



INSIDE Story

WHEELER MISSION MINISTRIES *Help. Hope. Healing.*

EASTER 2016

All Andrew wanted

*was one more
chance*

As a teenager, Andrew had walked into Wheeler Mission...to volunteer.

"Back in middle school, I came to Wheeler to serve dinner a few times," he says.

As an adult, Andrew walked into the Mission again...this time, to find help for his addiction to heroin.

Andrew considered himself functional: He worked and he helped raise his daughters. But as his addiction grew, it led to stealing, trouble with the law – and eventually, the desire to quit using drugs. "I tried pretty desperately to get off of drugs. I tried a lot of other programs."

"It took sinking down into the depths before I was ready."

For the first time ever, he reached out to God. "I felt helpless. I couldn't control myself anymore. I asked God to help me."

**How were Andrew's prayers answered?
Read more on page 3...**

A Message From Rick Alvis



Perhaps you've heard our big news...

If not, here it is: Backstreet Missions in Bloomington has officially merged with Wheeler Mission.

We're humbled here at Wheeler Mission by this opportunity, especially given our joint mission is to solve an issue that has destroyed too many lives: homelessness and addiction in our cities.

You'll notice I said cities, not city. I want to be clear - if you live in Indianapolis or Central Indiana, your gifts will continue to support people in Indianapolis and Central Indiana. If you live in Bloomington, your gifts will continue to support people in Bloomington and South Central Indiana.

In short, your gifts will stay where you live!

There are people in both communities that desperately need help...and hope. This transition allows both cities the chance to keep expanding outreach to those who are homeless or broken by addiction.

Both Rescue Missions will have the Wheeler name - and both Missions will continue to reach out locally to be all the help they can, in all the ways they can, to all the people they can.

With your continued support - wherever you may live! - neighbors in need will experience healing and restored lives through the power of Jesus Christ. That's the mission that matters...and it will continue to be at the heart of Wheeler Mission in both communities.

Rick Alvis, President/CEO

A Record Breaking Year! DRUMSTICK DASH 2015

On a cold, crisp Thanksgiving morning, over 19,000 people made time to participate in our 13th annual Drumstick Dash and helped us raise nearly one million dollars!

We're especially thankful for the generosity of the 40+ companies, civic groups and organizations that sponsored our Dash. Putting together the 2nd



largest running race in Indiana is a huge task...and the support of our sponsors made it a special day for thousands of people.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!

- Huntington Bank
- Athletic Annex
- Brooks Running
- Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL)
- Cumulus Radio (WFMS, WJJK, The Beat)
- K-Love and Air1
- 88.3 Shine.FM
- Brewer Direct
- United Hope Foundation/Lor Corp
- WTHR 13
- Franklin College
- Kroger
- Starbucks
- Jay's Moving Co
- F.C. Tucker Company Inc.
- Clear Channel Outdoor
- Expense Reduction Analysis
- XFINITY
- Ray Skillman Auto Center
- ESPN 1070 The Fan
- Printing Partners
- Connect Think
- Barnes & Thornburg
- Ambetter from MHS
- Freelance Graphics
- Chicago's Pizza
- Summers Plumbing Heating & Cooling
- Zerorez
- Jackson Oil & Solvents
- IndyStar
- Toy Factory
- Frito Lay
- Doctors Express Urgent Care
- St Vincent
- Great Clips
- Midwest Transit Equipment
- Hyatt Place Indianapolis Keystone
- Applebee's



\$2.25 WON'T BUY A SMALL COFFEE MOST PLACES...

...but for just \$2.25 each, you can feed homeless & hurting people an ENTIRE MEAL - and help change their lives forever this Easter.



Make a gift at WheelerMission.com



“I wasn’t going to give up.”

As he prayed for a way out of his addiction to heroin, Andrew remembered Wheeler Mission from his youth. He even knew a few people who had been through our addiction recovery program.

“Their success inspired me to try Wheeler’s program,” Andrew says. “I knew I had to do whatever it took.”

“I wasn’t just going to give up and leave.”

The first few weeks in our program weren’t easy – but Andrew was determined to stay. “I wanted to get off drugs...to stop feeling miserable and sick all the time.”

Through the love of our staff, God-centered classes and counseling offered in our program, Andrew began understanding why his addiction had such a powerful hold in his life. “I’d always felt discouraged when life didn’t go according to my plans,” he says. “To forget it, I’d escape through drugs.”

Now, he turns to God in prayer instead. “I pray all the time,” he says. “Whatever

issue I’m having, God puts the right thing in my path to set me straight.”

“I have hope now.”

Today, Andrew is a graduate of our program and is focused on rebuilding his life. He’s spending as much time possible with his two daughters, who are excited to have their dad back.

He’s also working hard to establish a career. “Being at the Mission has given me the opportunity to apply for apprenticeships and training grants for skilled trades.”

Andrew is amazed at the difference the program made in his life. “Wheeler Mission took me in – a guy who’d completely run out of options and had destroyed everything – and gave me the opportunity to improve myself and build back my family’s trust.”

“I used to feel so hopeless,” he says. **“Because of the Mission, I have hope now.”**

Center for Women & Children

Children’s Needs:

- Disposable Diapers, esp. size 4 & 5
- School supplies: construction paper, glue / glue sticks / craft items (children’s ministry / preschool)
- Snacks (goldfish, cheese crackers, fruit cups, other kid-friendly items)
- Socks – all sizes
- Underwear – all sizes
- Sippy Cups / Bottles
- Kids’ hair supplies (small rubber bands, barrettes, combs, etc.)
- Crib sheets (they have plenty of blankets at this time)

Shelter for Men Men’s Residential Center Training Center at Camp Hunt

- Socks
- Hats & Gloves
- Long Underwear
- Winter Boots
- Winter Coats (all sizes, up to 4XL)
- Book bags (or some type of carry-all bag)
- Pajamas
- Deodorant
- Bus passes
- Stamps
- Pens, Pencils, Highlighters
- Legal Pads

Backstreet Mission (Men’s Center) & Agape House (Women’s Center) in Bloomington

- Hoodies m/lg/xl
- Sweatshirts m/lg/xl
- Long-sleeved tees m/lg/xl
- Shower shoes
- Laundry bags
- Winter boots (men’s sizes 9-12)
- Socks
- Backpacks
- Small clear zippered bags for toiletry items
- Antiperspirant/deodorant
- Manicure/pedicure sets
- Combs, brushes
- Bath towels
- Laundry soap, fabric softener

EXCITING NEWS!

As you may know, Wheeler Mission and Backstreet Missions of Bloomington merged last fall!

But...what does that mean?

We’ve assumed the day-to-day operations of Backstreet, combining our resources and long histories of providing help to men and women in need of food, shelter and long-term recovery from addiction, poverty and homelessness.

Your prayers are especially welcome during this exciting – and slightly overwhelming! – time of transition.

Whether you live in Indianapolis, Bloomington or somewhere in between, you’re making **the help, healing and hope** of our combined organizations possible for so many hurting souls.



IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

BUT IT'S WARM INSIDE

1,600 homeless men, women & children in Indianapolis may spend the night outside in the freezing cold. From November-March, our Winter Contingency Program (in partnership with the City of Indianapolis) helps bring them inside to the warmth and safety of the Mission. Your donations make this help possible!

Learn more...or donate now!
WheelerMission.org

Thank you!

1 Day *100 Holes*

Calling all golfers!

Register now to be part of our annual 100 Holes for the Homeless golf tournament.

This is your chance to join in raising \$30,000 – or more! – for Wheeler Mission during the summer months, when donations slow down, but people in our community need the meals, shelter and care the Mission provides as much as ever.

Get involved by:

- ❶ Registering to play
- ❷ Supporting our golfers by donating at **WheelerMission.org**
- ❸ Becoming a sponsor (e-mail Brian at **BrianCrispin@wmm.org**)

However you help, you'll be making an impact in homeless people's lives here at the Mission!

 Register online now at **WheelerMission.org!**

Why play 100 Holes?

"I love golf, and I know what Wheeler Mission is all about from living in Central Indiana all my life. I thought it was a good time to get involved and give back."



Yes, Rick! I'll feed, shelter & change people's lives this Easter:

- \$15.75 to feed and care for 7 people
- \$27.00 to feed and care for 12 people
- \$51.75 to feed and care for 23 people
- \$_____ to help as much as possible
- Designated for Bloomington

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Check enclosed Bill my credit card



CREDIT CARD # _____ CIV/SEC # _____

EXP. DATE _____ PHONE # _____

 www.WheelerMission.org
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