



Sponsor a Meal - Restaurant Program

Helping on the front lines of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic



Wheeler Mission Overview

Wheeler Mission is the oldest and largest homeless service provider in Indiana and holds a rich history. For 127 years, Wheeler has served the most vulnerable people in Central Indiana, providing food, shelter, and care to anyone who needs it. Beyond meeting basic needs, Wheeler Mission also provides Christ-centered programs so each man, woman, and child served can enjoy lasting success.

Becoming a corporate sponsor at Wheeler Mission is a great way to engage in the community, make a tangible impact in people's lives, and allow your employees to make a difference where they live.



Throughout 2020, Wheeler Mission has provided:

- 10,070 guests (3,184 are first time guests) (52% increase over 5 years)
- 331,010 nutritious meals
- 252,329 nights of shelter (beds provided) (61% increase over 5 years)

Note: A record 1,100+ individuals are currently being served every day because of the COVID-19 demands.

Since its founding in 1893, Wheeler Mission has been a pillar in the community, always existing because of the community's support. However, with the escalating demands for services, **Wheeler Mission needs help to continue its important work.**

Sponsor a Meal Restaurant Program – How it Works

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wheeler Mission is serving anywhere from 1,000 – 1,200 meals per day. At the same time, volunteering has been shut down, and local conferences and events have been cancelled, eliminating typical food donations. This places extreme stress on Wheeler Mission food resources, as well as the front-line staff.

At the same time, local restaurants who have always been very generous to Wheeler Mission are struggling to keep their doors open during local capacity mandates.

The Sponsor a Meal Restaurant Program connects area businesses and private donors with the local restaurants, commissioning them to prepare delicious meals to be served at a Wheeler Mission kitchen. The program is meant to **cover one or more complete meal needs** at one of our Indianapolis locations.

Daily meal count:

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Dinner</u>
Shelter for Men	175	175	175
Center for Women & Children	N/A	80	80
Men's Residential Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
Offsite Hotels	N/A	N/A	N/A

The benefits of this program are:

1. Gives relief to Wheeler Mission staff who have tirelessly been working on the front lines to keep up with the added demand of meals.
2. Gives relief to Wheeler Mission's food resources.
3. Provides a nice meal to people experiencing homelessness.
4. Provides opportunities for people/businesses to support a local restaurant and their staff, which are in jeopardy right now.

How it works:

1. A corporation or individual will sponsor Wheeler Mission.
2. The sponsor will be invoiced by Wheeler Mission for the agreed upon amount (minimum \$1,000).
3. The restaurant invoices Wheeler Mission for the cost of the food prepared (equaling the sponsorship budget).
4. Restaurant will schedule the day to provide a meal via Meal Train.
5. Restaurant will deliver prepared meals in aluminum pans to Wheeler Mission 30 minutes prior to the mealtime they have chosen to cover.
6. Wheeler Mission staff will serve the meals directly to guests.

Available Benefits for Sponsors and Restaurants

General Benefits (minimum \$1,000 sponsorship):

1. Wheeler Mission **SOCIAL MEDIA recognition** (200,000+ reach per month), tagging both the funding organization and the restaurant.
2. Wheeler Mission **WEBSITE recognition**, linking both the business and restaurant website.
3. **VOLUNTEER opportunities** (group), allowing your employees, clients, or partners opportunities to serve the meals, helping our community's poor and needy. (closed)

