Okay,” followed by an even bigger smile as she

introduced Ashley Gurvitz.

“Today is truly a new beginning”

Ashley took the stage and hugged Dora. The pair smiled and shared that as neighbors in the community, they would be looking forward to seeing the progress and growth ahead of each other and throughout the neighborhood.

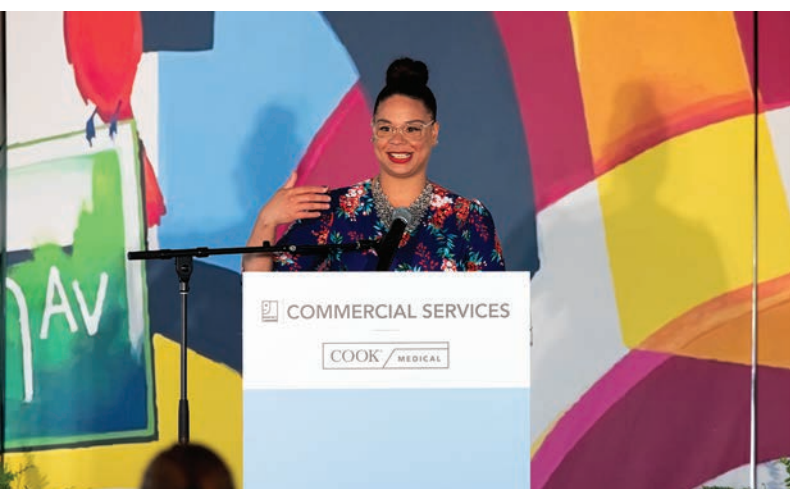
“We are here to celebrate an incredible day,” Ashley said. “It is incredible not only for the fact that, yes, there will be a ribbon cutting, but it is symbolic for the fact that there are so many other things that are being ripped apart and cut to allow new opportunities to be explored at East 38th and Sheridan.”

“It’s a day of celebration for our community. Northeast Indy was once a forgotten community,” she continued. “Not only is this facility bringing 100 jobs to the area but it’s encouraging other organizations to look at Northeast Indy as an area of opportunity. Today is truly a new beginning.”

“This is nothing short of remarkable”

Other speakers at the event included **Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb**, **Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett**, **Kent Kramer**, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, and **Pete Yonkman**, president of Cook Medical and Cook Group.

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▲ **Ashley Gurvitz**, CEO of UNEC, talks about the ripple effect the 38th and Sheridan Project will have on the neighborhood.



▲ A pair of employees from the new manufacturing facility smile for the camera at the May 4 ribbon-cutting event.

Continued from page 3

38th and Sheridan: A place to grow

"There is a lot of praise to go around today," the governor said. "What has occurred since a groundbreaking to this ribbon cutting is nothing short of remarkable, most importantly because of what will come from all of the hard work. You've proven not just that there is a way, but there is a new way, and that centers on or is tethered to good, old-fashioned collaboration."

"With this medical manufacturing hub and all of the good paying jobs that go along with it," said Mayor Hogsett, "It will reignite some of the manufacturing might that this area and Indianapolis generally has relied on for stability and widely shared prosperity."

"Companies can do good business and do good in the world, at the same time"

After taking the stage, Pete Yonkman passionately spoke about the work done and the goals ahead for the project.

"We have a core belief that companies can do good business and do good in the world, at the same time," he said. "We had a business need to increase our capacity to manufacture medical devices. When we came together to collaborate with partners like Goodwill, CICF, and the community in Northeast Indy, we knew 38th and Sheridan was the place to grow. It's about the partnership and the people that we've met here that have made this project possible."

In the parking lot on 38th and Sheridan, the sound of cars, the occasional chicken, and construction for the upcoming **Indy Fresh** grocery store could be heard throughout the ceremony. The surroundings and the natural noise of the neighborhood spoke to many aspects of the speeches given that morning.

"We chose this location because we wanted to be in the community, a part of the community, and we want to

"We chose this location because we wanted to be in the community, a part of the community, and we want to say thank you to all of you for welcoming us and being neighbors with us."

– Pete Yonkman, president of Cook Medical and Cook Group



▲ Employees and guests at the ribbon-cutting event stand and applaud at the end of Dora Figuera's speech.

say thank you to all of you for welcoming us and being neighbors with us," Pete continued.

"This project is in a league of its own"

Kent Kramer spoke of the partnership, the shared plans to empower people, and the gratefulness he felt for the opportunities to be involved in this project.

"Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana has been providing jobs and job training services to Hoosiers with limited employment opportunities for more than 90 years, but this project is in a league of its own, and we're grateful to the Cook Medical team and the community in northeast Indianapolis for choosing us as a partner," he said. "I'm excited to see the impact of this project on residents today and for generations to come."

Through Goodwill, the facility will offer wrap-around services, such as mental and physical health support, substance-use disorder support, soft skills training, housing stabilization, and other services necessary to remove barriers to socioeconomic progress.

"It gave me hope"

After all of the speakers had finished, special guests of the ceremony joined the first twenty employees at the new facility on the stage. A long, red ribbon was unrolled and held across the group, and each with a pair of scissors in hand took part in the momentous milestone. As some smiled and laughed, others proudly waved their ribbon pieces above them. The stage was truly a place of celebration and excitement as the audience clapped and cheered.



◀ Employees from the newly-opened Goodwill Commercial Services manufacturing facility and **Kent Kramer**, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, right, hold up pieces of ribbon at the ribbon-cutting event.

Following the ceremony, the community members, employees from Goodwill and Cook Medical, government officials, nonprofit members, and other audience members in attendance toured the new facility, gathered and spoke, shared stories, and reflected on the event.

Autumn Carter, a newer resident in the area, explained her excitement and interest in the facility and its effect on the neighborhood.

"I moved here about two years ago, and when I heard about this project, I thought it was an amazing opportunity to empower individuals in our community," she said. "It gives us all something to look forward to in the sense of a new direction and a new narrative for an overlooked community.

"Today the energy was inspiring it gave me hope for many of us who call the east side home. Changing the ecosystem starting with employment is so essential to the growth that we want to see on the east side. I'm so excited for what is to come next, connecting the dots that lead to a promising future! "

"A beautiful new beginning in an old place"

Michael and **Carolyn Saahir**, residents of the neighborhood for 32 years, shared their thoughts and optimism.

"When I first heard about the project, I wanted to know what was going on and so I kept up with the news," Michael said. "I went to the cleanup event, met some people, and everyone was friendly and open for questions. We live just down the street from here and were able to see and hear the buildings being built. As we've been able to see everything that is happening here and being done, it's fantastic and needed.

"It's years and years of generations of goodness and bonding within the community happening, and I think it'll remain that way and be a benefit for everyone."

"These jobs give people hope and it brightens up all of 38th Street," Carolyn added. "I think this is a beautiful, new beginning in an old place. I'm enjoying it all and can't wait to see what else develops."



▲ **Autumn Carter** moved to the neighborhood two years ago.



▲ **Michael** and **Carolyn Saahir** have lived in the 38th and Sheridan area for over 30 years.



The Goodwill Commerical Services manufacturing facility

▲ A manufacturing area, where employees are building devices for Bloomington-based Cook Medical.

► **Juanita Easterling**, front center, leads a group tour through the newly completed Goodwill Commerical Services building at 38th and Sheridan. Among those also pictured are, from left, Cook Group and Cook Medical President **Pete Yonkman**, Indiana Governor **Eric Holcomb**, and president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana **Kent Kramer**.





◀ One of the benefits for employees is an onsite fitness center.



▲ A mural created by Indianapolis artist **Amiah Mims** is located in the entryway of the Goodwill Commercial Services building at 38th and Sheridan. A second mural by Mims can be found in the facility's break room.

Continued on the next page

Continued from page 7

The Goodwill Commercial Services manufacturing facility



▲ A map of the 38th and Sheridan neighborhood is displayed on a wall by an office area inside the new facility.

◀ An office area featuring glass walls and lots of natural light.



▲ A timeline chronicling the partnership between Cook Medical and Goodwill hangs in the facility.



▲ Goodwill Commercial Services manufacturing employees are seen through a table. Devices for Bloomington-based Cook Medical will be produced at the facility.

Fighting food insecurity

Local programs help to ensure Indianapolis residents have enough to eat

The **Equitable Food Access in Indianapolis Neighborhoods** initiative, funded by the **Anthem Foundation**, is a community-based planning and implementation process that convenes residents, community leaders, subject matter experts, and civic organizations to develop a vision of equitable food access that will be translated into achievable strategies.



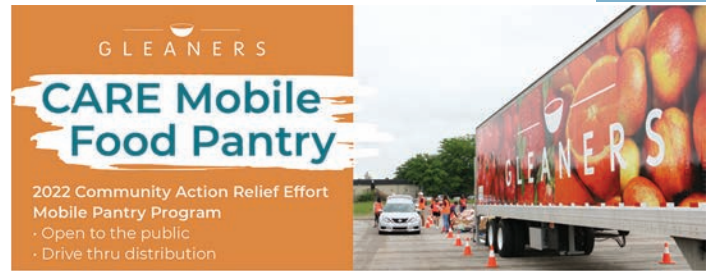
In June 2021, **LISC Indianapolis** and Anthem Foundation announced that the **Northeast Corridor** in Indianapolis

was selected to be the focal point of the three-year, \$2.45 million initiative to improve nutritious food access and help build a more equitable food system.

A community-based planning and implementation process has now begun in this community that convenes residents, community leaders, subject matter experts and civic organizations to develop a vision of equitable food access, coupled with strategies for physical developments, programmatic partnerships and investment to achieve that vision. The neighborhood is using a collaborative approach to determine which food projects will be supported, launched, or expanded. Emphasis is being placed on ensuring all projects improve food access and economic mobility for the area, are community-led, and help build racial equity.

Visit www.equitablefoodaccess.org/ for more information.

See page 11 for additional resources



Locations

June 1 through August 31, 2022

Tuesdays 4 - 6 PM
Marion County Election Board
3737 Washington St., 46201

Wednesdays 12 - 2 PM
Avondale Meadows YMCA
3908 Meadows Dr., 46205

Thursdays 3 - 5 PM
Ivy Tech Community College
101 W. 28th St., 46208

Fridays 4 - 6 PM
Eskenazi Health Center W. 38th St.
5515 W. 38th St., 46254

Saturdays 9 AM - 12PM
John Marshall High School
10101 E 38th St., 46236

Two ways to get help:



1. Download the Community Compass App
 2. Text the word "Hi" to **317-434-3758**
- For more information, visit:
indyhunger.org/compass



Questions? Text SNAP to 55433
or call 317-644-1280 for help applying for SNAP

In partnership with the city of Indianapolis Public Safety Agencies:



Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
3737 Waldemere Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46241
317-925-0191 | www.gleaners.org



Ubicaciones

1 de junio al 31 de agosto

martes 4 a 6 PM
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Eskenazi Health Center W. 38th St.
5515 W. 38th St., 46254

sábado 9AM a 12PM
John Marshall High School
10101 E 38th St., 46236

Dos formas de obtener ayuda



1. Descarga la aplicación en tu teléfono
 2. Envía un mensaje de texto con la palabra hola a 317-434-3758
- Para más información visite:
indyhunger.org/compass



¿Preguntas? Envía SNAP al 55433
o llame al 317-644-1280 para obtener ayuda
para solicitar SNAP

En asociación con las agencias de seguridad pública de la ciudad de Indianapolis:



Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.
3737 Waldemere Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46241
317-925-0191 | www.gleaners.org

Who's hiring?

A closer look at the companies **hiring construction and manufacturing employees** for the **38th and Sheridan Project**.

The general contractor, **Harmon Construction**, and all of the subcontractors are currently hiring diverse talent for construction jobs for the **38th and Sheridan Project**. **Goodwill Commercial Services** is also hiring **manufacturing employees** to work in their newly-completed facility. Residents from 38th and Sheridan area are strongly encouraged to apply!

If you see a job you are interested in, you can reach out directly to that company, visit www.38thandSheridan.com, or you can contact **Akilah Darden** from the **Darden Group LLC** at jobs@38thandSheridan.com or **317.385.8954**.

Construction jobs and training available



HC HARMON CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Harmon Construction is a general contractor based in North Vernon, IN. Harmon Construction was established in 1955. Harmon Construction specializes in healthcare, restaurants, education, gaming, and more.

HS HARMON STEEL, INC.

Harmon Steel is a steel erection company based in Indianapolis, IN. Harmon Steel has been serving Indiana and beyond for over 30 years. Harmon Steel specializes in steel erection.

TB TAYLOR BROS. CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Taylor Bros. Construction is a general contractor based out of Columbus, IN. Established in 1933, We work in over half of the states in the USA. Taylor Bros. specializes in carpentry, fixture work, retail, and more.

Harmon Construction - Hiring
also hiring for Taylor Brothers and Harmon Steel

Steel erectors, carpenters
Apprenticeship Program Available
Hailee.Harmon@harmongroup.com

Sexson Mechanical
Plumbers, Steamfitters, & HVACR Service Technician

Apprenticeship Program—Local 440 (ualocal440.org)

Corey Stein
cstein@sexsonmechanical.com
317.989.5486

Apogee Construction
Local 19 Roofers & Waterproofers Apprenticeship Program Available

www.indyroofers.com
317.484.8990

Fox Contracting
Hiring Equipment Operators & Laborers

bkochersperger@foxcontractors.com
317.281.8963

Ironworkers Local 22
Hiring Ironworks Apprenticeship Program Union Membership & Pension Program

(Will work onsite with **HG Metals** and **Harmon Steel** fabricating/erecting on the project)

Ironworkers22.com
5600 Dividend Road, Indianapolis

Taylor Brothers
Carpentry, doors/frames/hardware

Josh Imlay
(812) 379-9547
josh.imlay@tbcci.com

Multicraft Fire Protection
Hiring Union 669—Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program Available

bfunk@multicraftdec.com
812.336.5005

Price Construction Group, LLC
Now hiring!

<https://priceconstructiongroup.com/>
info@priceconstructiongroup.com
317.723.3201

Indiana Laborers' Training Institute
Local 120—Laborers' Union Apprenticeship Program

IndyRoofers.com
317.484.8990

ATEC Electrical
Jim Bird
765.482.8926
j.bird@atec-electric.com

AGM-Architecture, Glass & Metal
Jeff Hutson
317.472.7449
jhutson@agmcompany.com

Difiniti Group
Drywall installation, acoustical ceiling panels

Guadalupe Baldazo
(317) 496-0635
gb@difinitigroup.com

Construction jobs and training available

Sheet Metal Workers

S.M.A.R.T. Local 20–
Apprenticeship Program
(S.M.A.R.T.=Sheet Metal Air Rail
Transportation)

**Metal & Copper Roofs,
Metal Siding, Gutters**

2828 E. 45th Street, Indianapolis
317.549.6013

Robert Haines

Sealed concrete Floors, Joint
Sealants

Jim Pridgen

317.547.5271

jim@roberthainesco.com

Mr. Green Jeans

Landscaping

William Petty

317.289.6801

william223petty@msn.com

Community Development



**United Northeast
Community Development
Corporation**

Localized Support Programming

www.anuimpact.org

@anuimpactindy

ashley.gurvitz@anuimpact.org

317.546.6240



Diabetes Impact Project-Indianapolis Neighborhoods (DIP-IN)

This project is working to help people improve their health. As a Community Health Worker (CHW) in your area, I would love to assist you in achieving better health.

What can a Neighborhood DIP-IN Community Health Worker (CHW) help you with?

- Provide diabetes and general health information and education
- Connect you to health and social resources
- Provide social support
- Advocate for your health
- Serve as a link to the overall community
- ...And more!

I'd love to connect with you. As a CHW for the Northeast area, I am here to be a resource for residents. Feel free to reach out to me via phone or email:

Summer Burks

Phone #: 317-749-2782

Email: summer.burks@anuimpact.org



How are we doing?

With construction of the **Goodwill Commercial Services** manufacturing facility completed, the focus now shifts to the **Indy Fresh Market**. There will be many familiar faces on that jobsite as **10 contractors** who helped build the manufacturing facility will also be working on the grocery store.

This information was collected by Akilah Darden, president of The Darden Group LLC.

Follow us on Instagram!

Get regular updates and see the progress of the **38th and Sheridan Project** at **www.instagram.com/38thandsheridan**

We want to hear from you!

We want to hear your feedback about this project! Please send your questions, concerns, or thoughts to **community@cookmedical.com**.



Job Opportunities

Apply to Work in Construction

We're proud to announce that Cook Medical, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, The Indianapolis Foundation, IMPACT Central Indiana, and the United Northeast Community Development Corporation have partnered on a unique project to bring opportunity back to an underserved Northeast Indy community. The 38th and Sheridan Avenue project includes a medical device manufacturing facility and a full-service grocery store call the Indy Fresh Market.

The Indy Fresh Market is estimated to be completed in December of 2022, and we're looking for people to join our contractor teams!

We have job opportunities and training available in the following areas:

- Earthwork, Site Utilites
- Storefronts
- Roof and Metal Siding
- Electrical
- Stud, Drywall, Insulation, Acoustical Ceiling
- Structural Steel
- Plumbing and HVAC
- Fire Protection - Sprinkler System
- Rough Carpentry, Door and Hardware
- Concrete Foundations and Slab on Grade
- Sealed Concrete Floors, Joint Sealants
- Landscaping

How to Apply

- 1.) To apply for construction jobs, visit 38thandSheridan.com.
 - 2.) Select the "Construction Job Seekers" button at the bottom of the page and complete the simple online form.
 - 3.) You will be connected to a wide range of local sub-contractors, which are listed on the next page.
- Unsure of which construction trade fits your interest? Please email Akilah Darden with The Darden Group, LLC at akilah@dardengroupllc.com or PM@dardengroupllc.com, and her team can provide assistance.
- Employees have access to comprehensive benefits programs and options for pension with the union contractors.

