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# INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | HOLIDAY 2024

THANK YOU FOR  
GIVING RANDY

*a life-changing*

GIFT THIS

*Christmas!*



You help make  
*Christmas*  
miracles possible

Get ready—the busiest time of the year is upon us! We imagine your calendar is filling up quickly. But **before the year ends, please save a few moments for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.**

We know you agree no one should live in a car, in a tent, or outside in the cold. Certainly not a child. Experiencing homelessness means living with constant fear and uncertainty. It's a terrible way to spend any day—much less Christmas Day. If there's anyone in need of a miracle, it's them.

You can make a Christmas miracle possible for a neighbor experiencing homelessness by giving \$2.51 to provide a hot meal and care at Wheeler Mission. It may not seem like much—but each meal you provide can be someone's first step toward a new life. Where you see a meal, a hurting neighbor sees a miracle.

With your support, no man, woman, or child in Central and South Central Indiana has to experience hunger or homelessness this Christmas. People like Randy (whose story is on page 3) can find the miracle of hot meals, safe shelter, and Christ-centered care at Wheeler Mission this holiday season—and all year round—thanks to you!



*Perry*

Perry Hines  
President & CEO



## Share Your Time and Talent!

**“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.”** Wheeler Mission is always in need of caring 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

We invite you to share your time and talents with us!

For more information, email

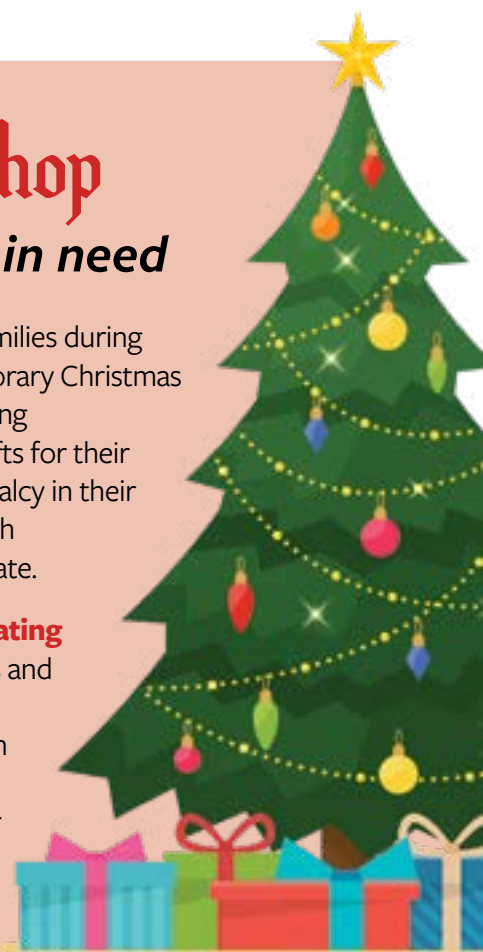
✉ [Volunteer@WheelerMission.org](mailto:Volunteer@WheelerMission.org) or visit our volunteer website at [WheelerVolunteer.org](http://WheelerVolunteer.org).

## The Santa Shop

### Bringing joy to children in need

In order to bring help, hope, and healing to families during the holidays, Wheeler Mission sets up a temporary Christmas store for men and women who are experiencing homelessness. This allows them to pick out gifts for their children so that they might have a bit of normalcy in their lives on Christmas. The Santa Shop is filled with donations from people around the city and state.

**Help bring joy to children in need by donating unwrapped, unopened, new gifts** for boys and girls, from infants to age 18. Please have them delivered to the Center for Women & Children by December 13 at 3208 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46201. If you wish to volunteer your time to this cause, please visit [WheelerVolunteer.org](http://WheelerVolunteer.org).





Randy's parents had him and his siblings when they were really young, which created a stressful environment. "It wasn't the best household, but it wasn't the worst either. They were just trying to figure out how to be parents," he says.

When he was 16 years old, Randy was going to get sent to military school because he was hanging with the wrong people and getting into trouble. That's when he turned a new leaf. **"I received Christ as my Savior. My whole heart changed. I wanted to be better,"** he says.

Over the years, however, he says he "started fading away from God and everything." After he got married, he and his wife would drink regularly. "I think she was already an alcoholic, but I didn't pay attention to the signs," he admits. Alcohol became the gateway to other substances.

Randy struggled to keep his jobs, and he and his wife eventually experienced homelessness. When their marriage fell apart, **Randy knew it was time to**

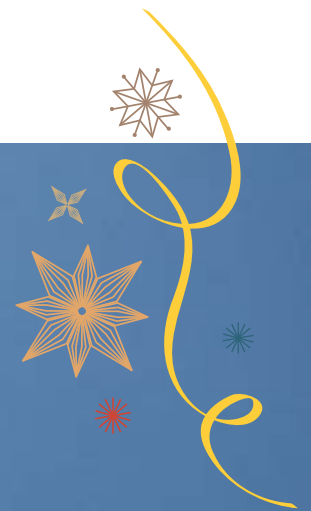
**make a change.**

"When I arrived at Wheeler Mission and saw how pleasant and welcoming it was, I definitely felt God there," Randy says. He progressed through our programs, which offered immediate help and long-term support. In our Servant Leader Training, Randy is preparing for ministry.

While working through our programs, Randy served as a mentor, sharing his testimony everywhere and with anyone. "I believe that God called me to the ministry, so I'd like to become a missionary, pastor, mentor, or counselor," Randy shares.

**This Christmas, Randy is experiencing all the joy this season has to offer—because YOU believed in the power of a fresh start and the promise of God's unending love.** "I'm thankful to Wheeler Mission for providing a place to lay my head, focus, and get closer to God. Now I'm living for God every day and that's the best I could ask for."

**"I am redeemed. *I am fulfilled.*"**



**"Wheeler Mission showed me how to care for others again AND THAT OTHERS CARE FOR ME."**

# The Antidote for When You're at Odds

Studies show that gratitude has a positive effect on our mental and physical well-being. That's good news as we head into a season focused on getting together and giving thanks.

But we know that family gatherings can sometimes mean families disagreeing. Practicing gratitude together is the antidote for hard feelings and harsh words. As we're reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice *always*, pray *continually*, give thanks in *all* circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (emphasis ours). Here are some ideas:



## REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS.

Recall shared stories and memories, ways God has shown His faithfulness, and answers to prayer.

## MAKE YOUR GRATITUDE ACTIVE.

Set extra places at your Thanksgiving table and invite college students who can't make it home for the holiday.

Bless neighbors with a meal. Volunteer at Wheeler Mission.

**THINK FORWARD.** Leaving a gift in your will or estate plan to Wheeler Mission is a lasting expression of gratitude to God. The holidays provide a wonderful opportunity to share this with your family, reflect together on His blessings, and move forward in unity.

*For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Ways to Practice Gratitude and Pursue Peace" by contacting Steve Germani at [SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org](mailto:SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org) or (317) 635-3575.*

*Give a meal.  
Spark a miracle!*



It's hard to find a reason to celebrate Christmas when you're experiencing hunger or homelessness. **YOU can give JOY and spark a miracle** with a gift to lead someone to join our long-term residential program and experience a new life! It all starts by providing a meal and care for \$2.51—because where you see a meal, they see a miracle.



**\$2.51**  
for 1 hot meal  
and care



**CAN SPARK  
A MIRACLE**



**That leads  
to new life!**

**Please Send Your  
Christmas Gift Today!**