

Heart of Bloomington

Your heart for our city...in action

Holiday 2018

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION - BLOOMINGTON

Don't Miss ...

2 How Your Gifts Bring Joy

3 "God has given me life."

4 Join the Drumstick Dash!

Discovering *True Love*

Your gifts bring joy to hurting people like Jason at Christmas and all year round.

ON PAGE 3: READ HOW YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND PRAYERS HELPED HIM FIND HEALING AND GRACE THROUGH GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.





Your gifts
bring *joy*
to people who
are hurting.

Your generous contributions are not only blessings in themselves, but they're multiplied exponentially by the countless gifts they allow the Mission to share with those locally who are hungry, hurting and homeless – especially as colder weather sets in. From people struggling with unemployment to those who are living on Kirkwood or in People's Park, **all are welcome here!**

The food, shelter and clothing we provide are gifts that fulfill the most basic human needs. Guidance, education and job training are gifts too – and when accepted with commitment and dedication, they can lead to lives filled with promise and purpose.

Yet the greatest gift we offer inside our doors is the message of God's love and grace, which can transform lives for eternity!

This issue of *Heart of Bloomington* is all about sharing gifts – a subject that's especially appropriate during the holiday season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Yet God's work, the Mission's outreach and our partnership with friends like you, is focused on giving all year long!

Of course, none of our ministries would be possible without the gifts you first give to us. And I'm so very grateful for your selfless giving, which brings joy to our hurting guests at Christmas and every day of the year. God bless you this holiday season and always.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

end **HUNGER...** offer **H** **HOPE**

10,913 MEALS BY
CHRISTMAS

A single nutritious meal is often the first step toward a new beginning for those in Bloomington who are hungry, homeless and struggling with life's challenges. Most importantly, *it's an opportunity to welcome them and share God's love – the greatest gift you can give!*

It costs only \$2.25 to provide one meal for a person who's hungry, at the holidays and all year round!

✉ GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

📄 GIVE ONLINE anytime at **WheelerMission.org**.



**HELP
FILL OUR
HOLIDAY
TABLES**



Host a food drive or donate items to serve thousands of nutritious meals throughout the holiday season. Please deliver your items to our Center for Men at 215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404, by **Friday, December 14.**

- Turkeys & hams
- Boxes of stuffing
- Bags of potatoes & sweet potatoes
- Fresh or #10 canned fruits & vegetables
- Baked pies & whipped topping
- Coffee, creamer, sugar (white & brown)



THE *Blessings* OF YEAR-END GIVING

Many Mission partners choose to make an extra financial gift by December 31 to maximize their tax deduction for the current calendar year, while helping the Mission assist those in need well into the year ahead. Your generosity will touch countless lives!

📄 Give online at **WheelerMission.org**.

✉ Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today!

**“God has
given me life,
but the Mission
directed my path
to Him.”**



Jason never knew his father, and his mother had multiple husbands by the time he was a teenager – many of whom were physically and emotionally abusive. He grew up surrounded by drugs, so he started experimenting with them at age 10 and left home at 13. *“I just ran away,” he says. “I proceeded to do the same thing my mother and the people around me did as I was growing up. **I became the very monsters that I left.**”*

For years, Jason was enslaved by addiction. It cost him jobs, relationships with friends and family, and even his daughter. Finally, at age 40, he was ready for a real, lasting change. *“I had so much pain, resentment and unforgiveness built up inside that I didn’t even know what love really was.*

That’s when I cried out to God and discovered He’s who I needed all along,” he says.

Jason had met some staff members on the streets during times of homelessness, and their tough love persuaded him to come to Wheeler Mission - Bloomington. ***Here, through your gifts, he was blessed with the essentials of safe shelter, nutritious meals and everything he needed to feel comfortable and welcome.***

“I think of the things I tried before as ‘programs.’ I think of my experience with Wheeler Mission as being reborn and gaining a family.”

“

**Before I came to the Mission,
I was just riddled with sin.
Not only did I hit rock
bottom, but I
bounced several times.**

”

Jason graduated from Hebron, our long-term addiction recovery program for men, and he recently entered our after-care program, where he’s staying as he looks for employment. He reached out to his 14-year-old daughter, and they are speaking again for the first time in years.

This Christmas, as Jason celebrates Christ’s birth, he’ll also celebrate the joyous new life he found inside our doors... because of your kind compassion. *“I’ve learned that I can’t live without God. **My plans are to see what God wants this time and let Him be the main navigator of the things that are going to come.**”*

Create an *Eternal Legacy*

Did you know there's a way you can support the work of Wheeler Mission - Bloomington long after your lifetime? When you make arrangements to support the Mission in your will, you can ensure your financial contribution continues to transform the lives of homeless men, women and children for years to come.

To learn more about the planned giving option that is best for you, please contact Jim Gillespie at

☎ (315) 635-3575 or

✉ jimgillespie@WheelerMission.org.



Join the Dash to Share Compassion!

It will be a day to remember. A day to show compassion for families, seniors, vets and others in our community who are in desperate need this Thanksgiving. **There's still time for you to register!**

When: 9 a.m., Thanksgiving morning

Where: Indianapolis' Broad Ripple District

What: 16th Annual Drumstick Dash

Register now! 🖨 DrumstickDash.org

Interested in being a volunteer or sponsor?

☎ (317) 635-3575 ✉ DrumstickDash@WheelerMission.org



Give joy on

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27

Join our community in this special day of caring. Your gift on **#GivingTuesday** will provide food, safe shelter, faith-based guidance and more to those in the Mission's care this holiday season.

***Your generosity will bring joy to people
like Jason*** (see page 3).

**THERE'S NO NEED TO WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 27...
GIVE TODAY!**

🖨 Give online at **WheelerMission.org**.

✉ Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today!

*Rick, please use my Christmas gift to bring joy
to those who are hungry and homeless.*

- ☐ \$20.25 to feed and care for 9 people
- ☐ \$51.75 to feed and care for 23 people
- ☐ \$76.50 to feed and care for 34 people
- ☐ \$90.00 to feed and care for 40 people
- ☐ \$_____ to help as much as possible
- ☐ I've also enclosed \$_____ as a special holiday gift.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ BILL MY CREDIT CARD

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

Donate now! ☎ (812) 727-6300

🖨 WheelerMission.org

Wheeler Mission - Bloomington
P.O. Box 3297
Bloomington, IN 47402-3297

