



**A Message From Rick Alvis**



I love looking at old photos. The ones I'm sending you today are some of our best

memories from 2012. These are truly wonderful reminders of all the great work you've made possible here at Wheeler Mission during the past year.

If you volunteer, you may find yourself in one of these pictures! Dedicated groups and individuals, churches, schools, companies and families donated more than 25,000 hours of their time to make life better for homeless men, women and children.

Generous donors fed those who were hungry and provided warm beds for those who were homeless by sponsoring nearly 310,000 meals and more than 120,000 nights of shelter.

Together, we've rescued hundreds of homeless men, women and children from the streets each day. Fed, clothed and sheltered them, healed them physically and spiritually. We've changed their lives and given them hope!

Thank you for all you do to provide these life-transforming services.

God bless you for your compassion and generosity!

Rick Alvis  
 President/CEO

# Trust in God and Take Life One Day at a Time

**W**hen Kristina lost her job of five and a half years and couldn't find another, life became very difficult for her and her teenage daughter.

For a time, **they lived without water, gas or electricity.** "We had to run an extension cord from the neighbor's so we would have light at night. We had no food to put in the refrigerator because we didn't have a refrigerator, and we couldn't cook because we didn't have a stove."

"I knew we had to get away from all this," Kristina says. That's when she made the decision to come into our Center for Women & Children. "We were homeless by then, and we were barely surviving by staying in our car. I walked by the Center one day and thought, 'I'm going to go in here and see if I can get some help.'"

Change hasn't been easy, but both Kristina and her daughter are working hard. At the suggestion of her case manager, Kristina moved her daughter into a better school. "She'd had a lot of failing grades and didn't want to obey the rules," Kristina explains. Today, she's seeing "big changes" in her daughter's attitude.

Kristina is working hard, too. She's taking classes in personal

renewal, parenting, business writing and computers, as well as Bible study. She's used those as a springboard to begin a new job search, and is even **thinking of going back to college** and training to become a Medical Assistant!

Kristina appreciates the love and care people at the Mission have shown her and her daughter. "They do care, and they will help you," she says. "You just have to trust them and take one day at a time."



# Thank you for your support in 2012!

## Emergency Food & Shelter

More than 120,000 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women and children, bringing them off of the cold, dangerous streets

Nearly 310,000 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors

## Center for Women & Children

500 women and 90 children were given the physical, emotional and spiritual support they needed to begin living healthy, self-sufficient lives

5 women graduated from our Higher Ground Addiction Recovery Program, equipped with the confidence and the tools for long-term success and independence

## Shelter for Men

2,500 homeless men were cared for at our Shelter for Men where they received shelter, meals, case management and medical care, and attended chapel services and classes

## Hebron Addiction Recovery Program

24 men graduated from our year-long rehabilitation program ready start new lives, reunite with their families and return to being productive, contributing citizens

## Chapel

Nearly 100,000 chapel services, Bible studies and elective classes for men and women in shelters and long-term programs were led by dozens of local churches and staff who share God's love, healing and hope

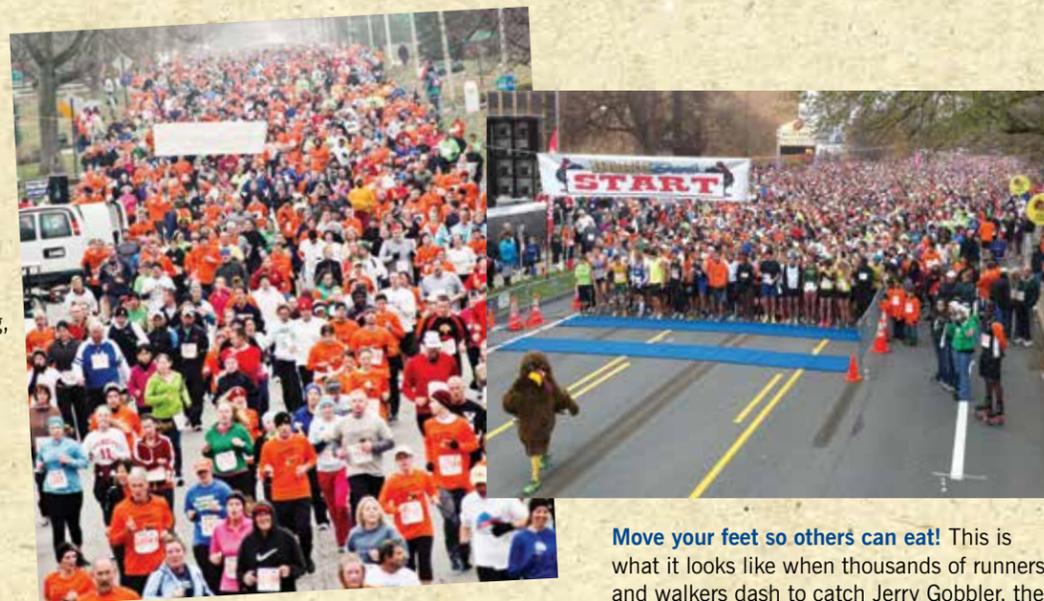
**A message of hope.** Along with live music from the Hunter Smith Band, Brianna Caprice, Amanda Swanson and members of the Greater Northwest Baptist Choir, videos highlighted the plight of those who are homeless and addicted, and showed how individuals and groups can get involved and make a difference.



**500 people sleep out to stamp out homelessness.** For the first time in three years, the rain held off as around 400 people joined Mission staff and guests for the 3rd annual Camp Out to Stamp Out Homelessness & Music Fest.



**Full to overflowing.** That's the only way to describe what often happens at the Mission's Shelter for Men and Center for Women & Children from the beginning of November through the end of March. As the city's Winter Contingency agency, Wheeler is responsible for ensuring that every man, woman and child is safely and warmly housed and out of the elements.



**The 10th annual Drumstick Dash,** a fun-filled walk/run through the streets of Broad Ripple on Thanksgiving morning, was a resounding success! Over 16,000 runners and walkers – a record-setting number of participants – raised money to help feed and shelter their homeless, hungry neighbors.

**Thanks to the 1,100 individuals** who volunteered to help with our 2012 Drumstick Dash. We couldn't have done it without you.

**Move your feet so others can eat!** This is what it looks like when thousands of runners and walkers dash to catch Jerry Gobbler, the Drumstick Dash Mascot. And as more than one person was heard to say, "It's a great way to have an excuse for eating all you want at Thanksgiving dinner!"



**Warm smiles and home-cooked meals.** Our kitchens serve meals every day of the year to those in need. This year 8,000 volunteers helped serve nearly 7,500 hungry men, women and children.



**The loneliest time of the year is turned into a celebration** as guests enjoy food, companionship and worship. The presence of volunteers to share these holiday meals meant so much to those with few friends or family!



**The annual Turkey Bowl hockey game was a big success.** Students and parents from Carmel and Brebeuf High Schools combined to donate almost 80 turkeys for the homeless to enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving.

# 2013 Forecast



## Your support is a great blessing!

As we marvel at all the good work accomplished in 2012 and look forward to 2013, one thing is crystal clear: **None of this would happen without your support.**

Your generosity provides meals and shelter. Your gifts make it possible for homeless men, women and children to receive the help they so desperately need. Your donations get people off the streets and into programs, and help provide jobs and housing that make our community a better place to live!

**Tomorrow, new faces will come through our doors.** They will be

**The Mission never closes.** Ahead of us are 365 more days of providing food and shelter, healing and hope, to homeless, abused, addicted and poor men, women and children.

What the statistics do not count are the tens of thousands of

hours of care, counseling and classes that help people get back on their feet. Or the tremendous amount of compassion and generosity shown by our donors, volunteers and staff – gifts of time, talent and treasure that help achieve such outstanding successes.

Please continue to partner with us to create a better life for those we serve – and a stronger community for us all.

hungry, homeless and lost.

Please continue to help us feed them, give them a warm place to sleep and begin the work that returns them to their families and their communities. Use the coupon below to send your gift or give online at **[www.WheelerMisson.org](http://www.WheelerMisson.org)**.

Your support is a great blessing that is never taken for granted.