



## She Never Felt Such Love

**“This place is an expression of God’s love.”**

**M**ost people’s lives are filled with ups and downs. But Gwen’s wildly fluctuating moods were a sign of bipolar disorder, a mental turmoil that left her barely able to function.

The diagnosis “threw her for a loop.” She says, “Things were going wrong, and the friend I was staying with asked me to leave her house. I ended up staying in my car for nearly a month.”

But God was watching over Gwen. A man she barely knew convinced her to go to his church for help. They put Gwen up in a hotel overnight and called our Center for Women & Children.

Gwen was as scared as she

could be. “I didn’t belong in a shelter. I had no idea what it was all about, but it proved to be **the best thing I could have done for myself!**”

“Everyone thinks of shelters like broken-down houses,” Gwen says. “But the Mission is like nothing I’ve ever experienced.”

Gwen felt at home. She was part of a family who loved and looked out for one another. Finally, she’d found a place where she could go without having to worry about “what people would say.”

***“This was the best place for me to be.”***

In addition to caring for Gwen and helping her connect with local mental health providers, our staff also helped her qualify for the disability coverage that will enable her to find a more permanent home.

Once she settled in, Gwen had a chance to “listen to what God was telling me to do.” And she had people who cared for her like she

was family—people who took her to the hospital when she suffered a mild heart attack and came to visit her while she was there.

“I’ve never felt such love. The people at the Mission did whatever needed to be done...that’s an expression of God.”

Finding sanctuary at our Center for Women & Children also provided Gwen with a chance to renew her relationship with Christ, to heal and let Him “get me where He wanted me to be.”



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## A Personal Word From the President/CEO



Dear Ministry Partner,

One of the books our staff has been reading is Brian Fikkert's When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself. It's about how we respond to those who come to us for help; how we can truly make a difference in their lives.

The question of giving hand-outs to those on the streets has been addressed on The Star's editorial page. Are you helping or hurting a panhandler when you hand over a few bucks? Would God be dishonored if you turned away from those in need? These are tough questions about a complex issue.

I believe God wants us to be compassionate yet wise stewards of all He has entrusted to us. Not all panhandlers have addiction issues, but if we give money to an addict or alcoholic out of guilt, we may be hurting them more than helping. I invite you to consider helping Wheeler give those in need a meal, a night's shelter, education, job training and counseling. This personal one-on-one contact with someone who cares can truly make a difference in the lives of the needy.

Bless you for caring,

Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

Reserved for you:

## 2012 Mission Calendar

Without the gifts, volunteer time and prayers of friends like you, this ministry to our community's neediest people would not exist.



As a token of our gratitude for all you do, please accept this beautiful 2012 calendar as our way of saying "Thank you!"

To receive your FREE 2012 calendar, please check the special box on your reply card and mail it today.

## Get Ready to Move Your Feet!

**M**ark your calendar! The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Drumstick Dash will be here before you know it!

This fun-filled run/walk on Thanksgiving morning, November 24 at 9 a.m. is an Indy tradition. Come be part of the fun and help make a difference in the lives of needy, homeless people.

**Move your feet so others can eat!** You can run, walk or volunteer. It's a great way to begin your Thanksgiving holiday.



We need lots of volunteers to help us out, so if you want to participate but don't want to

run, this is a great way to get involved!

For more information, to volunteer or register, visit our website at **WheelerMission.org** or call (317) 635-3575. Sign up today!

## A Sign of Our Times

**Y**ou've seen them on street corners and freeway off ramps. Hand-written cardboard signs. "Hungry, please help." "Will work for food."

Your heart tells you to help. But you're not sure how the money will be used.

So you support Wheeler Mission! Because you know that the Mission provides more than meals...we give people the help they need to build better lives.

Right now, we need to raise \$160,000 to provide meals and care for the next 90 days.

**WILL WORK  
FOR FOOD**

That's a big job, but it's also our busiest time of the year. We'll serve 22,000 meals this month, 24,000 in October, and another 26,000 in November, including our annual Thanksgiving meal.

Please reach out with your gift as we head into our busiest season ever!

You can use the enclosed slip or visit **www.WheelerMission.org** to make a gift today. **With your support, we pray more people will abandon their street corners and come to the Mission, where both immediate and eternal help are freely given.**

# Banned from their Homes...

## "I stole from my own family."

Chris was addicted to crack cocaine and alcohol—so badly addicted that he “couldn’t wake up without the shakes.”

As his addiction progressed, he found himself possessed by cravings “that would never go away.” Cravings that made him think about ways to make money just to get more drugs. Some of the ways were good; most were bad. And eventually, the cravings won. Chris stopped caring about what he did to people... even his own family!

He stole from his kids at Christmas; he took diamonds from his sister’s home. He lied and he cheated – whatever he needed to do to get his fix.

“I lost the respect of my kids and my sisters. I wasn’t allowed to go into their homes.” Chris had been living with an uncle, but finally, even his uncle got fed up. “He told me I needed to get help; I needed to leave his house.”

Even though they didn’t want him around, Chris’ family still cared for him. His uncle drove him here to the Mission.

With nowhere else to turn but the streets, Chris “half-heartedly” agreed to enter our addiction recovery program. It was there that he asked the Lord to come into his life. Then things really started to change!

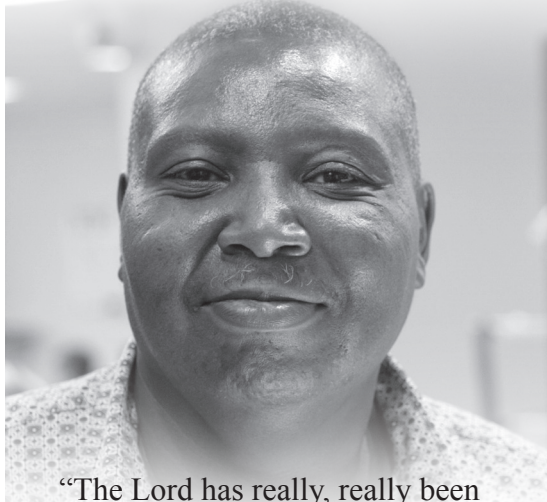
## "I thank God for this program."

The first thing to change was his heart. “I became grateful,” remembers Chris. “I could have died out there; I owed some guys some serious money and they were looking to kill me.” Chris knows today that being a real

believer in the Word of God is what convinced them to leave him be.

By the time he graduated, Chris’ life had changed “all the way around.”

Before his addiction took hold, he’d cooked at various restaurants around Indy. Now, he works as an employee of the Mission. He started off as the head cook and eventually, worked his way up to Food Services Manager at our Shelter for Men.



“The Lord has really, really been good to me,” says Chris. Today, he not only works here at the Mission, but owns his own business, Christian Brothers Cleaning Service, with a friend that he met in our program.

Chris is also very heavily involved in his church as a deacon and a member of the male chorus. “I just never, never thought my life could be like this. I am very blessed and very grateful for the things that I went through because it humbled me.”

And his family who wouldn’t let him in their homes? Today, Chris is his family’s “spiritual leader,” the man who his children and sisters turn to for prayer and advice.

When Chris says, “I am so very blessed to be here,” he really means it!

## Thanksgiving Needs



Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and we need your help to get ready!

Below is a list of the items we need to prepare and serve thousands of meals this Thanksgiving season. Please consider purchasing some of the items on the list and dropping them off at the Mission or making a donation to help us purchase them.

- 60 turkeys
- 15 #10 cans or 4 large cases (200 lbs) of sweet potatoes or yams
- 100 individual boxes of Stove Top stuffing
- 10 gallons of turkey gravy
- 25 lb bag of brown sugar
- 20 lbs butter
- 35 gallons of apple cider
- 10 boneless hams
- 50 lb bag of white onions
- 12 #10 cans of cranberry sauce
- 40 individual cans of cream of mushroom soup
- 40 lbs of fried onions

Donations can be dropped off at the Wheeler Mission Men’s Residential Center at 245 N. Delaware St., 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., 7 days a week. Please call Milton at (317) 635-3575 or visit [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org) for more information.

## Wheeler Mission Thrift Store



**C**leaning out your closets? Finished with your garage sale? Looking for a great bargain? Visit the Wheeler Mission Thrift Store!

Wheeler Mission Thrift Store sells new and gently-used clothes and household items at low prices. All proceeds benefit the Mission and the Thrift Store offers job skills training for women in our Higher Ground Addiction Recovery Program.

You can drop off your donations at the Wheeler Mission Thrift Store (2730 S. Madison Ave) or at any of our drop-off locations. Call **(317) 635-3575** or visit **WheelerMission.org** for more information!

## Camp Out to Stamp Out Homelessness and Music Fest 2011

**O**n Friday, June 17, nearly 500 people came out to enjoy our 2nd annual Camp Out to Stamp Out Homelessness event.

Event MC Dave Calabro gave away prizes and shot t-shirts out of his t-shirt gun. There were concerts by 737, D'vine Wordz, Dale J. Evans, Bobby Hayden and For All The Right Reasons, and Two or More. The kids loved the bounce house, rock wall, and face painting station.

Our program directors shared about how Wheeler is helping people in need and several of our guests gave testimonies about how God and Wheeler have made a positive impact in their lives.

Those who camped out overnight



got a little wet in the morning, but still shared in a time of praise and worship. Wheeler's President/CEO Rick Alvis shared a short devotional and challenge, and we served a hot breakfast before everyone packed up their tents.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our second annual Camp Out to Stamp Out Homelessness Event! For more photos and information on this annual event, visit [www.WheelerMission.org](http://www.WheelerMission.org).

## Camp Out to Stamp Out Homelessness

### Event Sponsors

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### Prize Sponsors

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