

# Heart of Bloomington

*Your heart for our city...in action*

Summer 2018

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION - BLOOMINGTON

2 A Message from Rick Alvis

3 "I'm finding my purpose is to help others."

4 Help Us Meet the Challenge!

A GOD-SIZED CHALLENGE

**ATHENA NEEDED A RAY OF HOPE DURING A DARK TIME.**

*Because of you, challenges become changed lives through God's love.*



**“I’M FINDING MY PURPOSE IS  
TO HELP OTHERS.”**

After years of enduring a painful and toxic relationship, Athena and her husband divorced. Sadly, however, her situation only grew more heart-wrenching. Unable to afford an apartment on her own, she soon became homeless.

Living in a tent for nearly two years, she fell victim to dangerous people who took advantage of the addiction she’d battled off and on for more than two decades. When a brutal encounter nearly ended her life, she knew she had to find a way out of her destructive lifestyle. She came to Wheeler Mission - Bloomington and asked for our help.

Through our care and guidance, Athena is learning about resources that will empower her to overcome her obstacles and rebuild a stable life. **“I’ve started studying the Bible and attending church regularly,”** she says. **“And every time I go, there’s a message I need to hear.”**

Now volunteering at an addiction recovery center, she will soon begin training to become a specialist, helping others who have struggled with substance abuse and despair. “I plan to stay engaged with the Mission and the community so I can better do my job as a recovery specialist,” she says.

As she prepares for the future, Athena looks forward to finding steady employment, establishing her own home, helping others overcome addiction and, most importantly, “being a role model, not just for my children, but also for the friends I’ve gained here.”

**“All the things Jesus endured for  
us... all that He went through...  
His story is a lot like mine, and it  
has really helped me.”**

**Because of your generous support, people like Athena are facing their challenges and being transformed by God’s love here at the Mission.** “I don’t think I’d be able to do all this if it wasn’t for God and His message and all the people who have been placed in my life to help me along the way and let me know I’m not alone.”





A MESSAGE FROM RICK ALVIS

## RISING to the Challenge

Relaxing vacations and long days by the pool. Soaking up the sunshine with your toes in the sand. **Summer promises many of us a time to finally rest.**

**But at the Mission, summer means rising up rather than resting. Right now, we're rallying together to make sure the most pressing needs of our neighbors who are homeless and hurting are met.**

With fewer donations coming in over the summer months, resources to help our guests can drop frighteningly low. The needs of those who are homeless don't rest in the summer, even though many of us do.

That's why I'm thankful for people like you, who see summer not only as a chance to soak up the sun, but to share your sunshine with others – the goodness in your heart to care for those in need.

Your gifts make it possible to feed them, shelter them and care for their immediate and long-term needs. And as we share God's love with them, an even brighter light starts to radiate in and through their lives.

I hope when you read Athena's story (*on page 3*), you'll see how your generosity makes the Mission a beacon of hope for her and other guests like her.

**Thank you for sharing your sunshine with others.** Your faithful support lights the way to brighter futures for all who come to us for help.

Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## Your Invitation

Schedule a tour of the Mission...  
see the impact of your gifts!

Contact Josie

☎ (812) 332-2452

✉ [JosieLevine@WheelerMission.org](mailto:JosieLevine@WheelerMission.org)

## Please RSVP!



[WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org)

## VISIT US ONLINE

to read stories of lives you've touched,  
get involved & securely donate anytime.

LET'S BE FRIENDS!



## 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 - Bloomington 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 Bloomington 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**

  
**30,000  
MEALS**

  
**12,500  
NIGHTS OF SHELTER**

## LEAVE A LEGACY THAT *Shines On*

Nancy and Paul have been faithful friends to the Mission for years – they've even volunteered in our kitchen on Thanksgiving.

Because of their passion for serving those in our community who are homeless and hungry, they chose to set up a bequest that includes the Mission in their will.

"My wife and I value Wheeler Mission's Christ-centered approach to serving those in need," Paul says. "Setting up a charitable bequest allows us to support them in the future."

You can choose how you wish to give: cash, real estate, property or stocks. It's easy to update your wishes at any time.

**Have you already left Wheeler Mission in your estate plans? Or are you interested in learning about how to do that?**

Please contact Jim Gillespie, Special Assistant to the President, who would love to thank you for including the Mission in your will or answer your questions about leaving a legacy gift.

📞 **(317) 635-3575**

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