



**WHEELER MISSION**

help. hope. healing.

*Transforming Lives Together*

Annual Report 2024

# *Message from the President & CEO*

As I reflect on 2024, my heart overflows with gratitude and wonder at what God has accomplished through Wheeler Mission. This year's theme, "Transforming Lives Together," beautifully captures our journey – a testament to God's grace and your unwavering support.

By God's grace, we've been His hands and feet to thousands of men, women, and children seeking refuge and renewal. From warm meals and safe shelter to recovery programs and personalized care, we've stood alongside those at their most vulnerable. But above all, we've had the profound privilege of sharing the hope of the Gospel – planting seeds of lasting transformation through Christ's love.

This year, we've seen lives changed and futures restored. We've expanded our programs, strengthened our addiction recovery efforts, and embraced new ways to meet both physical and spiritual needs. These milestones were only possible because of you – our donors, staff, and volunteers – working together as the body of Christ. Working as One Wheeler.

Yet, as we celebrate these blessings, we know God's work is not done. The challenges remain great, but so does His faithfulness. With hearts full of hope, we press forward, trusting in His guidance to serve even more people in need.

Thank you for being a vital part of this ministry. Together, we are not only transforming lives, we are sharing the light of His love in a world that so desperately needs it.

With gratitude and hope,

**Perry Hines**  
President & CEO



# *A Legacy of Transforming Lives*

In 2024, as a heartfelt tribute to their commitment of service, Wheeler Mission has renamed its two downtown Indianapolis shelters to honor former CEO, Rick Alvis, and his wife, Julie.

The **Rick Alvis Shelter for Men** and the **Julie Alvis Center for Women & Children** will stand as a testament to the power of faith, compassion, and dedicated service. Their names will forever be associated with the help, hope, and healing that Wheeler Mission provides every day.

After three decades, Rick Alvis retired in 2023 following a remarkable tenure shaping Wheeler Mission's impact and reach. Under his leadership:

- 5 million meals were served to the hungry.
- 3 million nights of shelter offered safety and rest.
- Over 4,500 men and women graduated from life-transforming residential programs.

"After all Rick and Julie have done for Wheeler over the years, renaming our two Indianapolis locations after them was the perfect way to honor their legacy," stated Perry Hines, Wheeler Mission CEO.



# Connect to Transform Lives

Wheeler Mission is built on a foundation of community, and there are many ways for you to connect with us and be part of transforming lives together.

## New Website

This year, we launched an updated website designed to make connecting with Wheeler Mission easier than ever.

- *Simpler Navigation*
- *Mission Focused*
- *Streamlined Action Button*
- *Event Integration*
- *Updated Information*
- *Clean, On-Brand Design*
- *Access to Social Enterprises*

Our new website is designed to connect you with the heart of Wheeler Mission—our programs, our people, and our purpose.



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



## **Volunteering**

Volunteers are the hands and feet of Wheeler Mission, and their stories inspire us all. Here's why some of our volunteers dedicate their time and talents to serve:

### **Center for Women & Children Volunteer**

"When I first started, my favorite part was getting to know the ladies, loving on them, and encouraging them. As I stepped into a Guest Services role, I built friendships with employees and had more opportunities to interact with guests, celebrating their daily accomplishments and excitement as they grow in the programs."

### **Wheeler Mission Store**

"We organize and greet families at the Wheeler Mission Store in Fishers. Our family has supported the Women's Shelter with donations, and we love being part of events like Shoes for Indianapolis and Strength In Our Streets, seeing firsthand how others come together to help."

We invite you to join us, whether by exploring our new website, volunteering, or supporting us in other ways. Together, we can continue transforming lives and building hope.

*help.*



# Communities Transform Lives

At Wheeler Mission, we're constantly inspired by the creative ways our community gets involved to support our neighbors in need. From everyday shopping to impactful partnerships, these opportunities are a testament to the power of working together to transform lives.

## **Kroger Rewards: Everyday Shopping, Extraordinary Impact**

Supporting Wheeler Mission through Kroger Community Rewards is simple. By selecting Wheeler Mission in your Kroger Rewards account, every shopping trip helps provide meals, shelter, clothing, and vital services for those in need. It's an easy way to make a lasting difference.

Together, we can turn small, everyday actions into extraordinary change. Thank you for partnering with us through Kroger Rewards and for fueling our mission with each and every trip to the grocery store.

## **Colts Caring Mondays: A Partnership of Impact**

In 2024, we joined forces with the Indianapolis Colts to launch Colts Caring Mondays, a heartfelt initiative that combines their commitment to the community with Wheeler Mission's mission to serve those in need.

Each Monday, Colts-sponsored meals are served to our Indianapolis guests, ensuring they receive not only nourishment but also a renewed sense of hope.

This partnership reflects what can be accomplished when organizations and individuals come together. Together, we're proving that small acts of service can lead to big transformations.

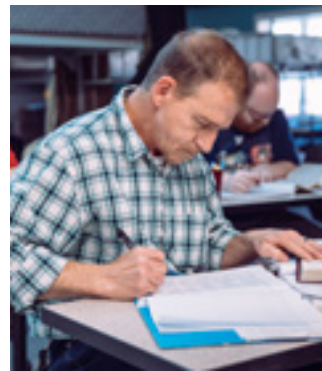


# Collaborating to Transform Lives

Wheeler Mission continues to serve as the largest shelter in the state of Indiana with over 800 individuals staying with us on many winter nights at our locations in Central and South Central Indiana. However, as the Point-In-Time Count showed in 2024, homelessness has increased by 5% creating additional strain on the resources we provide. In early 2024, collaboration with the cities of Indianapolis and Bloomington along with other service providers in those areas began the preparations for winter housing when the number of those seeking assistance would peak.

Great partnerships ensued with shared responsibility for making sure that every individual has some place to go in the coldest months of the year. In Central Indiana, this led to the IPS School Shelter option for the largest growing population of those experiencing homelessness – families. While Wheeler Mission is still leading the efforts for winter housing, the IPS School Shelter for families, as well as additional beds provided by community partners, allow us to know that everyone is cared for while making sure to continue the focus on lives being transformed. After 131 years of serving the community, Wheeler Mission still remains the front door for those experiencing homelessness to find the services they need to experience help, hope, and healing.

*hope.*



# Lives Transformed



## ALEX'S STORY

Alex, a man whose life was marked by trauma and addiction from a young age, faced a devastating turning point when his fiancée and unborn daughter were tragically killed. Struggling with grief and substance abuse, Alex found himself in and out of rehabs, jail, and near homelessness before deciding to turn his life around. Encouraged by his lawyer, he entered Wheeler Mission, where he experienced not only physical support but spiritual growth, discovering a deeper understanding of God and faith. Through our program, Alex is learning to live with purpose, finding strength in God and his new community, and working towards a future where he can honor the memory of his loved ones and embrace a new life free from addiction.



***“God showed up at the right time for me.  
I’ve found healing through my faith in a  
way I didn’t expect.”***





## ANYA'S STORY

*“Wheeler Mission means everything to me—it’s not just a place to stay; it’s where I’ve found hope, healing, and a sense of belonging.”*

Anya’s life was shaped by childhood trauma, leading to deep mistrust and a struggle with alcoholism, which began as a way to cope with anxiety and caregiving responsibilities. By age 32, her addiction led to homelessness, and she felt hopeless. However, in June 2023, Anya was referred to Wheeler Mission, where she found safety, support, and renewed faith. She rediscovered her belief in God, was baptized, and began working toward her GED. Anya is also learning to connect with others and rebuild trust. Through our programs, she’s receiving the resources she needs to plan for a brighter future, including housing and community support. Anya’s story is one of resilience, healing, and the transformative power of second chances.



Want Anya’s full story?  
Scan here!



# CEDRIC'S STORY

Cedric's journey is one of strength, faith, and transformation. Raised by loving grandparents, he faced challenges from a physical condition that made him feel different but was encouraged to persevere. As a young man, Cedric fell into addiction, becoming both a user and a dealer, which led to incarceration, the loss of his wife, and ultimately resulted in homelessness. After five years of sobriety, he came to Wheeler Mission, where he found shelter and a supportive community, including his uncle, a former Wheeler guest who inspired his recovery. Now, Cedric dedicates himself to helping others, guiding newcomers with the same compassion he received. Committed to sobriety and spiritual growth, Cedric's story is a powerful testament to healing, self-worth, and God's love.

***“When I was lost, they offered more than just a bed. They gave me hope and the tools I needed to rebuild.”***





## LARRIEL'S STORY

***“For me, Wheeler has been more than just a place to stay—it’s been a turning point, giving me the chance to get back on track and begin anew.”***

Larriel Red Elk has found a new sense of stability at Wheeler Mission Bloomington, a place that has helped him regain focus and start moving forward. Health struggles and difficulty finding stable work made him feel uncertain about what to do. But since arriving at Wheeler, Larriel has received the support and resources he needed to start rebuilding his life. The staff has helped him with everything from securing important documents, like his birth certificate and state ID, to assisting with his job search. Most importantly, they’ve shown him a clear path forward, helping him break down the steps he needs to take to succeed. For Larriel, this has been more than just a safe place to stay—it’s been a turning point, giving him the chance to get back on track. Larriel’s story is a powerful reminder that anyone can face homelessness, but with the right support, it’s possible to rebuild and move forward.



healing.

# Lives Transformed by the Numbers

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**411,115**  
MEALS SERVED



**11,973**  
INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING  
SERVICE FROM WM



**530**  
PLACED IN  
STABLE HOUSING



**421**  
INDIVIDUALS WITH  
STABLE INCOME



**329**  
INDIVIDUALS THAT  
COMPLETED A PROGRAM



**36,944**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED

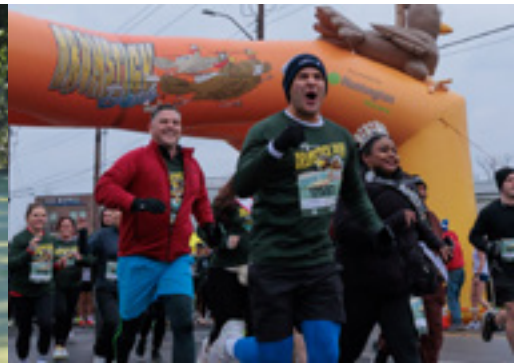
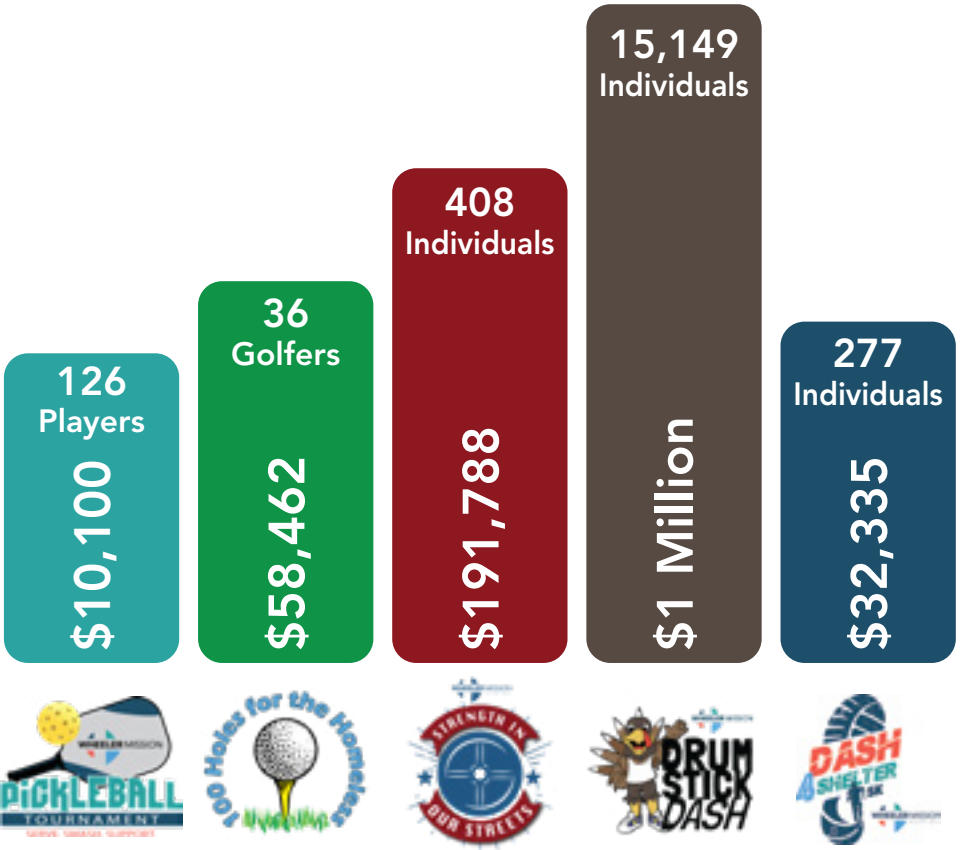


**28%**  
WHEELER EMPLOYEES THAT  
COMPLETED A PROGRAM



# Events Transform Lives

Our events are more than just gatherings—they are powerful opportunities to unite as a community, raise vital funds, and share in the mission of transforming lives. Together, we've made incredible strides through your participation, support, and generosity.



# *Transforming Lives Through Trust*

Creating a safe and welcoming environment is essential to transforming lives. Your generous support has enabled vital improvements, providing our guests and program participants with a safer, more dignified place to live and grow.

## **Enhancing Safety at the Shelter for Men**

We've remodeled the guest entry area with enhanced lighting and security cameras to prioritize safety, protection, and a welcoming space for all.

## **Upgrades at the Men's Residential Center**

Restrooms and showers have been updated to provide greater comfort and functionality, and new commercial washers and dryers now better serve our community's needs.

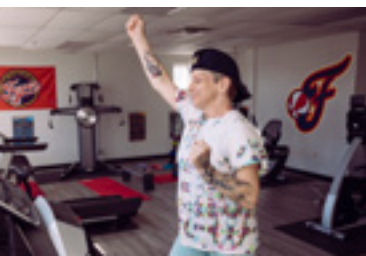
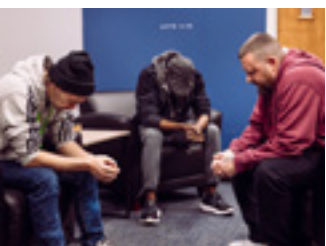
## **Improvements at the Center for Women & Children**

Updates to the plumbing system and an added water holding tank provide greater reliability. Electric hand dryers were installed to reduce waste and improve convenience.

## **Roofing Repairs at the Hunt Training Center**

Multiple roofs were replaced this year, ensuring this facility remains safe and comfortable for the men we serve.

Each improvement reflects our commitment to safety, comfort, and sustainability, creating a place where lives are transformed every day. Thank you for helping us make Wheeler Mission a beacon of hope.



# Change that Transforms Lives

## New Directors: Leading with Purpose

**Charles Dillard – Director of Men’s Residential Center**

Charles has been a part of Wheeler Mission for 18 years, starting as a guest in our long-term program and working his way into leadership. A proud Indianapolis native, Charles studied in Florida and worked for FEMA before finding his purpose at Wheeler.

**Michael Lema – Director of the Shelter for Men**

Michael joined Wheeler Mission as the Director of the Shelter for Men, following a clear call from God to serve in this role. He shares that the Shelter for Men has a tremendous impact on the homeless community, especially during critical times like Winter Contingency.



Charles Dillard

Michael Lema

## Mary Wheeler Circle: Impacting Lives Through Grants

The Mary Wheeler Circle (MWC) continues to make a lasting difference through their dedication and generosity:

- \$92,000 awarded in grants in 2024, funding transformative initiatives.
- Over 60 grants awarded to the Center for Women & Children since 2018 surpassing \$700,000.
- 1,636 volunteer hours completed in 2024, demonstrating their hands-on commitment.
- Launched a Jr. MWC Membership Program to inspire the next generation of compassionate leaders.

## **SkillBridge Program**

Our SkillBridge Program exemplifies our commitment to investing in staff development and equipping our frontline heroes—GSC I's—with essential skills. SkillBridge is a new 90-day program designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of GSC I's, empowering them to make a lasting impact.

Why It Matters:

- Enhanced skills and certifications for staff.
- Career advancement opportunities within Wheeler Mission
- Recognition of the dedication and hard work of our team.

Together, these efforts build a stronger, more skilled workforce, enabling us to transform lives by the power of Jesus Christ.



## **Supportive Care Pilot: Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness**

Our Supportive Care Pilot Program at the Center for Women & Children has achieved life-changing results over the past two years.

Among those served:

- 54% remain in supportive housing provided by Wheeler.
- 42% transitioned to other permanent housing solutions.
- 96% of participants are still housed.

This model combines housing with essential support services, including case management, spiritual guidance, and access to resources. It is a testament to the power of holistic care in achieving long-term stability.



## **Compass Kids Child Care: Expanding Support**

Compass Kids Child Care has made significant strides, becoming Paths to Quality certified by the state of Indiana. This year, we introduced an after-school program, providing additional support to working moms and their children.



## Certifications and Workforce Development

### CWC Staff Achievements

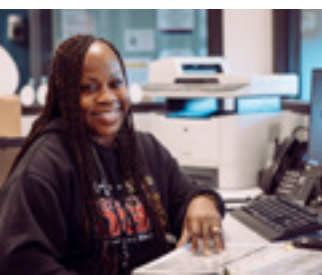
Two CWC staff members earned their Master's Certificate in Applied Educational Neuroscience through Butler University, further strengthening our trauma-informed care approach.

### Program Guest to Staff Member

Kadi's journey to Wheeler Mission has been transformative, helping her rebuild both personally and professionally. Prior to her arrival, Kadi faced significant challenges, including experiencing trauma within her family and homelessness. Coming to Wheeler Mission marked a pivotal moment in her life, as it provided her with safety, stability, and the emotional support she needed to heal. Through her time in the work program and as a staff member in the Compass Kids Program, Kadi has been able to rediscover her strengths and career aspirations.

With Wheeler's support and sponsorship, Kadi has pursued her passion for childcare and has obtained her Child Development Associate certification. Her experience working with children has not only deepened her love for the field but has also allowed her to grow emotionally and spiritually, drawing closer to her faith. Kadi's story is a testament to the life-changing impact that Wheeler Mission can have, offering a path forward for those who, like her, are determined to build a better future.





# Financials

Wheeler's fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31, and 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. Our audited financial statements are available on our website; [www.wheelermission.org/about-us/financials/](http://www.wheelermission.org/about-us/financials/)

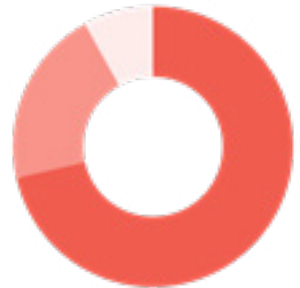
## INCOME

● Contributions	61.4%
● Program Services & Other	26.3%
● Gift-In-Kind	4.4%
● Special Events	1.8%
● Wills & Estates	6.1%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>100%</b>



## EXPENSE

● Programs	71.4%
● Fundraising	20.5%
● Administrative	8.1%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>100%</b>



**TOGETHER WE CAN  
CONTINUE TO  
TRANSFORM LIVES**

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**John Corbin, Treasurer**

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Wheeler Mission  
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