

FORGOTTEN. ALONE. SCARED.

During winter here in Central and South Central Indiana, it's easy to be grateful for the comfort and warmth waiting at home, until you walk or drive past someone on a lonely street. For them, winter is an especially difficult time. Every day is a struggle to survive.

But what can you do? Sure, you could give them money. But you know a few bucks isn't a solution that helps them off the streets. How do you let them know, "I see you," and offer **real, lasting help** that leads to stability and a life off the streets?



HELP IS HERE

Check out help available to you at Wheeler Mission.

CREATE A HELP PACK!

The form below (pages 2-3) is a printable handout with important information about life-changing services at Wheeler Mission. Combine it with a bus pass, warm socks or a hat, hygiene items, and a food item like a protein bar or crackers. Then you're ready with a handy "help pack" for any man or woman you encounter this winter.

WAYS TO (REALLY!) HELP THIS WINTER

WHAT TO DO

1. TREAT THEM WITH DIGNITY

Say hello. Make eye contact. Smile. A brief, friendly conversation can restore dignity and lift spirits, as many people experiencing homelessness battle depression, loneliness, and other struggles. For your health and safety—as well as theirs—maintain a respectful distance.

2. BE PREPARED TO GIVE FOOD & SUPPLIES

Offer an alternative to giving money by keeping "help packs" with shelf-stable food and supplies in your car trunk, purse, or other carry-all bag when you go out. When you meet someone who needs help, you'll be ready with real, tangible assistance!

3. DIRECT THEM TO WHEELER MISSION

Print and include the form below in your "help pack"—it lists some of Wheeler Mission's services that can help individuals overcome homelessness.

WHAT NOT TO DO

1. HAND OUT MONEY

You want to help because your heart aches to see someone in need. But money may go toward drugs or alcohol—exactly what you don't want! It may seem like a good idea, but giving money could actually keep someone from seeking real help that could change their life.

2. GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE

Stay in public areas, in daylight when possible, and make sure other people can see you. Maintain a safe distance and respect their personal space. Don't give anyone a ride—it's better to provide a bus pass and directions to Wheeler Mission.

3. GIVE UP HOPE

Everybody deserves a second chance! Your care and compassion could encourage someone to change his or her life. You never know what may motivate someone to get help, so keep trying. You can make a huge impact when you reach out with a spirit of love

BY BEING PREPARED THIS WINTER, YOU CAN REALLY HELP.

cut along line

Check out services available to you at Wheeler Mission.

HELP IS HERE



(317) 635-3575 | WheelerMission.org

All services are provided free of charge because of the caring and generous people in Central and South Central Indiana.

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SHELTER FOR MEN

520 E. Market St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Services include: shelter, meals, chapel services, medical clinics, residential program introduction

CENTER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

3208 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46201

Services include: shelter, meals, Bible studies, medical clinics, residential programs, addiction recovery

CENTER FOR MEN

215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404

Services include: meals, shelter, community day room, residential programs, Bible studies

To ensure safety and comfort for others, there is a no alcohol/drugs policy on our premises.

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