


Heart of Bloomington

Your heart for our city...in action

Fall 2018

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION - BLOOMINGTON

- 2 You Fill Hearts with Thanksgiving
- 3 “You can’t go back, but you can change tomorrow.”
- 4 Employer Matching Increases Your Impact!



**“You feel like you’re on a treadmill...
but you’re not going anywhere.”**

Today, Julia is on a path to a new beginning – and her heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who are making her journey possible.

**YOU’LL BE MOVED BY
HER STORY, ON PAGE 3.**

**“I’ve learned you
can’t go back.
But you can make
changes
for tomorrow.”**



Julia has faced a lot of difficult moments in her life: trying to heal from abuse that caused lasting physical and emotional damage... recovering from an addiction to alcohol that had helped her cope with that abuse.

But when she found herself in the ICU, her body weakened from illness, Julia didn't know how to move forward.

Just months earlier, she'd finally left her abusive relationship. "It was the grace of God that got me out," she says. "I had other people supporting me, helping me... and I was finally able to walk away."

To make ends meet, she moved into an apartment with her adult son. But when he lost his job, they lost their apartment. "I stayed at a hotel, searching for more affordable apartments. But my wages just barely covered each week at the hotel."

Her health grew worse... and when she went to the hospital, doctors thought her heart might not survive her weakened state.

Three days later, Julia left the hospital with just \$10 in her pocket. "I had nowhere to go," she remembers. And in addition to recovering physically, she was also suffering emotionally and spiritually.

A kind-hearted case worker at the hospital told Julia about our Center for Women & Children and she decided to give

it a try. She was overwhelmed by the warmth and welcome of our staff – and through the counseling, classes and spiritual guidance here, Julia experienced true healing for the first time in her life.

“

**Wheeler showed me there's a
light at the end of the tunnel.**

”

Today, when Julia looks in the mirror, she finally sees a woman she recognizes. "I didn't know if I was ever going to find 'me' again," she says. "I'm still a work in progress, but I'm so much more myself."

She's now saving up money for a new apartment, working full-time and looking forward to a brighter, more stable future on her own. Most of all, she's thankful for the love she's felt every day at Wheeler: ***"I was a seriously broken woman when I got here. Today, I'm a different person."***

She's a woman with a heart of gratitude for friends like you who have made her journey possible. Thank you for your continued generosity.



A MESSAGE FROM RICK ALVIS

Your kindness fills hearts with thanksgiving

Those we care for at the Mission face a litany of challenges. Like Julia, who you'll read about on Page 3, each story of heartbreak and tragedy is personal and unique.

Yet all of our guests share one thing in common: **deep gratitude for friends like you who are providing a pathway to hope and healing.**

From the essentials of food and shelter to emergency services and practical training, your generosity lays the financial foundation for our faith-based outreach. Sharing the love of God is at the center of all we do. We know true and permanent life change is only possible when men and women have invited Him into their hearts.

With you alongside us, **we have the amazing opportunity to accompany individuals who are hurting and homeless – individuals God loves deeply – on their journeys to restoration.**

The Thanksgiving season offers a special opportunity for both Wheeler staff and guests in our care to reflect on the many blessings from your kind compassion. With a heart of gratitude, I pray you'll continue to share your time, talent, gifts and prayers to uplift our neighbors in need.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO



Change Lives MONTHLY

Make your generosity automatically abound! When you become a **Circle of Hope monthly giving partner**, it's as **easy as A, B, C** to provide critical, ongoing care for local people in need:

- ✓ **It's Automatic:** We'll set up your recurring monthly gift – no remembering dates required.
- ✓ **It's a Blessing:** Admin costs are cut, blessing more guests with every dollar you give.
- ✓ **It's Convenient:** Control how much you give through our secure giving platform.

If you're not already a **monthly giving partner**, we invite you to join our **Circle of Hope** today! To set up your recurring monthly gift, please visit **WheelerMission.org/monthly-giving**.



With Grateful Hearts...

As you give thanks for your blessings this Thanksgiving, those in our care will be giving thanks too – for you and for the gifts of comfort, compassion and life-changing opportunity you so generously provide for them.

This Thanksgiving Season Alone...



29,678
Hot Meals



12,841
Safe Beds



**Thousands
of hours**
of Training, Counseling
& Prayer

Please continue your heartfelt support with a gift to our *2018 Thanksgiving Campaign*. Because you care, your neighbors in need can overcome their challenges and embrace a new beginning.



*God bless
you for being
generous*



Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.



Give online, anytime, at
WheelerMission.org.



Open Your Heart... Lend a Hand

We're grateful for the scores of caring volunteers who help make the holidays meaningful for our guests. But helping hands are needed all year-round!

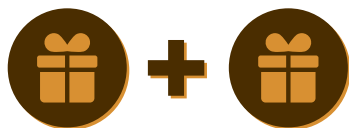
Are you interested in volunteering beyond the holidays, even in a long-term way? Come to Wheeler 101 – a special information session about Wheeler's programs and how you can help.

Please contact us to register for Wheeler 101 and for details on more opportunities to serve.

☎ (812) 227-3320

✉ Volunteer@WheelerMission.org

Employer Matching



Increases Your Impact!

Many employers will match gifts shared with the Mission, increasing the impact of their employees' generosity! Ask your HR department if your company will match your donation to help more local people in need.

William Wheeler Society

YOU'RE INVITED!

Because you care so deeply for those in need, will you accept this special invitation to join the William Wheeler Society?

This amazing group of compassionate friends generously supports those who are homeless in our community, giving \$1,000 or more each year. All this help enables the Mission to consistently provide nourishing meals, safe shelter, warm clothing and countless opportunities to share God's love with our guests every day. Members also enjoy a special appreciation event each year!

WWS members also enjoy events designed just for them!

To learn more, contact Dwayne Gordon:

☎ (812) 332-2452

✉ DwayneGordon@WheelerMission.org

Did You Know? It costs only **\$2.25** to provide one meal for a person who's hungry.