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INSIDE STORY

WHEELER MISSION
Celebrating 125 Years

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | HOLIDAY 2018



FINDING *Freedom* FROM PAIN

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

ON PAGE 3: Read how your partnership and prayers helped her find healing for mind, soul and body.

Homeless Services • Residential Programs • Addiction Recovery • Social Enterprises • For Men and Women



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 who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

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 *INSIDE Story* 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. May the Lord bless you this holiday season and always.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

endHUNGER... offerHOPE

36,711 MEALS BY CHRISTMAS

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

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

- ✉ GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 📄 GIVE ONLINE anytime at WheelerMission.org.

A Heart for the Homeless

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Jay Reece started volunteering with Wheeler Mission 15 years ago. He says, "I saw the Mission and felt called to go and give of my time."

For a while, Jay drove a bus to pick up women and take them to the Mission for day projects. He also worked in the day room to check in guests who came in looking for dinner and lodging. He currently employs Mission graduates at his asphalt maintenance company.



"It seemed like a perfect fit. I'm able to provide program graduates with work in a stable environment, that's not only drug-free, but faith-based. Some of them use us as a stepping stone to get back into the work environment and we've retained others as year-round employees."

He sums up his motivation to help by saying, "We're supposed to take care of our needy brothers. These people have no place else to turn, and Wheeler is there for them when there's no hope."

We are so thankful for Jay and other dedicated friends who so generously give of their time and talents. It is no exaggeration to say the work we do would not be possible without you!

Move your feet so others can eat! November 22

Want to know more?



“
I finally found a
safe place where I
feel accepted.
”

“I was very sick mentally and emotionally,” Michelle says. “I was in a vicious cycle and just didn’t know what to do.”

Michelle, a single mother of three boys, was abused as a child and later went from one abusive relationship to another. She suffered from severe anxiety and depression from the abuse that went untreated for years.

After her divorce, she was in a string of dead-end jobs that barely paid the bills. The turning point came when she lost her job and apartment, and ended up living in her car. She sent her teenage sons to live with their older brother because she couldn’t bear the thought of them being homeless. “I was worried I’d end up hurting myself and my children, so I dropped my kids off at my older son’s house.”

Michelle asked a friend for help and learned that Wheeler Mission had a program to help struggling women just like her. **Here, through your gifts, she was blessed with the essentials of safe shelter... nutritious meals... and everything she needed to feel comfortable and at home.**

Since coming to Wheeler, Michelle has received help and treatment for her depression, including counseling and



“I went to the furthest depths of depression you could imagine,” Michelle shares. “I just thought I’m supposed to be strong, I’m supposed to handle it.”

Bible studies. Now she has a strength and peace she had never experienced before. **“You have to be honest with God and allow Him to peer inside of you. That has been a tremendous help in my healing.”**

Michelle recently graduated from the Foundations long-term program and completed her training as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She received help to overcome her own mental health challenges and now works as a caring, trained medical professional at a local senior community. She is working

to restore the relationship with her children and hopes to be reunited with her family soon.

This Christmas, as Michelle celebrates Christ’s birth, she’ll also celebrate the joyous new life she found inside our doors... because of your kind compassion. **“I have learned to accept myself and to take chances. I also feel that I know where I’m going and have direction for the first time. I’m on a career path that I love and I am just very thankful.”**

Donate your birthday!

Raise \$125 to celebrate 125 years!

Wheeler celebrated its 125th birthday in October! With big plans to help even more neighbors in need, we need YOU to help us see them through. In honor of our 125th birthday, will you celebrate your birthday with a Facebook fundraiser, raising \$125 for Wheeler Mission?

Ready to help? It's EASY!

1. Click "Fundraiser" in the left side bar of your Facebook newsfeed.
2. Click "Raise Money."
3. Select "Nonprofit."
4. Select "Wheeler Mission."
5. Fill out the details of your fundraiser.

Here's our suggested text:

Hey, friends! To celebrate my birthday, I'm asking for donations to support Wheeler Mission. Wheeler celebrates its 125th birthday this year, so I'm asking my friends and family to help me raise \$125! Wheeler Mission serves thousands of men, women and children facing homelessness and addiction each year, so I want to use my birthday to help serve neighbors in need. Will you help me reach my goal?

6. Click "Create."



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 Michelle (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.
- PLUS an extra gift of \$125 for women & children to celebrate Wheeler's 125 years of service.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

CHECK ENCLOSED BILL MY CREDIT CARD

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

Donate now! ☎ (317) 635-3575
 WheelerMission.org

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