



# Annual Report 2021

*Making the Most of It*





*"We are literally saving lives, not just spiritually, but physically. The Lord has placed us in these positions where we all can do something to help the less fortunate."*  
*- Rick Alvis*

## Our Mission

### What We Do

Our mission is to provide Christ-centered programs and services for the homeless and those in need.

Wheeler Mission helps those experiencing hunger, homelessness, and addiction in Indiana. Wheeler is a non-denominational, Christian, social services organization.

We provide critically needed goods and services to individuals in Central and South Central Indiana regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, or religion.

## Message from the President

### An Eternal Impact

Our time on earth to make an impact for God's kingdom is very short. But it all matters for the hope that others may come to know the love of Christ. We are not promised tomorrow, but we are given every moment to make the most of it.

At Wheeler Mission, we made the most of returning to everyday life while still navigating through a pandemic. Though challenges linger, we started to see just how much we helped our most vulnerable population.

This year, we saw many turn to Wheeler for help, and we anticipate the need will be ever increasing.

As I think about the incredible accomplishments our ministry saw in 2021, I am humbled by the persistence of our staff, volunteers, and community for our precious neighbors. Every effort toward bringing help, hope, and healing to those experiencing homelessness, hunger, and addiction is not a waste of time; rather, it is making the most of that time and leaves an eternal impact on the souls we serve.

Sincerely,  


Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## Our Vision

### Why We Do It

Our vision is to see every man, woman, and child we serve equipped to be productive citizens who enjoy lasting success in Christ.

They need help. They need healing. Most of all, they need hope for a new start. Through God's love and your support and prayers, people are transformed from hurting to hopeful.

Wheeler addresses the deeper root issues causing homelessness and addiction. Freedom then flows from the inside out.



# Services + Programs

## How We Make a Difference

Our holistic services help those who are struggling with hunger, homelessness, and addiction by providing physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual support.

### Homeless Services



We provide temporary emergency shelter to homeless and/or disadvantaged men, women, and women with children. Basic temporal needs like meals, shelter, showers, and clothing are offered, along with case management that helps assess the factors that led to homelessness. Individuals are encouraged to enter our free, long-term programs to help with recovery, securing safe housing, employment, or mental health care.

### Residential Programs



The primary purpose of our residential programs is to help men, women, and women with children obtain long-term, lasting change through a relationship with Christ. Our residential programs offer Bible studies and a variety of life-skills classes to meet guests where they are and help them increase their knowledge and abilities. The goal is to help guests secure income and safe, permanent housing.

### Addiction Recovery



Addiction is a common experience for those caught in the cycle of homelessness. Our addiction recovery programs help men and women struggling with substance abuse and other life-dominating sins by focusing on a total life change through a relationship with Christ. Guests attend classes, counseling, and Bible studies to learn what it means to take responsibility, address forgiveness issues, and serve others.

### Social Enterprises



We provide practical, safe, and supportive work experiences, while simultaneously generating revenue for Wheeler's programs. Guests are empowered as they develop and practice skills for gainful employment.

- **Restored Creations** provides women with work training and a therapeutic outlet through candle making.
- **Wheeler Mission Pallets & Industry** provides men with work training through hardwood pallet production.
- **Wheeler Mission Store** is open to the public and sells gently-used clothing and household items to support program costs.



## Paul was alone...

...with nowhere to turn.

Paul looked around the rundown mobile home that had no heat or water, wondering how he had sunk so low. He was in poor health, and he didn't know how he would survive the winter. "My car broke down. My gout was acting up, and I couldn't walk. I was helpless."

As Paul laid on his bed, shivering in the cold under a pile of blankets, he knew he needed to make a change. At our Center for Men, Paul got the medical care he needed for gout and a heart condition. He grows stronger every day—physically, spiritually, and emotionally—and is thankful for the support he has now.

Today, Paul is looking for an apartment of his own and is grateful for how Wheeler Mission—Bloomington helped him get back on his feet. "I have a place to stay, meals to eat, people to talk to. I'm a lot better off now. I've seen so many people grow and get the help they need here. Like me, they're happy they found this place."

## Bianna needed help...

...for her family.

"I had two kids and was pregnant, and we had nowhere else to go."

Bianna's fiancé and the father of her children was away training for the army, and she was forced to move from place to place with two kids under age two. But she needed a safe place.



When Bianna arrived at Wheeler Mission, she was grateful to have a room, three meals a day, and formula and diapers for her newborn daughter—everything she needed to get back on her feet. "I see so many families that are struggling. You just never know what people are going through. Being here has given me a lot of hope for myself."

Now Bianna has her life back and will soon be reunited with her fiancé. They plan to get married and find housing wherever he is stationed, so their family can stay together on base. Their family is very thankful for the help Bianna and her kids received at Wheeler.

# 2021 Impact

## Measuring Our Effectiveness

### Spiritual Decisions



160 MEN AND WOMEN MADE COMMITMENTS TOWARDS SALVATION, DEDICATION, OR BAPTISM

### Homeless Services



318,112 MEALS SERVED  
268,493 NIGHTS OF SAFE SHELTER PROVIDED  
10,832 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN HELPED

### Residential Programs



416 GUESTS COMPLETED A PROGRAM  
325 GUESTS MOVED TO STABLE HOUSING  
235 GUESTS GAINED EMPLOYMENT AND/OR INCOME

### Addiction Recovery



38 MEN GRADUATED FROM HEBRON  
4 WOMEN GRADUATED FROM HIGHER GROUND  
72% OF ADDICTION RECOVERY GRADUATES REMAINED SOBER THREE YEARS AFTER COMPLETING PROGRAMMING

### Social Enterprises



90,721 HOURS OF JOB TRAINING FOR MEN AND WOMEN  
24,294 TRANSACTIONS WITH CUSTOMERS AT WHEELER MISSION STORE

### Volunteers



12,045 VOLUNTEER HOURS FILLED, SAVING WHEELER MISSION \$341,879\* IN OPERATIONS AND STAFFING COSTS!

*\*Based on newly released value of volunteer time by the Independent Sector.*



## Julie is grateful...

...to be here and alive.

Julie grew up in a home filled with alcohol and smoking. She had been sober for 12 years, and then her mother, who was also a recovering alcoholic and ally, passed away. "I was staying with her, taking care of her, and working. I relapsed, trying to get through the grief process."

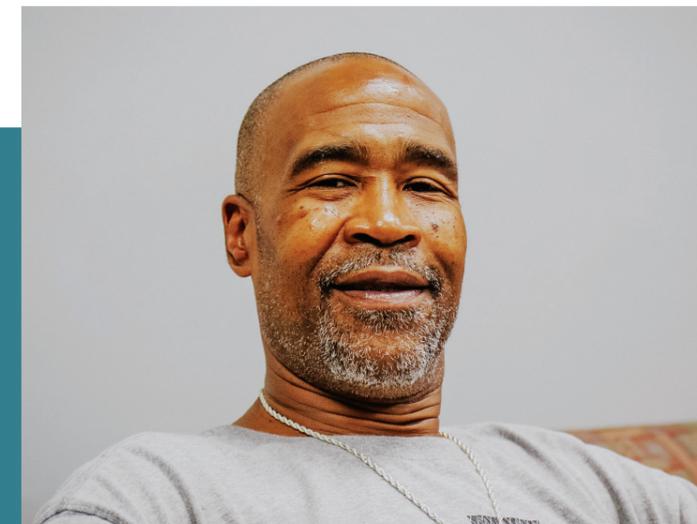
A few years later, Julie had nowhere to stay and decided to come back to Wheeler Mission. She had previously gone through one of our programs and knew we could help. "I had a lot of anger and needed care, rest, and to get back into Bible studies."

Through our Higher Ground addiction recovery program, Julie found the peace and support she needed. "I couldn't do it on my own. I knew I needed to be here." Classes helped her heal from grief, and Bible studies helped restore her relationship with Jesus. "Wheeler Mission feels like a second home to me. I've learned God created me, I am special, and I have a future."

## Keith was going...

...down the wrong road.

For more than 40 years, Keith lived in the "Devil's Den," surviving on the streets and embracing a drug-filled lifestyle. Finally, after being viciously attacked, he realized he needed to make some changes in his life. He felt God calling him to Wheeler Mission where he could learn a new way of living.



Keith first came to us through our emergency services, but he soon joined our residential program called Foundations. Now he reads the Bible daily, prays faithfully and earnestly, and serves the Lord by helping in our kitchen and laundry room. And we're equipping him with the skills he needs to build a stable and sober future grounded in the Lord.

Keith sees many positive changes in his life and has been recently reconciled with his son. "I was going down the wrong road. I was in the dark and Wheeler Mission helped me see the Light."

# Special Events

Our fun and engaging events invite community friends and partners to join us in raising funds and awareness for our neighbors in need.

## Indianapolis



**100 Holes for the Homeless** is a unique event where golfers raise funds before playing 100 holes of golf in one day. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual 100 Holes for the Homeless had 35 total participants complete the challenge at Eagle Creek Golf Club.



**Miles for Meals** is a virtual challenge where participants convert steps to miles. In 2021, 130 participants in our second annual event logged 16,112 miles and virtually raced to all Wheeler Mission locations to raise awareness and funds.



**Strength In Our Streets** is a one-day team fitness competition. In 2021, we had 29 teams compete in our 8<sup>th</sup> annual event at Grand Park Sports Campus and raise record funds and awareness for our programs.



**Drumstick Dash** is a family fun/run on Thanksgiving morning in Broad Ripple, IN. This year was our 19<sup>th</sup> annual event, and we were excited to be in-person again after having to go fully virtual in 2020. We had 14,088 registered participants, and the event broke several Drumstick Dash fundraising records.

## Bloomington



**100 Holes for the Homeless** was a first annual event at The Golf Club At Eagle Pointe. We had 23 participants raise funds to help those experiencing homelessness while having a fun day playing golf.



**The Pumpkin Dash** was our first 5k fun/run in Bloomington. We had 176 participants register and join us at Switchyard Park, and everyone had a great time raising funds and awareness for our programs.

# Building Expansions + Acquisitions

Our team at Wheeler Mission already serves thousands each year, but so many more need our help. We've decided to do more and serve more.

## Indianapolis



**Center for Women & Children expansion** opened on August 11 and provides 160 more permanent beds, secure childcare and play spaces, additional bathroom and laundry facilities, new medical clinics, and an expanded education center.



**Shelter for Men expansion** opened on March 12 and provides an additional day room, new medical clinics, case management offices, additional food storage, and more space to socially distance.

## Bloomington



**Center for Men acquisition** in June of the neighboring building will provide refuge for up to 84 emergency shelter guests and create additional space in the current Center for Men for classrooms and offices.

# Corporate Sponsorship Highlight

Here's what two of our major sponsors had to say about their 2021 experiences.

"At MHS, we know that our members can't focus on health until other basic needs are met. That's why partnership with Wheeler is so important. Wheeler provides help, hope, and healing to our neighbors in need and offers the opportunity for a new start."

– Kevin O'Toole, Plan President & CEO



"We believe that giving back and investing in the community is part of our 'Why'. We need to pay it forward. It is also important to us to know that the money and support we provide is being well invested. I know our money is making a difference through Wheeler Mission." – Larry Baker, CEO

# Board of Directors

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Wheeler Mission  
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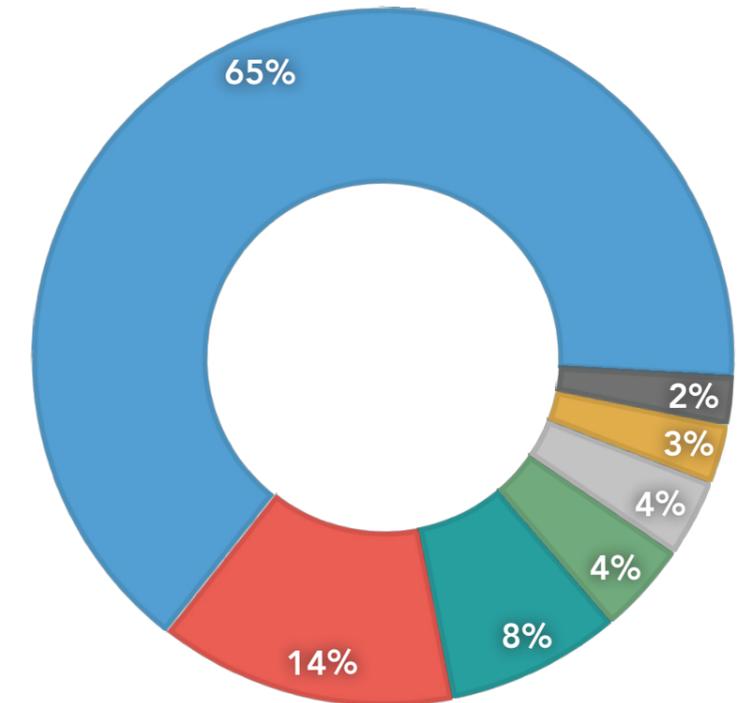
# 2021 Audited Financials

Wheeler's fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31, and Wheeler's finances are audited annually by the accounting firm of Blue & Co., LLC. As a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, Wheeler's financial practices must fall within the strict guidelines of the ECFA. We are also accredited by the Better Business Bureau.

## Income Total

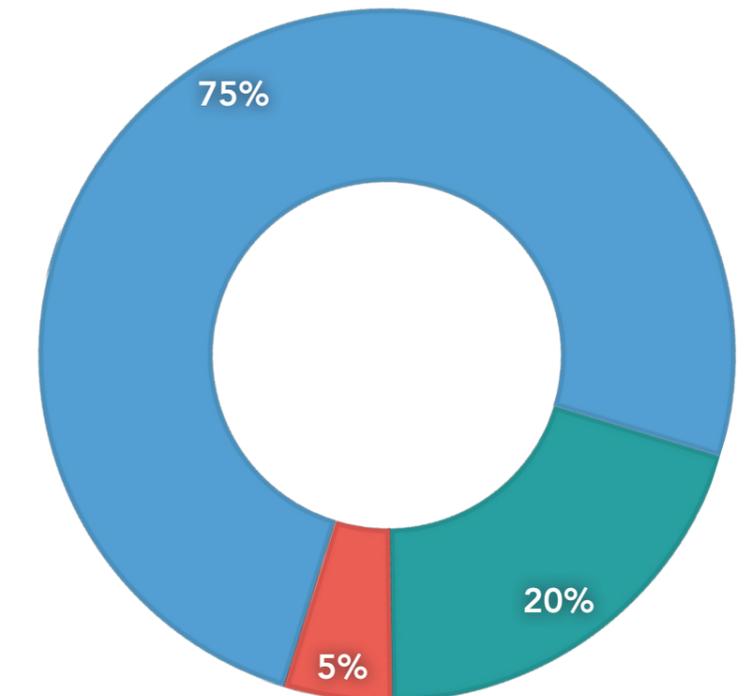
- Monetary Contributions
- Other\*
- Program Service Revenue
- COVID-19 Fees
- Gifts In-kind
- Special Events
- Investment Return

\*Other includes gain of debt extinguishment, net assets released from restrictions, interest income, royalty income, change in value of annuity and trust liabilities, and miscellaneous income.



## Expenses Total

- Programming
- Fundraising
- Administration





Homeless Shelters • Residential Programs • Addiction Recovery  
For Men and Women

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

