



## “I never could’ve done it on my own...”

**R**onnie didn’t believe the damage his addiction had caused was his fault.

“It got to the point where my wife and kids couldn’t stand being around me.” So Ronnie moved out, thinking his family was the problem. “Soon enough, I saw that I was the real problem.”

Ronnie managed to hold his life together for a while...but within six months, he’d lost both his job and apartment. “The drugs

and alcohol took over,” he says. “I had nobody and nowhere to go. It was a miserable life.”

When Ronnie’s kids saw him a few months later, he remembers their shock. “I’d lost 65 pounds. I hadn’t bathed in days. My face looked like a skeleton.” When they begged Ronnie to find help, he asked around – and was referred to our Hebron Addiction Recovery Program. When he arrived at Wheeler Mission, he was finally ready to be honest about his life.

**“I walked in and told them I needed a change in my life.”**

Each day, as he took part in our Hebron program classes, Ronnie felt his mind and body getting stronger. He even memorized verses like 1 John 1:9, still one of his favorites: “If you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.”

And through our staff members’ love and encouragement, Ronnie has stopped blaming others for his addiction and started repairing the damage he caused. “God restored my relationships with my daughters and my wife. I can see what God is doing for

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me...I never could’ve done it on my own.”

After graduating from our Hebron Addiction Recovery Program, Ronnie joined our Servant Leadership Training program. It’s given him opportunity to do more than he ever imaged he could. “I’m not only mentoring the guys coming into Hebron – I’ve even gone back to college to continue my education!”

Ronnie has hope for where God will lead him in the future. **“I have a passion to reach out to guys in the same situation I was in and share what God’s done for me.** Walk alongside them, as God works in their lives, like Wheeler Mission has done for me.”



## A Message From Rick Alvis



### A Season of "More"

What does fall mean to you?

Vibrant red and yellow leaves on the trees. The return of cooler days. Holidays that bring family and friends together to celebrate.

For the Mission, fall means **more**.

**More** people crammed around dining room tables at meals.

**More** people sleeping on mats on the floor of our Shelter for Men or Center for Women & Children. **More** women with young children on the waiting list for rooms.

**More** people in our community who feel alone and scared, and don't know how much longer they can go on without help.

We provide as much help as we possibly can. But as fewer local agencies are able to meet these needs, we must figure out how we can do more – and do it with aging, outdated and cramped facilities.

Your prayers and support provide so much encouragement.

I pray that as we work together, we can offer all those who need it **more help, more healing** and **more hope** today.

Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## A Night to Remember

# BILL GAITHER

**H**ere's your chance to see a music legend and support Wheeler Mission at the same time!

On **Saturday, November 30**, at 6:00 p.m., join us at Banker's Life Fieldhouse for **Gaither Homecoming Christmas Spectacular – A Wheeler Mission Benefit**, performed by the



amazing Bill Gaither (of the Bill Gaither Trio) and featuring The Gaither Vocal Band and some very special musical guests.

According to President/CEO Rick Alvis, Gaither is thrilled to be part of this exciting night of music to benefit the Mission and the growing need for food, shelter and care in our community.

Don't wait! Tickets are sure to go fast, so make your reservations by visiting **WheelerMission.org**.

**See you there!**

## Drumstick Dash 2013

# Dust off those running shoes!

**L**ast year, a record turnout of more than 16,000 runners and walkers took part in our annual Drumstick Dash.

This year, we're hoping for another record turnout – and you can join in the fun!

Our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Drumstick Dash, presented by Huntington Bank, is a fun-filled run/walk through the streets of Broad Ripple on Thanksgiving morning.

All entry fees (\$26 per person or check out our family rates!) benefit the hungry, homeless and poor people we



serve each day at the Mission.

For more information, visit **DrumstickDash.org** or call **(317) 635-3575**.

# 72,000 meals in 90 days!

**S**ummer's barely over... who's thinking about Thanksgiving?

We are! Because the months ahead are our absolutely busiest time of the year.

In the next 90 days, we will:

- Serve nearly 72,000 meals to hungry men, women and children.
- Provide more than 28,000 nights of safe shelter for people who are homeless.

And today, we need to raise thousands of dollars to make it all happen!

That's why your gift to our 2013 Thanksgiving Campaign is so

important. Because **without your support, there is no food, there is no shelter – there is no Mission**.

You demonstrate God's love in tangible, life-changing ways – a meal, a night's shelter, education, job training and counseling.

Please send a gift today to fill the pantry, stock the shelves and make sure the doors are always open to those in need.

You can use the gift slip and envelope with this newsletter. Or make your gift safely and securely online at **www.WheelerMission.org**.

**Thank you!**

# My addictions spiraled out of control...

**E**ven though she was raised in a loving, Christian family and “knew who the Lord was,” Laura didn’t live a life that was even remotely pleasing to Him.

She had been doing drugs “on and off” since she was a teenager. But when Laura found out that she was pregnant right after college, she decided to quit.

She managed to stay off drugs during her pregnancy. But after giving birth to her son, Laura was plagued by constant pain and given pain pills by her doctor. She thought she could handle it...but by the time the pills were gone, Laura was hooked. And her family and friends noticed.

**“My mom would come in every morning to see if I was still alive. She was afraid I might have overdosed the night before.”**

She tried detox programs... halfway houses...she even moved to a new city to start over. But her problems followed her wherever she went. “My addictions spiraled out of control,” she says. Then, by the grace of God, a friend recommended our Higher Ground Addiction Recovery program for women. The next day, Laura was at our door.

Since joining our program, Laura has not only rid herself of her addictions – she’s developed a personal relationship with the Lord.



She’s also off all the medications she’d been on since her youth, a decision she calls “an opportunity to fully rely on God, the only one who can get me through.”

She’s grateful not only for the love and acceptance she’s found here, but also, for the grace. “They’re not out to judge you. **They really, truly want to help you, and they truly love you.**”

Laura made the decision to stay another year as part of our Servant Leadership Training program, and a chance to share with others the love and support she’s found here at Wheeler Mission.

“I can’t even begin to give back what’s been given to me. **There’s so much hope out there, if you choose to seek it.** God really uses Wheeler Mission as a vessel for that, to meet every need you have.”

## Did you know...

...25% of all homeless people in Indianapolis are **children.**

Our Center for Women & Children has 87 beds for single women and mothers with their children.



## YOU to make a difference!

**A**re you interested in volunteering in a more hands-on way with guests and residents?



Come to Wheeler 101 – a session for those who are interested in serving our guests. You’ll learn more about homelessness, Wheeler’s programs, all the ways you or your group can help out here at the Mission and how to get the most out of your volunteer experience.

For more information or to register for a Wheeler 101, please visit **WheelerMission.org.**

## 2014 Mission Calendar

Reserved for you:



**W**ithout the gifts, volunteer time, and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community's hungry, homeless people would not exist.

As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2014 calendar as our way of saying "Thank you!"

To receive your FREE 2014 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

## Visit Us Online!

**G**et to know us better, learn about volunteer opportunities, read about the latest news and events and donate securely at [www.WheelerMission.org](http://www.WheelerMission.org).

## 100 Holes for Homelessness Golf Event

# \$30,000 in 30 days!

**T**hank you to everyone who spent 30 days fundraising and then came out for our third annual "100 Holes

for Homelessness" golf event at Broadmoor Country Club. We met our fundraising goal of \$30,000!



The annual event was kicked off by Mayor Greg Ballard at 7:00 AM, and after the golfers labored for nearly ten hours, WTHR 13's Dave Calabro capped it off during his evening sportscast! Each

dollar raised helped provide food, shelter and care during the summer months, when donations drop off, but the need for help doesn't decrease!

The top golfer this year was Russ Harms! The top fundraiser was Brian Austin at \$3,400!

A special thanks to our sponsors, 88.3 Shine.FM, MATS International, Chicago's Pizza, and golf courses: Smock, Eagle Creek, Hickory Stick, and Broadmoor Country Club. Great job, everyone!

