

INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | EASTER 2026



Mackenzie's life has been made *New* this *Easter!*

Thank you for sharing hope for her fresh start.

Easter
2026





A Message from Perry Hines

A SEASON OF *Possibility...*

A lot changes this time of year. We're moving into a new season. Days are getting longer, and new life is springing up around us. It's a reminder that even in darkness, beauty and hope are just around the corner.

The Easter season is also a reminder of Christ's sacrifice... and the hope for new life.

Renewal is happening inside Wheeler Mission as well—in the lives of the men and women who come to us in their darkest hour. Each person who walks through our doors is a story of resilience and possibility, like Mackenzie, whose story you can read on page 3.

Through the support of friends like you, these men and women can rise above their circumstances and rebuild their lives. Because our residential programs are more than meals, safe shelter, and care. They're about finding faith that a new life is possible.

Thank you for empowering our guests along their journey from darkness to light... from despair to hope. Your generosity gives them the tools they need to move from the shadows of homelessness or addiction, into the light of stability and hope.

Perry Hines
President & CEO



We hope to see you at our

UPCOMING EVENTS



WHEELER MISSION

June
2026



August
2026



September
2026



Thanksgiving
Morning

Visit our website to
learn more and get involved!
WheelerMission.org/Events

This Easter... **EVERY MEAL MATTERS**

Just \$2.36 for a meal and hope for a new life!

Each meal served with love at Wheeler Mission is so much more than a plate of food. It can also open the door to life-changing services like safe shelter, Christ-centered care, and healing in our residential programs!

For just \$2.36 each, you can provide a hot, nourishing Easter meal to someone in need... and share hope for a new life in Christ.

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

✦ Give online anytime at WheelerMission.org.





“Everything
is going to be
Okay.”

Mackenzie was just 5 years old when her mom passed away. The loss devastated her family. Even though Mackenzie grew up and played volleyball in high school, grief was never far away.

“I was traumatized, and I started acting out as a teenager. My self-esteem was very damaged, which led me to drugs,” she says. “Then as a young adult, I turned to harder substances that were more addictive.”

After finishing school, Mackenzie’s depression and addiction spiraled out of control, until she lost interest in her job and stopped going to work. With no money, she was evicted from her apartment and began living on the streets.

“When it was cold outside, I would just ride the city bus around town trying to stay warm. That’s how I found Wheeler Mission—the bus passed by and I saw it and came inside.”

Mackenzie was given a bed through our Winter Contingency program before joining the Higher Ground Addiction Recovery Program. Through recovery support and biblical counseling, she began to heal from her past and make plans for her future.

“They showed me a lot of kindness. **The staff encouraged me and shared their expectations of me,** which helped a lot... having that support. I’ve seen a lot of positive changes in my personality.”

Today, she enjoys helping in our kitchen by washing dishes and serving meals to other guests. She has always had a relationship with God, but now her faith is stronger than ever. In the future, she hopes to go back to school to become a licensed nutritionist.

“Wheeler Mission reminded me that God keeps His promises. It equipped me with the tools and resources I need to focus on the direction I want to go with my life.”

This Easter, Mackenzie has a new direction for her life. Thank you for lighting the path forward for her to experience a future of hope and peace! “Since coming to Wheeler Mission, I feel much more ready to take on life. Now I believe that everything is going to be okay.”

“*I wished my life was more secure.*”



May we shine the light of Christ.

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”—John 1:4–5

A Legacy That Blooms



There's a rich history behind the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the trees at its center, marked by values that span generations. As you read, consider your story and the legacy you'd like to leave behind.

This story begins with **Generosity**. In 1912, Tokyo donated 3,020 trees to Washington, D.C., as a gesture of goodwill to honor the relationship between the United States and Japan. That generosity had its roots in a small group of people who worked to generate interest in Japanese cherry trees by raising money, giving away saplings, and advocating with government officials. *What causes are important to you?*

Relationships are central to this history. Friendship between Japan and the U.S. motivated the original donation. The trees have continued to be symbols of goodwill over the years. *What relationships have shaped who you are?*

With relationships often comes the need for **Reconciliation**. After World War II, the National Park Service sent budwood from the original trees to Japan to restore the trees in Tokyo. In turn, Japan gave the U.S. a stone lantern as a rededication of friendship. *How has the reconciliation you have through Christ changed your life?*

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "The Gift That Keeps on Blooming" by contacting Jeff Boxell at **(317) 714-6680** or **JeffBoxell@WheelerMission.org** – or bless your family today with an up-to-date will at **WheelerMission.ChristianWill.org**.

God's Word changes lives!

When you give to Wheeler Mission, you provide more than physical nourishment in a meal. You also offer spiritual nourishment through chapel services and Bible studies.

We believe this is where real recovery begins... at the feet of Jesus.



These opportunities for guests to gather are more than spiritual guidance—they are a foundation for lasting change. Because it's only when our guests learn about God's love for them and accept forgiveness for themselves and others that they can find hope and *real healing*.

Thank you for helping our neighbors experiencing homelessness break free from addiction, restore broken relationships, and step into a brighter future... through the promises of God's Word that they hear in our chapel services and Bible studies.

Learn more about how spiritual development fits into our holistic transformation model at **WheelerMission.org/From-Help-to-Healing**.

