

# INSIDE STORY

WHEELER MISSION  
help. hope. healing.

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | HOLIDAY 2023

Thanks to you...

**KAWANA AND CORI**  
**HAVE HOPE THIS**  
*Christmas!*



A Message from  
PERRY HINES

Celebrating the   
HOPE of Christmas

**How comforting it is to know that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has shared in our humanity. He knows our struggles and the struggles of our neighbors experiencing homelessness too!**

On the eve of his birth, Jesus and his earthly parents, Joseph and Mary, experienced being turned away and told there was “no room at the inn.” It reminds me that Christ understands the pain and fear of our guests who also have nowhere else to turn.

Here at Wheeler Mission, we will always do everything in our ability to welcome and support a hurting person who comes to our doors. Even so, many of our guests have faced years of homelessness, poverty, and other challenges that have left them feeling unloved and unwelcome.

During the holidays, caring friends like you help remind them they are not forgotten. Your gifts to provide hot meals, safe shelter, and recovery are meaningful expressions to them of the Lord’s kindness and care in their life.

**This Christmas, we invite you to extend Christ’s love and grace to our neighbors—like Kawana and Cori (whose story is on the next page).**

Your generosity will surround them with hope this holiday season! Thank you, and may God bless you now and into the New Year.



Perry Hines  
President & CEO



Share Hope  
AND A  
Christmas Meal...

It’s hard to have hope when you’re struggling with hunger or homelessness. **YOU can make this Christmas a time of celebration for our neighbors in need with your gift to help them today!**



**\$2.08**  
for 1 hot meal  
and care



**\$15.90**  
for 1 night of safe  
shelter and care

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!**

**Share your time  
and talent!**

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”* Wheeler Mission is always in need of caring, compassionate volunteers to lend a hand in all areas:



- Serve an evening meal
- Sort donations
- Lead an art therapy class
- Welcome guests at our front desk
- Lead worship at a chapel service

For more information, call **(317) 635-3575** or email [Volunteer@WheelerMission.org](mailto:Volunteer@WheelerMission.org).





## “WHEELER MISSION HELPED GET OUR LIVES **BACK ON TRACK.**”

**K**awana’s little girl was struggling with autism, but Kawana couldn’t get her in to see a doctor for diagnosis and treatment. “I’d been trying for two years, but the waiting lists in Georgia were just too long.”

Then she learned that Indianapolis had excellent autism specialists, and her relatives who lived here said she and Cori could stay with them while Kawana looked for work and a home.

So they moved to Indiana, but before Kawana had time to find a job, her car broke down and all her plans fell through. “The family members we were staying with didn’t give me a chance to get back on track. Instead, two days after my car broke down, they dropped us off here,” Kawana says.

She was leery when she and Cori walked into our Center for Women & Children. But she quickly discovered that they were in a safe and welcoming place, with warm beds, nutritious meals, and

compassionate staff. “It felt like a home away from home.”

Christ-centered counseling, Bible studies, and Christian fellowship have helped Kawana find strength in her faith and healing from the fear and confusion that came with sudden homelessness. “I was at my lowest point, but I met people here that I could relate to and confide in, and it strengthened me so I could provide emotional support for my daughter,” she says.

**“WE FELT SAFE HERE.”**

We’ve connected Kawana with housing resources, childcare facilities, and autism centers to help her and Cori settle into life in Indianapolis. Then she plans to go back to work part-time as a surgical technician. But her highest priority remains the same. “I’m going to keep trying to get my daughter diagnosed so she can get the care she needs. I’ll never stop.”

**Kawana and Cori have hope this Christmas—and they want to thank YOU for supporting their journey toward a new life.** “Wheeler Mission gave us a roof over our heads and helped get our lives back on track.”

## Share Your Story this Christmas

More than 600,000 people have recorded stories with StoryCorps, an organization founded to capture stories and preserve them at the Library of Congress.

You also have a story your loved ones want to hear. Here are three ideas to share it this holiday season:

**Interview yourself.** Find interview templates online or simply come up with your own questions to answer and share.

**Go online.** There are a number of tools like Storyworth or Remento available to prompt and capture stories. You may find these helpful if you want to turn your story into a keepsake book or video.

**Impact others.** At the heart of your story are the values important to you, as well as the causes you care about deeply. Including a gift in your will to Wheeler Mission is a meaningful way to share that with your family—and impact others.

Your faithful support makes you a significant part of *our* story. When you share your story, you embody Psalm 78:4, “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.”

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of “4 Ways to Share Your Story this Christmas” by contacting Steve Germani at (574) 358-1270 or*

*SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org—or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at [christianwill.org/wheelermission](http://christianwill.org/wheelermission).*

# YOU MAKE CHRISTMAS AT WHEELER MISSION SPECIAL!

**Christmas Morning:** Thanks to local toy & donation drives and the generosity of people like you, many of our Wheeler Mission guests experience a joyful Christmas, knowing they’re not forgotten.



**Holiday Feast:** Your gifts help provide a delicious Christmas meal for our residents—for many, the first holiday feast they’ve enjoyed in years.

**The Miracle of Jesus:** Worship, prayer, fellowship, and a message of God’s love—our guests gather to celebrate the hope of Christmas together.

*Thanks to you, our neighbors don’t have to spend this Christmas on the streets. Your support provides gifts, hot meals, and a reminder of the true reason for the season!*