



“God never gave up on me!”

Ken already knew what it takes many people who are addicted to drugs or alcohol years to learn: **No matter how many places you go, you take your problems with you.**

So when he was laid off in Denver and found another job here in Indianapolis, it wasn't long before his poor health, due to his drinking, caught up with him.

“My life was out of control,” he says. “My health was suffering because of my drinking and I had chronic pancreatitis.”

Ken's problems weren't all related to alcohol. He'd also stopped seeking a relationship with the Lord. “I did a poor job later in my life of adhering to God's Word and God's will. But God never gave up on me!”

God put a message on Ken's heart that he needed to change, to surrender to His will; but it was Ken's sister who found our Hebron Addiction Recovery Program for Men.

“It was the toughest year of my life,” says Ken. “But with God, all things are possible. I am sitting here today changed in the Spirit, and I am a new creation in Christ. I don't have to live in self-condemnation anymore for the alcoholism, for the deceit about my condition that I hid from my family.”

One of Ken's most awesome experiences has been witnessing **the reconciliation with families.** “A very short time ago, these people would not have wanted to sit in the same room with some of us. Now, they hug us and love us and cry.”



Once he graduates, **Ken's goal is to minister to others.** “I can serve the Lord just by sharing a story, or leading a Bible study or a Sunday school class, or volunteering my time. Because serving the Lord, fulfilling my need to serve, glorifies God.”

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Holiday Blessings

Wheeler was blessed over the holidays by many individuals, churches, businesses and organizations. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to help the homeless and hungry in Central Indiana!

To learn more about holiday celebrations at the Mission, visit our new website, WheelerMission.org.



The Strength to Start Over

"I had reached bottom." "I thought about ending my life." "I burnt all my bridges." "My friends and family gave up on me." "I had nowhere else to go."

Far too many of the men and women who come to Wheeler Mission each and every day have given up. Life has crushed them and left them without hope.

In addition to receiving food and shelter, they need to know that they are loved... that their lives have value... that they can begin again. At no time is this message clearer than at Easter.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Not just life today, or life tomorrow, but life eternal.

Your support brings this message to people who are homeless and hungry; it lets them know that they do have the strength to start over!

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

Rowdie Claus Came to Town!

Hundreds of kids visited Victory Field on December 8, 2012 to have their picture taken with



Rowdie Claus, mascot for the Indianapolis Indians minor league baseball team. Everyone who came had a great

time and donated canned goods for Wheeler Mission!

Thank you! Your support will go a long way to meet the needs of less fortunate people in the new year.

To learn how you can support the Mission, call (317) 635-3575 or visit WheelerMission.org.

Our New Website

Visit the brand new WheelerMission.org to stay connected to everything happening at the Mission – check it out today!



When hunger ends, hope begins

2013 Easter Celebration

You would enjoy being here at the Mission during Easter!

There's an air of excitement, a sense of anticipation. There will be some very special chapel services during the week.

At our Center for Women & Children, there will also be a special Easter meal with tables decorated in spring colors, Easter baskets for each of the children and perhaps a small gift for each of our ladies.

Through your gifts and your prayers, you bring these special celebrations to homeless, hungry neighbors in Indianapolis. Thanks to you, many have overcome homelessness, poverty and addiction, and are living healthier, happier, more hopeful lives!

Please continue to end hunger and bring people a message of hope by sending a special Easter gift today. You may use the enclosed envelope, or give online at www.WheelerMission.org.

Amy Jo became so broken that

Death Was Better Than Living

Amy Jo grew up right here in Indianapolis. She played fast-pitch softball in high school, got good grades and was offered a scholarship at a western university.

But that promising life never materialized because Amy Jo started drinking and experimenting with drugs.

She had a baby at 18, was married at 20 and divorced at 21. **By the time she was 23, Amy Jo's life was moving rapidly "downhill."** That's when she started using cocaine.

Amy Jo's drug use quickly escalated. She started using "crack," the most addictive form of cocaine, and in a short time, she lost everything.

Going to prison for auto theft in 2005 helped Amy Jo sober up, and she "stayed clean" until 2010. "I was taking classes at Ivy Tech and working for a police officer as a home health aide taking care of his mother."

But in December of that year, Amy Jo's world came crashing down. She went through \$30,000 in less than six months, spending all the money to feed her addiction. **She quit her job and left school, and in May 2011, she tried to kill herself.**

"I was broken," she says. "Death was better than living."

Amy Jo first came to our Center for Women & Children in May. But it took her nearly two months to really "face her demons" and start confronting the truth about her life and her addiction.

Our Higher Ground Addiction Recovery Program is not the first "rehab" Amy Jo has tried. But it's the only one that's worked.

What's the difference? "They care," Amy Jo says. "You can actually see that they sincerely care. They give you hope."

Amy Jo says the fact that the program is very structured has also been a big plus. "As an addict, I need that. I need someone to tell me what I can and can't do; someone to put God in my day so that I can begin developing good habits."



Amy Jo's family is being incredibly supportive, including her mom, her stepdad and her younger son. Her son, born when she was 18, is still "unsure about the whole thing," Amy Jo says. "He just wants to make sure I'm going to come home and be a mother."

Thanks to the support of friends like you and Wheeler Mission's life-changing programs, Amy Jo's future is looking bright.

This month, your gift will help provide:

27,083 meals
10,416 nights of shelter
175 medical/dental clinic visits

Our guests may not see your face, but your presence is felt each and every day!

FedEx Cares

FedEx Cares, a charitable division of FedEx that provides corporate contributions, in-kind shipping and more to help bring about positive change in communities throughout the world, collected and donated items for the men, women and children staying with us during the cold winter months. Our guests were touched by their thoughtfulness and generosity.



If your church, group or organization would like to host a collection drive, please contact us at (317) 635-3575 or events@wmm.org for more information.

Join us



Thank You for Participating in the 10th Annual Drumstick Dash!

More than 16,000 runners and walkers came to Broad Ripple on Thanksgiving morning to help us celebrate our 10th annual Wheeler Mission Drumstick Dash, presented by Huntington Bank!



Dave Calabro emceed the event and everyone had a great time. The celebrity winners for this year were Kim Erdahl (Fox) and Julie Patterson (WISH TV). Ryan Kienzle from Canton, OH won with a time of 22:17.4. Becky Boyle of Indianapolis, IN won female first place with a time of 26:24.6. Travis Carpenter was the first male and Karen Bower was the first female to catch Jerry Gobbler.

All of the kids had a great time racing Jerry Gobbler in our



Lil' Gobbler's Run, presented by Managed Health Services. Each child who participated received a medal and a bag of candy.

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful sponsors and volunteers! We just couldn't do it without you!

To see more photos from this year's Dash, visit our new website at WheelerMission.org.

Thanks to Our Drumstick Dash Sponsors

We want to thank the following companies who sponsored the 10th annual Drumstick Dash. We are so thankful for your partnership!

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