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# INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | HOLIDAY 2021



Thanks to you,  
*Eli* has been given  
a life-changing gift  
this Christmas.



# “God used Wheeler Mission to TRANSFORM my life.”

When Eli was 10 years old, his parents broke up and his safe and happy world was torn apart. “They went through a nasty divorce and I started spiraling down. All through my teenage years, I was restless and rebellious.”

He went on to college, but before long, he dropped out and began numbing his pain with drugs. It was the beginning of a 10-year struggle with addiction. “I wound up homeless, living a selfish, meaningless life. I was trying to fill a hole I had inside. But nothing was ever enough.”

Eventually, Eli wound up in trouble with the law and a judge gave him the choice to seek help or go to prison. “I was an atheist and tried to get into any place except Wheeler Mission, but all the other doors closed,” he says. “I see now that God was guiding me here.”

Eli entered our Hebron addiction recovery program, where Bible studies, chapel services, and spiritual counseling led him to surrender his life to Christ.

“God softened my heart, opened my eyes, and revealed Himself to me—and I started to change.”

After graduation, Eli felt led by God to enter Equip, our ministry training program. “It gave me an opportunity to serve, to give back, and to continue growing in my relationship with Christ.”

When he completed Equip, Eli joined our staff. Today, he helps other men who struggle as he once did. “I keep my focus on the Lord and let Him guide me in ministering to the program guys. It’s so rewarding.”

## “Wheeler Mission was an instrument in the Redeemer’s hands.”

He’s now happily married, owns a home, and has a beautiful son. “None of it would have been possible without God’s transforming power.”

**It’s going to be a Christmas filled with joy for Eli—and he is so grateful to you for this wonderful gift of a new life.** “God used Wheeler Mission to transform my life.”

Give **2X** the *Help* on  
**GIVING TUESDAY**  
*Tuesday, November 30*

**Giving Tuesday** is the perfect time to give back, especially because of our **Matching Challenge!** During this special day of giving, your dollars will double to provide life-changing essentials and services. That’s 2x the meals and Christ-centered care, 2x the shelter, and 2x the faith-based recovery services that help people right here in Central and South Central Indiana.

This is a time for neighbors to help neighbors—especially those who are still struggling to overcome hardships and rebuild their lives as God intended.

### Why Wait? Celebrate GIVING TUESDAY Now!

- ✓ Add your special Giving Tuesday gift on the reply card and send it today.
- 📄 Give online at [WheelerMission.org](https://WheelerMission.org).

## Celebrating Christmas with JOY for All People

In Luke 2:10, the angel says, "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

During the Christmas season, we hear a lot about joy. It has me thinking about how joy is something *all people* can have in their hearts. This time of year, our greatest joy is celebrating the birth of our Savior and the eternal life we have been freely given.

That joy is what fills our hearts Christmas morning, and hopefully, every day of the year. It's the same joy we see on the faces of the men, women, and children that have come to Wheeler Mission and experienced God's life-changing love up close and personal. The joy YOU help them experience through your heartfelt prayers and support.

This Christmas, as you reflect on the "reason for the season," we hope you will remember our neighbors who are hurting. As Eli's story shows, your generosity offers help, healing, and a chance to be held in the arms of a loving God.

We are continually humbled by the faithfulness of friends like you who joyfully bless others. Thank you, and may God fill your heart with peace and love.



Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## A delicious Christmas meal and care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness **STARTS WITH YOU!**

As you prepare to celebrate the miracle of Christmas, please remember our hurting neighbors. It's been another really tough year for so many in our community—and the very best gift you can give them is the Christ-centered care they need right now!

Just \$2.18 provides a meal and care for one person.

That meal is often the first step toward a new life through God's love.



**\$2.18**

for 1 hot meal  
and care



**\$11.99**

for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**Healing  
Hope  
And a Second  
Chance!**

### Please Send Your Christmas Gift Today!

**SEE HOW YOU HELPED CHANGE ELI'S LIFE!**

## Leave a Legacy of Hope

You have a compassionate heart. You touch the lives of those in need in tangible ways. And you want to continue to be an instrument of God's mercy to bless them now and for years to come.

- **Donor Advised Funds** are an easy and tax-efficient way to manage your charitable giving. They allow you to receive an immediate tax deduction, then recommend grants from the fund on your own timeframe to be used for projects that match your vision.

Clients of some of the largest Donor Advised Funds can easily make a designation by clicking on the link of their Fund at [WheelerMission.org/daf](https://www.wheelermission.org/daf). Wheeler Mission's tax I.D. number is 35-0888771.

- **Planned Giving** makes it possible for you to continue ministering to those in need beyond your lifetime. When you include Wheeler Mission in your will or estate plan, you'll be leaving a legacy of hope and God's goodness for the hurting people who will come through our doors.

Wheeler Mission is a resource and partner to help you maximize your estate and find and fund projects that are closest to your heart.

For more information, please contact Steve Germani, Director of Grants and Legacy Giving, at [SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org](mailto:SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org).

Thank you for your giving heart!

# 3 Easy Ways YOU Can Help this Christmas!

## FEED PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HUNGER



Want to nourish your neighbors? Donate these foods to help prepare thousands of meals served with God's grace this holiday season. Please deliver them to our Men's Residential Center at **245 N. Delaware St. in Indianapolis, IN 46204**, or our Center for Men at **215 S. Westplex Ave. in Bloomington, IN 47404, 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.**, by December 20.

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



## MEET BASIC NEEDS



Looking to cover the basics? These essential items keep Wheeler Mission guests safe and comfortable during their time of restoration and spiritual transformation. Please drop off donations at our Men's Residential Center at **245 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204**, or our Center for Men at **215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404, 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.**

garbage bags \* paper towels and toilet paper \* laundry detergent \* twin sheets \* bath towels and wash cloths  
new underwear of all sizes \* shower shoes \* sweatpants of all sizes

## HONOR A LOVED ONE



Want to give a Christmas gift that blesses twice? Make a donation to Wheeler Mission in honor or memory of a loved one. You can designate your gift to support one or more of these life-changing efforts that are dearest to your loved one's heart. Go to [wheelermission.org](http://wheelermission.org), click on "Donate," select your gift designation, and include your tribute information. Or call **(317) 635-3575**.

emergency shelter \* nutritious meals \* addiction recovery  
Bloomington area \* women's programs



**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS A TIME OF RENEWAL AND REBIRTH!**

## 100% DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

The CARES Act, created by the U.S. government in 2020, has been extended to 2021, benefiting generous friends like you. Gifts of up to \$300 for an individual and \$600 for married couples filing jointly are 100% deductible, even if you're using the standard deduction.

Contributions by cash, credit card, or check are eligible; gifts of stock are not.

You can learn more about how this will affect your charitable giving at [home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares](http://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares) and through the advice of your financial planner or tax professional.