

Heart of Bloomington

Your heart for our city...in action

Holiday 2019

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION - BLOOMINGTON

Don't Miss:

- 2 Your Gifts Fill Hearts With **Joy!**
- 2 Giving Tuesday
- 3 "I know where I'm going..."

BECAUSE OF YOU...

**"My Story
Has a New
BEGINNING!"**

Your gifts bring **JOY** to people like Mark at Christmas and all through the year!



“I know where I’m going. I wake up every morning to what He wants me to do.”

From the outside, it seemed, Mark had a good life. “I was in politics. I’ve known senators and congressmen. I’ve been in the Oval Office.”

But on the inside, “I was pretty much a train wreck,” he explains, describing the life-long addiction that robbed him of his self-esteem, destroyed precious relationships, and left him with no direction or purpose.

At age 62, he left his home in Kentucky and headed west. In search of what? He didn’t know. “And God, in His infinite wisdom, stopped me in Bloomington.”

It was the authorities who actually detained Mark – for actions he deeply regrets. He spent time in jail and when he was released, his car had been impounded. He had no money, and he had no place to go.

He came to our Wheeler Mission Center for Men – simply for a hot meal and a safe place to sleep. But God had so much more in store.

The next morning, after praying for guidance, Mark joined our faith-based Foundations program. Over the next few months, he embraced our Bible study, which

“ I WAS BROKE DOWN TO NOTHING AND I DIDN’T KNOW ANYBODY. I THOUGHT, ‘WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?’ ”

provided him with spiritual direction. “My life changed so fast as I dove into the Scriptures,” he says. And daily chores in our laundry and kitchen – helping other residents with their needs – gave him structure and opened his heart to serving others.

Today, he says, “I have all the tools for good works. Not my works, but God’s.” And he plans to use those tools working in a Mission similar to this one. “I went from being a 45-year alcoholic to finding Christ,” he says, “and it gave me purpose.”

This Christmas, because of your compassion and God’s love, Mark’s story has a new beginning. Through the gift of Christ’s birth, his future is filled with joy and meaning. “Now I know what I’m doing for the rest of my life. My mission is to serve.”



A MESSAGE FROM
RICK ALVIS



Your Gifts
Fill Hearts
With *Joy!*

The “Christmas Story” isn’t fiction, fable, or fairytale. It’s God’s reassuring Truth!

Christ was born to bring hope to a troubled world, and He can bring healing to hurting souls experiencing homelessness.

That’s the joy-filled message we’re honored to share with our guests experiencing homelessness at Christmas.

Jesus’ birth begins with a new story for all of humankind. But for a new story to begin, an old one must end. Through the life-giving care your generosity provides, we help those experiencing homelessness close chapters of pain and tragedy. I invite you to partner with us in the coming weeks to help us provide food, shelter, clothing, and life-changing care as we celebrate the joyous new beginnings the season brings.

The redemptive story of Christmas continues today, each time friends like you reach out with compassion to those who are downtrodden and experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for keeping the story of Christ’s birth alive – and filling hearts with the joy of Christmas – every day of the year.

May God bless you and yours this holiday season and into the New Year.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO



Give a Meal. Change a Life.

9,125 meals by Christmas!

A plate of hot, wholesome food can change someone’s story from struggle to strength. From homelessness to hope. From despair to joy. With each meal you give, you offer so much more:

- Safe shelter and warmth
- Access to clean, warm clothing
- The message of God’s life-changing love

It costs only \$2.10 to provide a meal and care for someone experiencing homelessness and hunger.

Please Send Your Gift Today!



✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

📄 Give online anytime at WheelerMission.org.

December 3 is
#GIVING
TUESDAY



Now in its eighth year, **Giving Tuesday** unites friends and partners in caring for their neighbors and communities. On this special day of generosity and kindness, your gift will bring life essentials – like warm shelter, nutritious food, and compassionate care – to our guests at Wheeler Mission - Bloomington!

**No Need to Wait Until December 3.
Send Your Gift Today!**

📄 Give online at WheelerMission.org.

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

Year-End Giving Ensures Ongoing Blessings



Your generous year-end gift to Wheeler Mission - Bloomington helps ensure we can bless those who are experiencing homelessness with nutritious meals and warm, safe shelter well into the months ahead. Your gift will be tax-deductible for the current year if made by December 31!

✉ Give online at

WheelerMission.org.

📧 Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today.

Ways to Share the *Joy* of Christmas

FILL OUR TABLES



Donate these food items for the thousands of meals we'll serve to those experiencing homelessness this holiday season. Please deliver them to our Center for Men located at **215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404**, by November 22.

turkeys & hams * boxes of stuffing * bags of potatoes * canned fruits & vegetables
coffee, creamer, & sugar



CLOTHING NEEDS



Please drop off your clothing donations to our Center for Men at **215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404**.

men's and women's coats * pajamas * sweatpants * socks
thermal sets * winter pants & shirts * new underwear

HYGIENE NEEDS



These items are a vital part of everyday operations and the comfort of our guests at Wheeler Mission - Bloomington. Please drop off your donations at our Center for Men at **215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404**.

cold medicine * cough drops * deodorant * soap
disinfectant wipes * hand warmers

