



# INSIDE Story

WHEELER MISSION MINISTRIES *Help. Hope. Healing.*  
THANKSGIVING 2015

## A Personal Word from the President/CEO

Imagine having more than 300 hungry men arrive at your home each day.

Now imagine having to prepare meals for them in a small kitchen...fitting them all into a dining room meant for far fewer people.

Here at the Mission, we don't have to imagine. Our Shelter for Men has been stretched to its limits for the past few years, serving hundreds of meals from a kitchen built more than 25 years ago, providing seats for everyone in the dining room that seats less than 100, and sheltering upwards of 300 men each night when we only have 174 beds.

We never want to turn away anyone who needs help - but with our current facilities, it's a constant struggle as more homeless and hungry men come through our doors each day.

**Now, thanks to your help and our community's support,** we're nearing completion on an expansion of our kitchen, dining room and our sleeping quarters!

Today, as we celebrate being

*Rick continued >>>*

“THE LORD  
LOVED ME  
ENOUGH TO  
BRING ME TO  
MY KNEES.”



Austin wishes that you could've seen him just one year ago.

“I was a mess,” he says. “I was consumed by alcohol and drugs to hide what was actually going on inside me.”

As a high school athlete, Austin thought drugs just “seemed fun and innocent.” But at Western Kentucky University on a football scholarship, “the drinking began taking over,” he says.

**“I was living for myself.”**

Soon, Austin's addiction spiraled out of his control. “I squandered my abilities the Lord blessed me with on drugs and alcohol,” he says sadly. “I tried to hide my failures under my addiction.”

Austin has always been a believer – but he didn't turn to God for help. “I was proud,” he says. “I wanted to be successful on my own.”

**“I couldn't believe I let my addiction get to that point.”**

Austin remembers the weeks before he came to the Mission as the worst of his life. “I wasn't homeless, but I was miserable. I knew the only way to get on the right path was to surrender my life to the Lord.”

**“I had volunteered at Wheeler Mission during the holidays.”**

As a native of Indianapolis, Austin

*Austin continued >>>*

>>> Rick continued

able to offer help, hope and healing to even more men, I want to celebrate you and the lives you've impacted with your support of Wheeler Mission. For so many hurting men, a second chance and a new life are now a reality...and that's only possible because of you.



Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

### How can you make this a great Thanksgiving for homeless and hungry people in our community?

Help feed them by purchasing one or more of the items below and donating them to the Mission!

- 70 turkeys
- 20 boneless hams
- 20 #10 cans of sweet potatoes or yams, or 4 large cases (200 lbs)
- 100 individual boxes of Stove Top stuffing
- 10 gallons of turkey gravy
- 25 lb bag of brown sugar
- 100 1-lb boxes of elbow macaroni
- 50 2-lb boxes of Velveeta cheese
- 20 lbs of butter
- 50 #10 cans of green beans
- 50 #10 cans of corn
- 12 #10 cans of cranberry sauce

Drop off at 245 N. Delaware, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.  
For a complete list, or to donate, please visit [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org).

>>> Austin continued

knew about Wheeler Mission. This time, he came back to get help – and take the first step toward a new life for himself.

Austin joined our addiction recovery program and through counseling, classes and spiritual renewal, faced the reality that addiction ruled his life and began rebuilding his relationships with family.

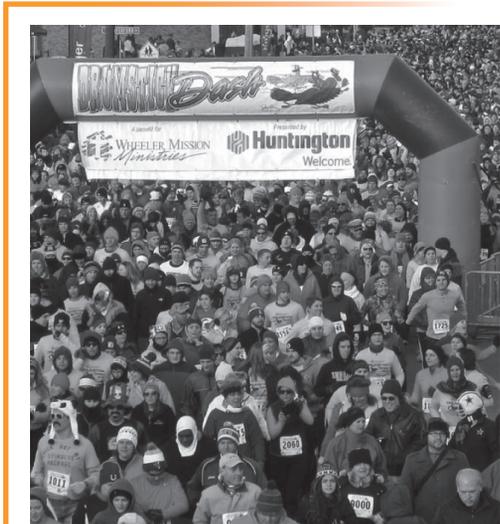
After graduating, Austin was asked to be part of our Servant Leadership Training (SLT) program and recently joined our staff. It's been a special blessing for him to serve men in the program because Austin remembers being in the same place not too long ago. "It humbles me...I want to be patient with these guys, like others were patient with me."

### "The Lord used Wheeler Mission to bring healing into my life."

As he looks forward, Austin wants to center his life on serving others. He plans on attending Cross Road Bible College and using his experiences as a way to give back. "A lot of times, addiction starts in high school," he says. "So I'd love to get involved in youth ministry and help young athletes and teens avoid the same mistakes I made."

Austin is grateful to the community who's made the Mission "a place for guys like him" to recover, grow and transform. "The Mission helped save my life," he says. "Without it, I wouldn't have had a place of refuge to eat, sleep, study the Word and learn to depend on God for everything."

## Don't miss this great Thanksgiving Day tradition!



Thursday, Nov. 26 at 9 a.m., **move your feet so others can eat!**

### Did you know...

- Wheeler's Drumstick Dash is the 2nd largest running event in the state.
- **Thousands of walkers, runners & volunteers** pack the streets of Broad Ripple each year to run for a reason.
- You can walk or run a 4.5 mile or 2.75 mile course; kids 10 and younger can join in our Lil' Gobbler's Run.
- Not in town Thanksgiving morning? You can also register for **Outta Town Dash Around** so you can run to support Wheeler Mission from wherever you are.
- Your registration fee is a blessing to the Mission, helping to feed, shelter & care for hungry and homeless people.

Register or donate today! Call (317) 635-3575 or visit [Drumstick Dash.org](http://DrumstickDash.org).

## Searching for HOPE this holiday

Look at these faces.

They're men, women and children from our community. They may be homeless, and hungry ... some are struggling to escape from addiction or abuse ... others are living in their car with their children, trying to figure out a way to get back on their feet.

**They all need your help today.**

You can provide a special Thanksgiving gift to homeless, hurting and hungry

people in central Indiana who will come to Wheeler Mission – in fact, we expect to serve more than 60,000 nourishing meals this Thanksgiving season.

Just \$2.25 provides a meal and the new hope people in our community are searching for this holiday. Please – extend a helping hand to them by making your gift now. Use the enclosed envelope, or give online at [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org).

Thank you!

