

INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | FALL 2018



“I was really broken. Had *no hope* whatsoever.”

Today, Bridget is on a path to a new beginning – and her heart is filled with gratitude for friends like you who are making her journey possible.

You'll be moved by her story, on Page 3.



“The only way out of this was going to be *Through God*. I couldn’t do it myself.”

Bridget never thought she would wind up living on the streets, pregnant and alone. But when she left an abusive relationship and had nowhere else to go, she became homeless in an instant – and she’s not alone. A Coalition for Homelessness Intervention (CHIP) 2018 study states that 80% of homeless women are fleeing domestic violence.

She says, “I was in a domestic violence encounter and I left the house with everything. ***I was pregnant and living on the streets for three months. I learned a lot about being grateful for what you really do have because in a moment it could be gone.***”

Bridget escaped the streets and came to our Center for Women & Children in search of nourishing food and a safe place to sleep. Once her immediate needs were met, she entered Revive, our family development program. She is building a better life for herself and her son through counseling, Bible study, group classes and other life-changing services.

Bridget’s mom died when Bridget was only 10 years old, which caused her to turn to drugs to cope with the devastating loss. The life skills and parenting classes at the Mission have given her newfound strength, confidence and healthier ways of coping.

“I’m a completely different person since I got here. I had a good support team. It’s been very welcoming.”

In our care, Bridget is strengthening her relationship with the Lord and embracing God’s plan for her life. She has restored relationships with her family and is thankful for the care her young son gets at the Mission.

“The Mission gives people the second chance for hope,” Bridget says today. “It’s made me want to help people more. ***I’ve learned to have more consistent trust in the Lord and really just lean on Him.***”

When she graduates from the program, she hopes to attend school for her degree in social work so she can help recovering addicts and their children break the family cycle of destructive behavior. She also plans to look for a place for her and her son to live.

Bridget is so thankful for the lessons she has learned at the Mission, and for the support of friends like you that made her time here possible. Thank you for your continued generosity.

A MESSAGE FROM RICK ALVIS



Celebrating 125 years of changing lives!

Wheeler Mission is celebrating a very special anniversary – 125 years of ministering to struggling men, women and children in Indiana.

None of this would be possible without the heartfelt prayers, financial support and volunteer hours from friends like you. You are the reason we are able to provide food and shelter, and share God's grace with our neighbors in need.

Your support has helped provide a safe haven at our Center for Women & Children. And we are expanding this facility to help even more mothers like Bridget, whose story is featured on page 3. See page 4 to learn more about this exciting project and how you can be involved!

You have been a blessing to those in need by offering healing and hope to people who struggle with addiction, poverty or homelessness. Your compassionate support enables us to lend a helping hand and strengthen our community, one restored life at a time.

Your continued generosity is needed and appreciated to ensure we can continue to serve for many more decades to come. In honor of this special anniversary, I encourage you to make a gift today above and beyond your usual giving. Help change even more lives.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO



2018 ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

With Grateful Hearts...

As you give thanks for your blessings this Thanksgiving, those in our care will be giving thanks too – for you and for the gifts of comfort, compassion and life-changing opportunity you so generously provide for them.

This Thanksgiving Season Alone...



94,072
Hot Meals



Thousands
of hours
of Training, Counseling
& Prayer



55,766
Safe Beds

Please continue your heartfelt support with a gift to our 2018 *Thanksgiving Campaign*. And as you are counting your blessings this holiday, consider making a gift over and above your usual giving amount. Support our *Building for Change Campaign* to expand our Center for Women & Children to help families in crisis.

Because you care, your neighbors in need can overcome their challenges and embrace a new beginning – and that's something we can all be grateful for this Thanksgiving!



16TH ANNUAL DRUMSTICK DASH

Move your feet so others can eat!

When: Thanksgiving morning – Thursday, November 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Where: 1115 Broad Ripple Avenue in Indianapolis

What: Three course options to run/walk: 4.6 miles, 2.75 miles and a FREE Lil' Gobblers Run for kids

Why: 100% of the proceeds benefit Wheeler Mission guests in recovery

How: DrumstickDash.org
 (317) 635-3575
 DrumstickDash@WheelerMission.org

Will you join the thousands of people running and walking at this year's Drumstick Dash to help our neighbors who are homeless?



God bless
you for being
generous



Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.



Give online, anytime, at WheelerMission.org.

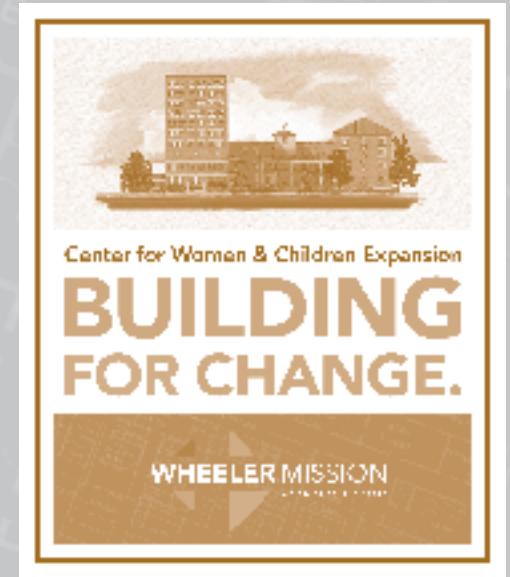
Is God Leading You to Give Generously Today?

As we celebrate our 125th year of ministering to those who are lost and hurting, it's important that we stay true to God's calling and faithfully prepare for the future.

Did you know that, on any given night, 580 women in Indianapolis are homeless? The continued financial

support of dedicated friends like you is critical to ensure we have the resources in place to help every precious woman and child who comes through our doors. That's why I hope you will make a gift today above and beyond your usual amount.

When we first opened our doors 125 years ago, we served **108** women. Today, we receive **700** requests every month for shelter beds and services that we are unable to fulfill due to lack of space and resources. Since Mary Howard Wheeler and several other women founded Wheeler Mission – known then as Door of Hope – to help unwed mothers in 1893, the demand for our services has grown greatly. Your help is critically needed to expand our Center for Women & Children. Help us provide more new shelter beds – for long-term, family and



emergency usage – to serve hurting women and children who have no other place to turn. Please consider making a gift today of \$125, in honor of this incredible anniversary. Or perhaps the Lord has blessed you financially and you could make a gift of \$1,250... or even more. No matter what you can give, every penny will go to work to help the growing number of homeless women and children the Lord has called us to serve.

Thank you for your kind support, and for making a generous gift today to help provide the guidance and resources our neighbors need to escape homelessness and rebuild their lives.

