

Press Release

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**Wheeler Mission launches search
for new president and CEO**

Rick Alvis begins transition after 32 years of service and dedication

INDIANAPOLIS – Rick Alvis, Wheeler Mission president and CEO, announced the launch of a nationwide search to identify his eventual successor and new servant leader to transition into the role of president and CEO of Wheeler Mission. Alvis has spent the last 32 years leading and serving the largest homeless shelter organization in Indiana.

Wheeler Mission’s Board of Directors and search team recently launched the nationwide search for Alvis’ successor with help from FaithSearch Partners, a Texas-based Christian search firm. Until a successor is named, Alvis will continue in his current role with full leadership and authority. The nationwide search is expected to take numerous months.

Alvis has been a nonprofit leader and mission-driven humanitarian for over four decades. Prior to assuming his duties at Wheeler Mission in 1990, he served as the executive director of the Evansville Rescue Mission for 10 years.

“Leading Wheeler Mission alongside a team of dedicated staff members has been the greatest honor of my professional and personal journey,” Alvis said. “We’ve had many milestones over the last 30 years that have resulted in expanded services and geographic reach. I’m hopeful for the future of Wheeler Mission and am confident our devoted search team will find the best successor to continue our Christ-driven mission.”

In 1990, Wheeler Mission had 17 employees and a budget of \$700,000. Today, the Mission has approximately 175 employees with an annual budget of nearly \$16 million.

During his tenure, Alvis deepened Wheeler Mission’s donor base, expanded its grantmaking process and launched various fundraising initiatives.

The most recent capital campaign, under his leadership, was in tandem with the organization's 125th anniversary. This campaign resulted in a \$14.8 million investment for Wheeler Mission's Center for Women & Children, located at 3208 East Michigan Street. The state-of-the-art building opened in August 2021 and serves up to 367 women and children a day.

"We have an enormous amount of gratitude toward the Alvis family and are deeply thankful for their years of service and dedication to individuals and families in need," said Jim Fountain, chairman of the Wheeler Mission Board of Directors. "They created a strong foundation for the Mission, and Rick's successor will build on their legacy by staying true to our mission of providing Christ-centered programs and services for people who are experiencing homelessness."

Under Alvis' leadership, Wheeler Mission also expanded its reach by merging with The Care Center in 2001, Lighthouse Mission in 2006 and Backstreet Mission in Bloomington in 2015. The move allowed Wheeler Mission to extend services to 9 locations, providing dozens of diverse programs at sites throughout Indianapolis and Bloomington.

The Alvis family plans to remain involved in Wheeler Mission and will continue to be true and faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Julie and I will still be committed to Wheeler Mission," said Alvis. "We are thankful and blessed by the support we have received over the years and have every faith the executive leadership team will find a committed, prayerful successor."

The transition won't be immediate, and Wheeler's board of directors is taking adequate time to find the right successor. Once the successor assumes leadership, Alvis will remain an integral part of Wheeler Mission as a supportive partner.

To learn more about Wheeler Mission, please visit wheelermission.org.

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Rick Alvis Biography

Richard (Rick) A. Alvis has been the president and chief executive officer of Wheeler Mission since 1990. He is a 1977 graduate of Fort Wayne Bible College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Christian education, and he is an ordained Christian Union minister. Just prior to assuming his duties at Wheeler Mission, he served as executive director of the Evansville Rescue Mission for 10 years. In 1992, he was listed in "Who's Who Among Rising Young Americans" and is a recent recipient of the distinguished Sagamore of the Wabash award. Rick has served the Citygate Network, including as board chair, vice chair and secretary/treasurer. He continues to serve on the national board of directors of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. He lives in the Indianapolis area with his wife, Julie, and enjoys spending time with their three adult children and their families.

Wheeler Mission

Founded in 1893, Wheeler Mission has been serving the Indianapolis community through a variety of programs for the most disadvantaged citizens – the poor and the homeless. Funding for these programs has always come from the private sector as Wheeler does not receive government funds.

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