



WHEELER MISSION *Ministries*

Changing Lives in Central Indiana Since 1893

Inside Story

Easter Issue 2008


Care Center • Men's Mission • Hebron • Community Center • Lighthouse • Annabel's

Vol. 27 No. 1



Visit Us Today!

While we would rather take you on a personal tour and show first-hand what you and others help us do, you now can learn about us in the privacy of your own home or office. Please visit us today at www.WheelerMission.org and learn about:

- How your support is making a difference in the lives of needy men, women and children here in Central Indiana
- Ways you can volunteer your time at the Mission
- Donating securely online, which saves us administrative costs and allows your gift to be put to work immediately. 

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A Mother's Testimony

Editor's Note: Having a child addicted to drugs or alcohol can tear a family apart. Today, the mother of one of our Hebron graduates shares the trials and blessings her family has experienced.

Before their son, Mike, came to Wheeler Mission, the only thing his parents Marian and Vince knew was that we fed people at Thanksgiving and that people from their church had volunteered here. Today, they know first-hand how Mission programs help restore lives!

"Michael is the second of six children. His best friend was our first son, Danny. But when Mike was 13 and Danny was 14, Danny was struck by lightning and killed while the boys were playing baseball. Mike was devastated," recalls Marian.

Even though he got involved in drugs and alcohol in college, Mike still graduated from Ball State and got a great job as a sales rep for an insulation company. But gradually, his addictions started interfering with his life. And when he was badly injured

in a car accident and had a hard time finding work, his drug use increased.

"We prayed and prayed. Then we told him he couldn't stay at home and use drugs. He ended up sleeping in his car where someone from Wheeler found him one bitterly cold night and told him about the Mission," says Marian.

"Vincent and I would go down to Hebron on Sundays along with our daughters and their children. It's a very close-knit community. There's a lot of prayer for all these men. They

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Moving Your Feet so Others Can Eat!

The Drumstick Dash set a new record with 5,000 registered walkers and runners. The Running Company again hosted our 5th Annual Drumstick Dash Run/Walk. The 4.5 mile event took place Thanksgiving morning, November 22, at 9:00 a.m. through Broad Ripple with all proceeds to benefit Wheeler Mission. The overall winner, Jeff Powers of Bloomington, also set a new record by finishing the race with a time of 21:40.3 minutes, nearly a minute faster than last year's winner.



We want to give special thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors for making this event happen (see list on page 4). We could not have done it without their help. We're already looking forward to this year's race and hope you are as well. 🐣



A MESSAGE FROM RICK ALVIS



Nothing defeats hope!

There are more than 174 places in the Bible that talk about hope. But as we prepare to celebrate Easter, there is one particular verse that comes to mind. Romans 8:24 says: "For in this hope we are saved."

Simple. Direct. To the point. Hope is the spirit of God, the spirit of the risen Lord that lives in each one of us. Hope is the spirit that changes lives here at Wheeler Mission.

I believe this spirit also moves in your heart as you support this vital ministry. Hope for a better, brighter future for men, women and children who are homeless, hungry, addicted or in need. Thank you for helping us give them hope, the spirit that cannot be defeated!

Wishing you an Easter filled with hope,

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

We Are Easter People!

If this Mission were a holiday, it would surely be Easter! Easter is spring sunshine after a dark winter. Easter is a time when the earth is reborn. And Easter is hope – hope for a better life, hope for a tomorrow with enough food and shelter, hope for change.

of men, women and children are transformed because they have found hope at Wheeler Mission, our Care Center, Hebron, Lighthouse and the Community Center. You can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices when they share their stories.

Through your gifts of time and money, and through your prayers, you

Thanks to your support, the lives

I Might Be On the Street

When Vicki first came to the Mission's Care Center, she was in terrible shape. "If someone had asked me if Vicki was employable the first few weeks she was here, I would have said no," remembers Director Paulette Moore. "Her depression had made her physically unable to function," she says.

Yet, with a roof over her head, regular meals and the loving care of our dedicated staff, less than three months went by before Vicki was back on her feet and working as a greeter and cashier at Wal-Mart!



Vicki's life has not been an easy one. A bad fall two years ago necessitated major surgery and cost Vicki her job at a deli. "My arm was in such bad shape I couldn't go out looking for work," says Vicki. Both her parents are deceased and she's lost touch with her daughter. She was staying at a friend's house on the north side before coming to the Care Center, but she says, "it just wasn't working out."

In addition to the staff, Vicki's roommates at the Care Center have been helpful and supportive. "One girl is a bit older than me and she's the one who took me out when I was putting in applications and showed me the bus route. If I need to go anywhere, the two of us usually go together," Vicki says.

Being able to stay at the Care Center as part of our Guest Worker Program will enable Vicki to save the money she needs for her own apartment. "If I hadn't found the Care Center, who knows what would have happened. I might have been on the street!" 🏠

bring hope to the people in our community who need it most. With your help and hope, they overcome poverty, addictions, and suffering and move on to live healthier, happier, more hopeful lives!

Please continue to help us bring this message of hope to those in need by sending a special Easter gift today.



You may use the enclosed envelope, or make a secure donation online at www.WheelerMission.org 🏠

A Special Thank You!

While most of our donations come from individuals, we could simply not be able to do all we do without the help of foundations. We are thankful to the following foundations for their generous support of Wheeler Mission Ministries:

O'Keefe Family Foundation

for their support of Family and Children Programs at the Care Center

The HC Gemmer Family Christian Foundation

for the Hebron Addiction Recovery Program

Indiana Youth Institute

for a Personal Development Grant Award to allow staff to receive training

The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

for General Operating support for Youth and Mission programs

The Sallie Mae Fund

for program support

Automotive Finance Corporation

for Care Center General Operating Support

Carrier Corporation, The Jenn Foundation, The Lauth Family Foundation and The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust

for general operating support

Ronald McDonald House Charities

for a new youth and family department minivan

Downtown Optimist Foundation

for their support of Youth programs

Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund Fifth Third Bank, Trustee

for their support of Higher Ground recovery program for women

