



## A Personal Word From the President/CEO

Have you ever been asked to “spare some change?”

Recently, a gentleman asked me for money for food. When I suggested he go to Wheeler Mission for lunch, he informed me the Mission didn’t offer lunch.

Fortunately, I knew he wasn’t telling the truth. He was panhandling and not really looking for a hot meal.

Too often, panhandlers are wrongly associated with people who find themselves homeless.

Panhandlers are often addicts, looking to take advantage of your generosity. They’re not looking for real help or trying to change.

Your support of this ministry **never** enables people to stay in destructive behavior – but empowers them, through the love of God, to transform their lives, leave their addictions behind, and become productive members of our community.

As good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us, we reach out to help those who truly want help getting their lives back on track.

Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## “I finally asked God to change me...”

**B**lindsided by grief. That’s how Ellen remembers her life before the Mission.

In her youth, she lost two of her brothers. As an adult, **her heart was broken when her husband suddenly passed away** from an aneurism.

But through it all, Ellen kept her faith. “When my husband died, the Christian community gave me such hope.”

The support helped Ellen and her four children carry on. Then, another devastating loss – Ellen’s son, Charlie, died accidentally in their home.

Ellen went through the motions for the sake of her kids...until she lost

her job. “I was so angry at God. And I started drinking alcohol to numb the pain.”

By the time she was arrested for intoxication, she realized how far away from God she was. “I knew God didn’t want me to be like that. So I prayed and asked Him to change me.”

“And this is how God works,” she says, smiling. “Someone told me about Wheeler Mission.”

**Ellen remembers stepping inside the Mission and feeling something she hadn’t felt for years – peace.**

When she joined our Higher Ground Addiction Recovery program for women, she finally had the chance to work through her grief. “You gain strength through dealing with your problems in a safe environment where everyone is positive, encouraging.”

Now, as part of our Servant Leadership Training program, Ellen is creating that safe, loving environment for the women she mentors here at the Mission.

“I tell them, ‘You are in the safest place in the world – **this is where you get rid of all the junk inside.**’” As God continues to use her, and her grief, to minister to women in similar situations, Ellen hopes “to be a beacon of light every single day.”



**There's still time...**

## See Bill Gaither – LIVE!



Saturday, November 30 is just a few weeks away – which means only a short time left to purchase tickets for a night of music with the legendary Bill Gaither and friends.

All proceeds benefit Wheeler Mission.

Purchase tickets today at [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org).

## National Hunger & Homelessness

### AWARENESS WEEK

Did you know one out of seven Americans lives in poverty? You may not see them every day in Central Indiana, but they are here, and Wheeler Mission is working hard to help them.

November 17-23 is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week – a time set aside for every American to help fix the problems of hunger and homelessness. Your support is one of the best solutions. So make this your special time



to volunteer, organize a food or clothing drive, or make a special donation.

Together, we can eliminate hunger and homelessness – one person at a time!

## Skip One, Feed Two



Skip one large latte and put that \$4.50 toward providing two hungry, homeless, hurting people with a complete Thanksgiving meal.

A special, one-time gift of \$4.50 ensures that two people will not go hungry this holiday season.

You can help us feed, care for and share God's love with hungry people in our community this holiday season. Visit [WheelerMission.org/skip-one](http://WheelerMission.org/skip-one) – or give right now! Just use your smart phone to scan the QR code (below) to make a secure online donation.



# Drumstick Dash

The countdown to Thanksgiving has begun – and that means it's time to sign up for our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Drumstick Dash, presented by Huntington Bank. Whether you're an experienced runner or casual walker, you can join us for this fun-filled run/walk through the streets of Broad Ripple. You can also volunteer – we're expecting thousands of people to participate, and we'll need more than 1,000 volunteers to help this event run



Thursday, Nov. 28 at 9 a.m.,  
*move your feet so others can eat!*

smoothly! For more information or to register to run or volunteer, visit [DrumstickDash.org](http://DrumstickDash.org).

# Thanksgiving Needs

70 turkeys  
20 boneless hams  
20 #10 cans of sweet potatoes or yams, or 4 large cases (200 lbs)  
100 individual boxes of Stove Top stuffing  
10 gallons of turkey gravy  
25 lb. bag of brown sugar

20 lbs of butter  
35 gallons of apple cider  
50 lb. bag of white onions  
12 #10 cans of cranberry sauce  
40 individual cans of Cream of Mushroom soup  
40 lbs of fried onions

Drop off donations at our Men's Residential Center, 245 N. Delaware St., 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., seven days a week.

# A Legacy of Generosity

Consider these reasons for including Wheeler Mission in your will.

- 1 It's a matter of values.** Your will is your "testament" – a statement that you believe in the Mission.
- 2 It's a matter of timing.** Giving through your will enables you to give a more substantial gift than you ever could during your lifetime.
- 3 It's a matter of faith.** Giving to the Mission through your will is a faithful way to provide for ongoing ministry long after you're gone.



If you'd like more information, call Steve Kerr at (317) 635-3575 or visit [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org) and click on **Ways to Help/Planned Giving**.

# Feed the need or fix the problem?

In the next couple of months, your mailbox will be filled with requests from all kinds of organizations asking you to "Feed hungry people at Thanksgiving."

We think that's wonderful. But, why just at Thanksgiving? And why just food?

People who are hungry and homeless need more than a meal. They need shelter. Clothing. Job training. And most of all, they need **life-changing** programs that will not only address the causes of



hunger and homelessness, but work to overcome them!

The effects of addiction, hunger and homelessness can be fatal. Your support provides the year-round, all-day-every-day food, shelter, loving care and counseling that save lives. Your gifts bless individuals with the ability to transform their lives through services like our men's Hebron Addiction Recovery program and our women's Higher Ground Addiction Recovery program.

**Your gift today to Wheeler Mission will do so much more than feed the need. You will help fix the problem. Thank you!**