



INSIDE Story

WHEELER MISSION MINISTRIES *Help. Hope. Healing.*

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Octivia had to decide...

A DEATH SENTENCE OR A *new life?*

Octivia describes her life before coming to the Mission as “hopeless.”

“My family has been trying to get me here for 20 years,” she says. But Octivia had been “living for drugs,” never knowing where her next meal would come from, sleeping wherever she happened to end up.

When she found herself in jail and the drugs began to wear off, “the fog lifted and reality set in, and I began asking myself what I was going to do.”

Octivia had come to a “fork in the road.” She could either continue her life of drug use and homelessness, or make a real change.

She wrote to her family asking them to come and pick her up.

Initially, they said yes. Then, they changed their minds. They said, “How do we know you won’t do the same thing again?”

Going back to her old way of life would have been a “death sentence.” Instead, Octivia began calling around to shelters that accepted women,

and finally found the Mission’s Center for Women & Children.

Octivia was given a bed in our emergency shelter for 30 days and time to think. Returning to the streets “scared” her, but then she began to notice a group of women in the shelter. “They were always serving...being real nice and helping people. Come to find out, they were in the Higher Ground Addiction Recovery program.”

Octivia finally decided which road she needed to take. She joined the program and graduated last December!

“I’m so very glad I walked through those doors!”

“God rebuilt and restored me,” she says with a smile. And that is not all God did in Octivia’s life. “I learned who God was and what He’s been doing in my life all along! He is forgiving and He loves me. He has His



arms open wide just waiting on me.”

Today, **she has a steady job and a future full of hope.** But she’ll never forget the people that helped pave the way. “I want to continue to be an example for my sisters here [at the Mission].”

Through your current and on-going support, lives like Octivia’s are changed each and every day! Your partnership in this ministry means we will be ready to offer help when men and women are ready to receive it. Thank you!

A Message From Rick Alvis



We're a "nation of givers." More than 70% of all Americans make donations to non-profit organizations - the highest percentage of any country in the world! Amazingly, the average amount given per family is more than \$1,000 per year.

This generosity certainly benefits the Mission, where more than 85% of our support comes from private individuals, some of whom have been our partners in ministry for decades.

Today, we have an opportunity to make these gifts go even further.

The Mission has received a \$10,000 Challenge Gift. If we can match it with an additional \$10,000 or more, we will have made a good start on providing meals, shelter and other live-saving services this summer.

To enable us to take advantage of the tremendous blessing this Challenge Gift offers, I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider making a special gift by May 31.

God bless you for your care and compassion.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

Planning Your Giving



You know you want to make a long-term gift, but sometimes the options are just too confusing. Before you consult your attorney or estate planning specialist, take a look at some of these options.

If your goal is to:	Then you can:	Your benefits may include:
Make a quick and easy gift.	Simply write a check now, or give through our secure online process.	An income tax deduction and immediate impact for us.
Avoid tax on capital gains.	Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities.	A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax.
Defer a gift until after your lifetime.	Put a bequest in your will (give us cash, specific property, or a share of the residue of your estate).	Your donations are fully exempt from federal estate tax.
Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free.	Create a charitable gift annuity.	Current and future savings on income taxes, plus fixed, stable payments.
Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of a home or other real estate.	Donate the real estate to us, or sell it to us at a bargain price or create a retained life estate.	An income tax reduction plus reduction or elimination of capital gains tax.
Give your personal residence or farm, but retain life use.	Create a charitable gift of future interest, called a retained life estate.	It gives you tax advantages plus use of the property.
Make a large gift with little cost to you.	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need.	Current and possibly future income tax deductions.

A Challenge and Great News!

With fewer donations coming in over the summer months, it's really a challenge to provide food, shelter and care for people seeking help here at the Mission.

But there's also good news: A private family foundation has given the Mission a \$10,000 Challenge Gift. Matching this gift with an additional \$10,000 or more will help provide meals, shelter, programs and other life-changing services now and into the summer!

This gift could not have come at a



better time! Right now, we're anticipating serving nearly 85,000 meals in the next three months, and opening our doors to provide more than 38,000 nights of safe shelter for homeless men, women and children.

Please help us take advantage of this tremendous blessing by making the best Summer Challenge Gift you can today. Thank you!

Your legacy

Today's seeds. Tomorrow's harvest.

At one time or another, we've all thought about the legacy we will leave. How will we be remembered, and for what? We hope the information in this newsletter will help you consider your legacy and understand some of the benefits of including Wheeler Mission in your plans.

A bequest in your will or living trust is an easy gift to make. It will enable the Mission, or whatever organization you select, to continue the good works that you enjoyed during your lifetime. A bequest also provides your estate with a charitable deduction equal to the value of your gift, so more of your estate goes to your heirs.

A bequest makes a positive statement. When you include Wheeler Mission in your will or estate plan, your gift is a clear declaration of your values to make a

difference in the lives of men, women and children who are less fortunate.

A bequest provides needed funding. Indianapolis's homeless population is increasing. Your bequest helps the Mission continue to make a present and eternal difference in the community.

A bequest encourages others. There is something about a significant gift that influences others to "go and do likewise." As friends and family plan their own estates, your generosity and thoughtfulness will be there as a beacon.

Bequests can be structured in a number of ways including:

- A gift of a portion of your estate
- A gift of specific assets
- A gift of the residue of your estate

Please call Steve Kerr at **(317) 687-3624**, or contact him by email at stevekerr@wmm.org to learn how you can include Wheeler Mission in your legacy.



Did you know...

- 20% of our homeless neighbors are veterans.
- Wheeler Mission's STEPS program provides housing and meals while helping veterans apply for and receive benefits.
- Wheeler Mission and its partners provide medical, dental and vision care for those in need.
- The total number of homeless families increased almost 10% last year.

5 Ways to Help

1. Send a gift to feed and shelter hungry, homeless people.
2. Volunteer to serve a meal or take part in a special event. E-mail volunteer@wmm.org or call **(317) 635-3575** for more information.
3. Share your dedication to helping others - "like" us on Facebook and "share" us with your friends.
4. Donate gently used clothing, furniture and appliances or that car that's taking up space in the garage.
5. Shop at our Thrift Store at 2730 S. Madison Ave. (across from K-Mart).

Money-saving Gift & Estate Plan Facts

- Did you know that you can make substantial annual gifts to loved ones without paying gift tax or depleting your estate tax exemption amount?
- Did you know that gifting strategies can help you diversify investments without capital gains tax consequences?
- Did you know that your home could provide you with a substantial charitable income tax deduction, even if you continue to live there?

Want more information? Talk with your estate planner, or contact Steve Kerr at **(317) 687-3624**, or by e-mail at stevekerr@wmm.org.





Your Gifts

Are Their Salvation

Enduring Gifts

We would like to thank all of you who have established legacy gifts to benefit the Mission. Your support is a true blessing and a lifeline for people who are hungry and homeless. If you have made the Mission a beneficiary in your will or trust, we would like to acknowledge your generosity and kindness. Please check the appropriate box and return the response form with this newsletter, or call Rick Alvis at **(317) 635-3575**.

When the sister Brandi and her three boys were living with was evicted from her home, Brandi and the boys became homeless. The children were in danger of being taken from their mother until the family found hope and shelter at the Mission's Center for Women & Children.



Since high school, Jared had been “on the run”... from job to job, state to state and a few stints in jail. Not only was he running from the law, but from problems he carried deep inside. From his first day in the Mission's Hebron Addiction Recovery Program, Jared began to change. “When you're faced with the reality that you are the problem, that's when change can really start.”

This newsletter is intended as a service to Wheeler Mission supporters and designed to provide general information. It does not represent tax or legal advice. Always consult with your attorney, tax advisor or financial consultant.