



A Message From Rick Alvis

A Season to Build



Last year, your gifts helped support 380 beds and nearly 1,000 meals each day!

The Mission has been bursting at the seams, at mealtimes and at night, and especially on cold nights. In 2013, our emergency Shelter for Men often slept 200 men, with only 124 beds.

That's why we're launching our Hope Begins Here campaign. It will allow us to open our doors to more men. Our new Shelter for Men will have 200 beds – a 60% increase to meet the needs of people who are hungry, homeless and hurting. (For more about Hope Begins Here, see pages 2 and 3.)

As we enter this exciting year, please continue to stand with us to provide all the help we can, in all the ways we can, to all the people we can. Use the enclosed form to mail your gift or give online at

www.WheelerMission.org.

Thank you again for your generous support!

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

Real Change Can Happen Here

Sean was a teenager when he discovered drugs and alcohol were an easy way to forget his social anxieties. “Drinking was an escape,” he says.

As an adult, Sean’s drinking only increased. He moved to a new city, hoping that a fresh start would help him leave his problems behind. But problems followed wherever he went.

Eventually, “I stopped wanting to drink,” Sean says. But he wasn’t sure how to reach out for help. **“I would sit in the bushes across from AA meetings and just couldn’t go in.”**



That changed when Sean met a pastor who was “genuine...not a Sunday Christian.” As he got to know God for the first time, Sean realized he could no longer hide his addictions. “I was running from myself, and I was so deep in addiction. But I couldn’t give it up.”

His desire to change led him to the Hebron Addiction Recovery program here at Wheeler Mission.

“I didn’t want to go at first,” Sean admits. But as other doors closed, **Sean realized that God was leading him here.** He joined our program and slowly, he learned how to open his heart to others and was transformed by the grace and love of God.

Sean also found support from our staff and the other men in the program to recover from his addiction and grow in his faith. “It’s awesome to see people who have made it through,” he says. “Real change can happen here.”

Today, as part of our Servant Leadership Training program, Sean is a completely different person. No longer afraid, no longer hiding, he reaches out to guys who have just joined the program and helps them along in their journey.

“It’s amazing what goes on here,” Sean says, smiling. “God is really doing miraculous work.”

Thank you for your support in 2013!

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.

Emergency Food & Shelter

More than 150,000 nights of safe shelter were provided for men, women and children instead of being out on the cold, dangerous streets.

Nearly 325,000 nutritious meals were served to hungry neighbors.

Center for Women & Children

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

6 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

6,000 homeless men were cared for at our Shelter for Men received services such as shelter, meals and medical care, and attended chapel services and classes.

Hebron Addiction Recovery Program

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

Servant Leadership Training Program

10 men and 2 women completed our year-long discipleship program that allows program graduates to continue their spiritual growth, strengthen their recovery and minister to men and women just beginning our addiction recovery programs.

Chapel

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



Hope Begins Here Capital Campaign.

"We're asking the community to join us in building our Hope Begins Here campaign," says President/CEO Rick Alvis. "Expanding and updating our facilities will significantly increase the number of people we are able to serve, particularly in our Shelter for Men, which is over capacity every night of the year – far beyond the months of our Winter Contingency program." The Shelter for Men will add 76 new permanent beds, and increased space in the day room and dining areas. Our Hebron Addiction Recovery Program will also be able to increase its residential facility.



Full to overflowing. That's the only way to describe what happened at the Mission's Shelter for Men and our Center for Women & Children. We put mats on the floor of both emergency shelters most nights to accommodate the swelling numbers of people needing shelter, especially during cold weather when we coordinate the city's Winter Contingency Program.



100 Holes for the Homeless.

After 30 days of fundraising, 31 golfers took part in our annual golf tournament at Broadmoor Country Club. Kicked off by Mayor Greg Ballard, the golfers played for nearly 10 hours! Thanks to the golfers and our generous sponsors, \$30,615 was raised to help homeless men, women and children.

The 11th annual Drumstick Dash, had the streets of Broad Ripple bustling with runners and walkers on Thanksgiving morning! 17,700 participants of all ages (a record number!) raised money to help feed and shelter people who are hungry and homeless. Thanks to our 1,300 wonderful volunteers and 45 generous sponsors that helped make the 2013 Drumstick Dash such a resounding success.



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!"



"It was a privilege to be in Indianapolis last week for both the Drumstick Dash and the Gaither Homecoming Christmas Spectacular," says John Ashmen, President of the Association of Gospel Rescue Mission. "It was affirming and encouraging to see the way in which so many of Central Indiana's residents...not only publicly endorse, but personally support Wheeler's ministry to hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted people."



Warm smiles and home-cooked meals. Our kitchens serve meals every day of the year to those in need. This past year 9,000 volunteers helped serve nearly 325,000 hungry men, women and children.



A night of celebration and praise. That's just what happens when the legendary Bill Gaither comes to town! 10,300 people attended Banker's Life Fieldhouse for a very special benefit concert: the Gaither Homecoming Christmas Spectacular. The event raised at least \$638,442 to benefit Wheeler Mission.

2014 Forecast



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 people who are hungry, homeless and in need of your help.

You change people's lives and give them hope!

As we marvel at all the good work that has been done in 2013 and look forward to 2014, 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 that will change their lives and give them hope!

Central Indiana has an enormous number of people in need right now. We need your generous support today to feed, clothe and shelter them, heal them physically and show them the love of Christ that will mend their broken hearts and souls.

Please help us start the New Year off strong. Use the form below to send your gift today. Or give safely and securely on our website at **www.WheelerMission.org**.

Thank you in advance for your compassion and love!

