

INSIDE STORY

WHEELER MISSION
Celebrating 125 Years

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | SUMMER 2018

A GOD-SIZED CHALLENGE

Shawn's challenges led him to a moment of new hope.

BECAUSE OF YOU,
CHALLENGES BECOME
CHANGED LIVES
THROUGH GOD'S LOVE.



“**HOMELESS
ISN'T
HOPELESS.**”



Growing up with an alcoholic father, Shawn followed his familiar path. “Drinking was like second nature to me,” he says, “and it consumed 10 years of my life.”

When Shawn’s father passed away, his own addictions only escalated. His mother came to him in tears. “She begged me not to end up like my father,” he remembers.

Shawn lived with his mother, caring for her when she became seriously ill. When she passed away, he moved in with his brother... until one night he was asked to move out.

“**This is where my life turned around.**”

“I left at three o’clock in the morning with two bags full of clothes,” Shawn says. **“I fell asleep on Keystone Avenue and someone called the police, thinking I was dead.”**

When the officers approached him, Shawn asked them to take him to a shelter. “I’m convinced God was speaking through me, because I wasn’t even thinking of that before,” he says.

When he first arrived at Wheeler Mission, Shawn says,

“I wanted nothing to do with God.” But one night, sitting in chapel, he heard a voice say, “listen.”

“What the pastor said pierced my heart,” he explains.

“I couldn’t stop drinking on my own will, but when I surrendered to the Lord, He helped me.”

Shawn joined our Foundations program, grateful for time to focus on rebuilding his relationship with the Lord while also building life skills. “God has blessed me with brothers in Christ here who pour into us and help us rebuild our lives,” he says. **“We were all broken at one point, but the Lord is putting us back together.”**

Now in our Equip Program, Shawn is active in his church as a deacon, preparing for a future career in ministry and taking steps to reconnect with his family.

Because of your generous support, men like Shawn are facing their challenges and being transformed by God’s love here at the Mission. “Wheeler Mission proves that homeless isn’t hopeless. The Mission is a place of refuge where you can get your life back on track.”

VISIT US ONLINE to learn more about our outreach, read stories of hope, see our latest videos & securely donate anytime!

 WheelerMission.org

LET’S BE FRIENDS!



A MESSAGE FROM RICK ALVIS



RISING to the Challenge

When we first opened our doors 125 years ago in 1893, the gifts of generous friends made it possible to serve 108 guests the first year in Indianapolis who were homeless and hungry.

Today, your gifts make it possible to serve nearly 1,000 meals daily, in addition to providing shelter, clothing, counseling, job training, and more services and programs than our founders ever imagined.

Yet more local people find themselves in need – and that's the challenge we face each day. Feeding them. Sheltering them. Caring for their immediate and long-term needs. Sharing God's love with them.

Every month, we turn away hundreds of requests for shelter and services from women and children. Even for those we do shelter, our space is limited and we're often forced to sleep women and children on our gymnasium floor – everyone from an 80-year-old homeless woman to a mother with a newborn. As we celebrate 125 years of service to the community, we're also facing this huge challenge of helping more women and children, the fastest-growing homeless population in our community.

That's why I'm thankful for people like you, who rise to the challenge of helping!

Throughout our 125th year of service, we'll share more with you about how your generosity makes the Mission a beacon of hope for our guests – and our plans to expand our outreach to women and children.

Thank you for rising to the challenge of helping so many others. Your faithful support lights the way to brighter futures for all who come to us for help – today, tomorrow and beyond.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO



WHEELER MISSION



DRUMSTICK DASH 2018

Presented by Huntington

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, DASH!

Join with us and thousands of others at the starting line at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 22 as we get set to take to the streets of Broad Ripple in our 16th annual Drumstick Dash.

Move your feet so others can eat!

Walk or run with those who share your heart for people who are hungry and homeless in central Indiana.

Volunteers Please!

For more information and to sign up to volunteer, please visit:

WheelerVolunteer.org

Register Now!

DrumstickDash.org

Want to know more?

Interested in being a sponsor?

☎ (317) 635-3575

✉ DrumstickDash@WheelerMission.org

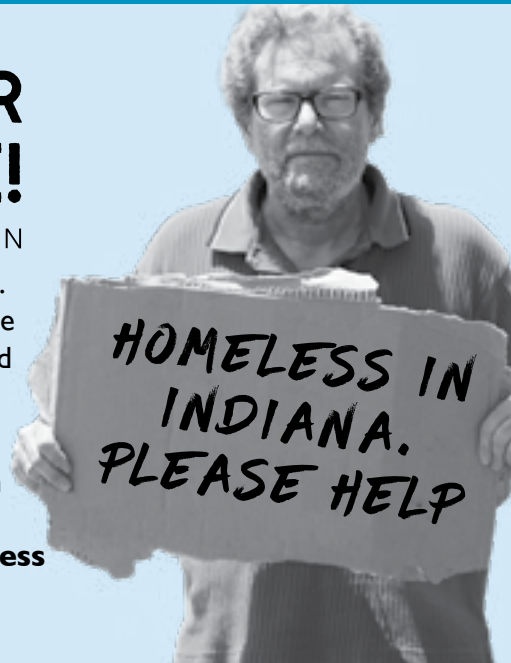


SHARE YOUR SUNSHINE!

97-DAY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Sunny summer days are here... but many in our community are experiencing dark and troubled times.

This Memorial Day, our 97-day Summer Campaign to care for those in our community who are homeless and hungry begins.





Your gift today...
HELPS US MEET THE CHALLENGE!

This summer, we're facing a real challenge. Donations to provide food, shelter and life-changing programs at Wheeler Mission tend to decrease over the summer months... but the number of hurting people seeking our help certainly doesn't.

Will you help us rise to the challenge, making sure our struggling neighbors in Central and South Central Indiana receive the care they need?

You can be a vital part of the solution to the challenges our community's hurting and hungry face.

Please don't wait to help.
OUR SUMMER CHALLENGE ENDS MAY 31

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card + envelope.
- 📧 Give securely online at **WheelerMission.org**.

**Thank you for helping to meet
this tremendous challenge!**

Summer
2018


93,750
meals


56,250
nights of shelter

LEAVE A LEGACY THAT *Shines On*

A 2006 graduate of our Addiction Recovery Program, Josh's life is a testament to the biblical teachings, spiritual guidance, Christian fellowship and other blessings he found at Wheeler Mission, including his wife, Colleen, whom he met when they were both employed there. "She grew up in church and was following the Lord at a young age," he says. "I was from 'the other side of the track' and got my life straight."

Today, Josh and Colleen – along with another Christian couple – own and manage three successful used car dealerships. They "give back" by donating financially to the Mission and by providing housing facilities and employment for men transitioning from programs similar to the one Josh completed at Wheeler Mission.

They are also excited to be expecting their first child, a son, whom they describe as a miracle baby. "I can see us one day showing him where his mother and I met," Josh says, "and instilling in him the value of what Wheeler is doing and what we as Christians should be doing for the widows, orphans and homeless."

We invite you to join Josh and Colleen in continuing a legacy of love and hope for those longing to change their lives by including Wheeler Mission in your will or estate plans. For more information, contact Jim Gillespie.

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