



INSIDE Story

WHEELER MISSION MINISTRIES *Help. Hope. Healing.*
HOLIDAY 2014

Mark felt "WELCOMED, WANTED & IMPORTANT"

A lost job was the start of Mark's trouble with alcohol. "No one was hiring," he remembers. "I started running out of money and because I had no spiritual foundation, I became anxious." As his anxiety increased, so did his drinking.

"One drink became two drinks, then three drinks," he says. **"I knew I had a problem."**

Once Mark admitted his addiction, he called a friend for guidance on how to find a safe place to get help. "My friend's son had gone through the recovery program at Wheeler Mission, so I asked him to bring me here."

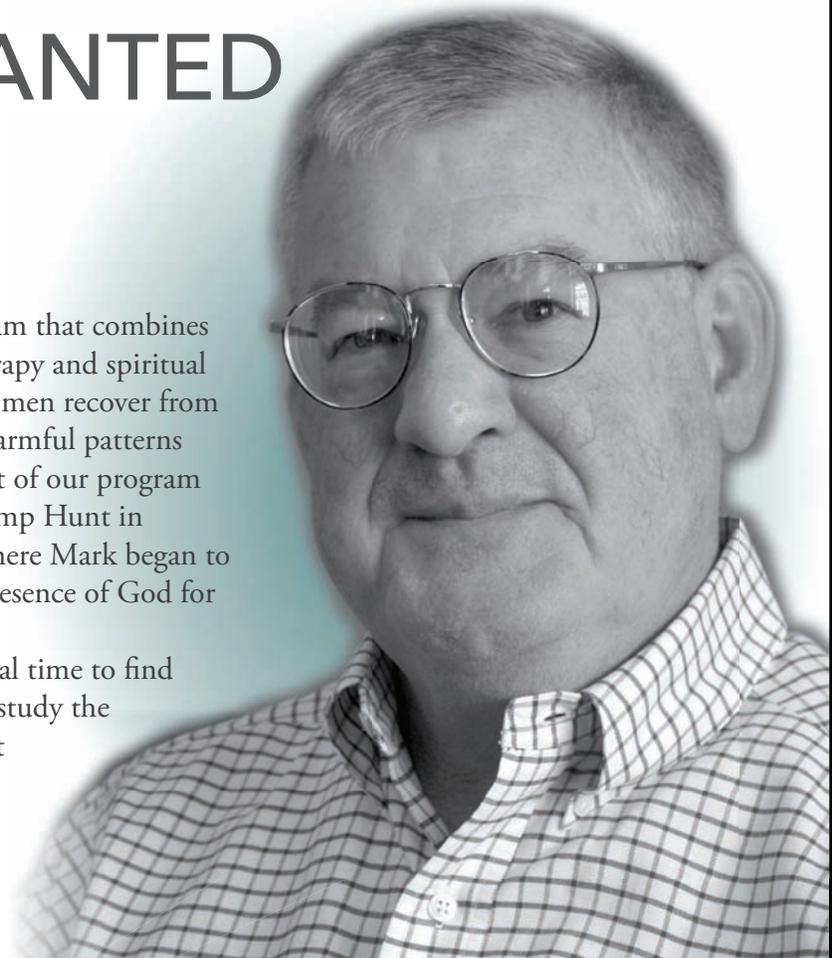
Though Mark was feeling anxious and burdened by his addiction as he walked into the Mission, his fears melted away as he was warmly greeted by our staff. "I felt as if thousands of pounds of anxiety had been removed. I felt welcomed, wanted and important."

Mark joined our addiction recovery program for men, a

residential program that combines classes, work therapy and spiritual guidance to help men recover from addictions and harmful patterns in their lives. Part of our program takes place at Camp Hunt in Bloomington, where Mark began to experience the presence of God for the first time.

"It was a special time to find peace, quiet and study the Word of God – it helped me build a rock solid foundation," he says. **"I feel grateful and blessed to have been part of the program here."**

Mark graduated from our recovery program and today, is taking part in our supportive housing program. It helps men transition back into the community while providing a safety net of secure housing and accountability.



"Now, I'm looking for employment," he says. "I want to serve God and help people."

Mark is grateful for all the Mission has given him – and is committed to giving back to others. "Too many of us are takers rather than givers. Giving helps others strengthen a relationship with God. And it literally saves lives."

A Message From Rick Alvis



A Home for the Holidays

The holidays are so close! Our 12th annual Drumstick Dash is just two weeks away. And if your home is anything like mine, decorations are coming out of storage and excitement about seeing family and friends is building.

At the Mission, thousands of men, women and children will spend the holiday season with us. They don't have homes to decorate, or money for gifts. Many don't have family or friends in their lives.

But thanks to you, these hurting people will not be alone this holiday season.

Your support, and your kindness to others, provides hot meals, a safe place to sleep and recovery programs with the power to change lives. When I talk to the men and women here, they're incredibly grateful. "I didn't know where else to go" or "No one would help me," or simply "Thank God you're here."

I thank God that "you're here" for Wheeler Mission. We never know what the holidays will bring, or how we may touch a person's heart with a simple holiday meal and a cheerful smile. Please help us reach out to our family, the poor and the hurting, this holiday season.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

It's not too late to register! DRUMSTICK DASH 2014

It's almost here! You can still sign up for the 12th annual Drumstick Dash, the 2nd largest running event in the state of Indiana — register now at DrumstickDash.org.



Running for a reason. Taking part in the Dash by donating or volunteering are also great ways to give back this holiday season. Every entry fee goes toward meals and so much more for men, women and children in our community! To donate or volunteer, visit DrumstickDash.org.

He's sitting alone at a big table...



His face is tired and careworn. His eyes are downcast. It's Thanksgiving day, and he's alone. Now, **watch his face as you approach the table.** You wish him a "Happy Thanksgiving," and put down a heaping plate of turkey with a pile of mashed potatoes and dressing smothered in gravy in front of him.

"We're so glad you could join us today," you say. "It's great to have you here for Thanksgiving."

He looks up and smiles...perhaps for the first time in weeks. Then, so quietly that you lean in to hear, he says, "Thank you."

As a member of our Mission family, you bring fresh smiles to the faces of thousands of people. You make those who are homeless feel welcome. You fill those who are hungry with more than food.

Each time a meal is served, each time a homeless person sleeps in a warm bed, each time prayers are offered up in chapel, it's because you're part of a family that cares for those who are lost, hurting and alone. Thank you for all you do!



“Nobody cared about me”

It's difficult to imagine the pain that Chelsea has experienced in life.

Abuse. Cruelty. Long, lonely nights in a home where no one would talk to her, or even look at her. “Nobody cared about me,” she says.

Growing up in the foster care system, Chelsea experienced abuse and neglect from a very young age. When she was adopted, it seemed like things might improve...but tragically, she was sexually abused by the people who adopted her.

Chelsea also had troubles at school, where she was bullied and harassed by her peers. Without a network of family and friends, she began seek attention from the wrong people.

“I had no sense of family, no sense of love. Nobody was fighting for me.”

At 18, Chelsea was kicked out of the house. “I was in shock,” she remembers. “I couldn't believe I didn't have a home.”

Chelsea had never been homeless before, but spending one night outside in the cold was enough for her. She went to the library, looked up local shelters – and found our Center for Women & Children.

The minute she walked through our doors, Chelsea felt protected for the first

time in her life. **“Right away, the staff showed me that people do care about you here,”** she says. “They not only took me in, but they took extra steps to show me love.”

Chelsea is now part of our Fresh Start Program, which gives women looking to begin again the tools they need to accomplish their goals.

“I've gotten to make some good connections through the program. I have a church family – they are really working with me through the process of healing. I have a spiritual mom, really awesome friends and people who are like family. I've never had any of those things.”

Today, Chelsea dreams of being a missionary and spending her life serving other people. “I'd like to build loving relationships with people who have been where I've been and help them know that God has been there all along, even if they don't fully understand it or see it.”

She's grateful for the impact Wheeler Mission has had in her life – and in so many others'. “They're really making a difference here. They're taking broken lives and helping people grow in Jesus.”

In from the cold... Winter Contingency



On any given night, 1,900 men, women & children will be homeless in Indianapolis. Some of these individuals will sleep out in the cold – leaving them vulnerable to hypothermia and pneumonia.



Other local shelters and organizations fill up quickly this time of year.



WHEELER MISSION
Ministries
Help. Hope. Healing.

Wheeler Mission's **Winter Contingency**, from November through March, makes room for everyone, even if that means putting mats on the floors!



Your donations make this possible. Donate today – and help bring homeless & vulnerable people in from the cold!

To find out more, or to donate, visit **WheelerMission.org**. Thank you!

**Eat.
Shop.
Give.**

#GIVINGTUESDAY



There's a day for giving thanks and a day for getting bargains.

Giving Tuesday, December 2, is the day for giving back!

With a busy holiday season coming - we'll provide nearly 1,000 meals a day! - your Giving Tuesday donation will go a long way toward helping us feed and care for our community's hungry, homeless people.

Visit our website at **WheelerMission.org** on Dec. 2 to celebrate this special day of charitable giving. Thank you!

**Connect with us
online!**



Facebook.com/WheelerMission



Twitter.com/WheelerMission



Youtube.com/wmm1893

A Christmas List *from our pantry*

As you're shopping for the holidays, it would be a great blessing if you could purchase one or more of these items to help us serve over 32,000 meals this holiday season:

- 75 turkeys
- 60 boneless hams
- 25 #10 cans of sweet potatoes or yams, or 4 large cases (200 lbs)
- Potatoes - fresh or boxed scalloped
- 35 lb. bags of brown sugar
- 60 lb. bags of white onions
- 25 spray nozzle cans of whipped cream
- 90 1-dz. egg cartons
- 45 1-gallon containers of apple cider
- 50 1-gallon containers of milk
- 25 #10 cans of green beans
- 50 pecan or fruit pies
- Coffee (as much as possible)
- Powdered drink mixes (as much as possible)
- 1,000-count disposable dinnerware: plates, cups, bowls, cutlery



Donations can be dropped off at the Men's Residential Center, 245 N. Delaware St., 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., seven days a week.

You can find [a complete list](#) of urgently needed food items at **WheelerMission.org** under the tab "**Get Involved.**"