



INSIDE Story

WHEELER MISSION MINISTRIES *Help. Hope. Healing.*

SUMMER 2014

A Message From Rick Alvis

You don't have to look too far to find people who are carrying heavy burdens. They're our neighbors - yours and mine. And often, Wheeler Mission is their last hope.

Peter, who's featured in this newsletter, only planned to stay a few hours at our emergency shelter...and ended up joining our Addiction Recovery Program. Just a few hours can truly be the first step toward a new life!

You may not realize it, but summer is a very busy time here. Our Center for Women & Children is at capacity almost every night, and our Shelter for Men is full too.

Summer is also a time when donations almost always drop way down - making our ministry of rescue even more challenging!

Your continued support is the key that can open the door to people in our community who need a safe place to finally lay down their burdens. As Jesus says, "Come to Me...and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Thank you for helping to provide a refuge where men, women and children find peace for their souls - and new hope for the future.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

*Peter's cancer helped
heal his hurting heart*

*"Life is
a gift!"*

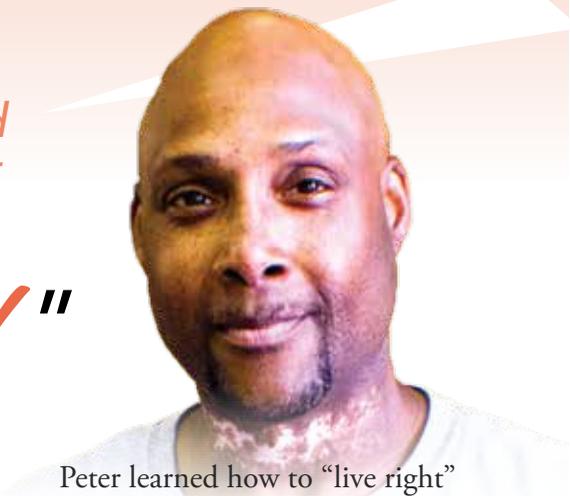
For 15 years, Peter tried on his own to heal from the lifelong pain that trapped him in an endless cycle. Struggling with his addiction to drugs. Moving from "one dead beat job to another." Living on the streets.

He even spent Christmas of 2011 alone and homeless, too ashamed even to see his son, who was home from the military for a short visit.

Three nights later, when he came to Wheeler Mission, Peter only planned to stay a few hours—just long enough to thaw his almost frozen feet.

But two men encouraged him to stay the night at our emergency Shelter for Men. "Had it not been for that," Peter says, "I would have probably gone back out to the same old stuff."

Peter's first few months in our program weren't easy, but "a light went on" as he talked with our program manager one day. Peter realized, "The only thing that separates me and him is choice. He's choosing to live right and I'm not choosing to do much of anything."



Peter learned how to "live right" through our Addiction Recovery Program, which teaches men to confront their addictions while grounding them in God's love and forgiveness.

Then, in August 2012, Peter received devastating news: he had vocal cord cancer. As he endured nearly 30 radiation treatments, he drew on the hope of Jesus Christ that he'd found - even during some very dark days.

"I was frustrated with God and asking Him why," Peter says through tears. "But God was actually healing me. My heart had become so hardened...**and cancer was the very agent that softened my heart.**"

Today, Peter is a graduate of our Servant Leadership Training (SLT) Program. He is sober, cancer-free, and living each day knowing that "this life isn't mine, it's a gift."

Update: Peter's cancer was still in remission as of last month. He graduated from our SLT Program in November 2013.

We've broken ground!

Praise God and His provision for Wheeler Mission! In January, we broke ground for our new 12,000-square-foot Shelter for Men. This much-needed facility will include a new laundry room, showers and restrooms, an expanded day room, a multipurpose room and an elevator with access to dorms.

This new space will also allow us to renovate our current Men's Shelter to add 76 more beds...that's 200 beds total!

After our busiest winter ever where we often slept to 75 men on the floor, this new space couldn't come at a better time.

A special thanks to the Lilly Endowment and the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, whose generous gifts allowed us to begin construction and make this vision a reality.

To find out more on how you can support the Mission, visit **WheelerMission.org** and click on "Ways to Help."

Breaking ground on the new Shelter for Men (L to R): Chuck Preston (Lilly Endowment); Mike Newbold (Huntington Bank Indiana Regional President & Wheeler Mission Campaign Chair); Matthew Roller (Director, Shelter for Men); Wayne Brown (Former guest & volunteer); Rick Alvis (President/CEO); Steve Myer (Wheeler Chairman of the Board); Kent E. Agness (Nina Pulliam Charitable Trust); Jim Morris (President, Indianapolis Pacers); and Douglas Hairston (City of Indianapolis Representative).



Wheeler Mission Night at Victory Field

Mark your calendars for Wheeler Mission Night at Victory Field, August 26, 2014. Go to **WheelerMission.org** and click on **Events** for more details.



Did you know...

...in 2013, 1 in 5 people experiencing homelessness were women running from **domestic abuse**

The Mission's Center for Women & Children offers a **physical, emotional and spiritual haven** in a secure setting.

Get Ready... Get Set...

TO DASH! Drumstick Dash 2014

You've helped our Drumstick Dash become the 2nd largest running event in Indiana! Thank you for making this event such a blessing to others.

This year, our 12th annual Drumstick Dash, presented by Huntington Bank, will take place on Thanksgiving morning. It's a great way to start Thanksgiving Day!

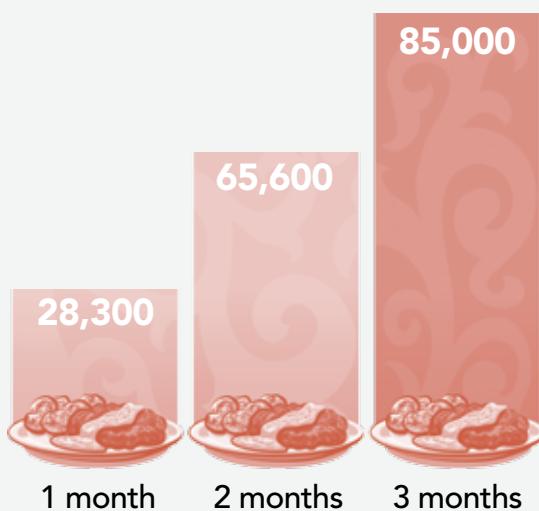
We're hoping for even more people to join us at the starting line - and we want you to be one of them!

All entry fees (\$26 per person, or check our website for family rates) benefit the hungry, homeless and hurting people we care for each day at the Mission.

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



Help serve **85,000 meals** in 90 days



Hungry, homeless men, women and children need your help and support this summer.

In just 90 days, Wheeler Mission will serve nearly 85,000 meals, and provide the shelter, care and spiritual healing that will change the lives of those who come to us for help.

Your support is vital if we are to meet this challenge. Please send a gift today in the enclosed envelope. Or provide immediate help by making your gift online at **WheelerMission.org**. Thank you!