

INSIDE STORY

WHEELER MISSION
help. hope. healing.

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | EASTER 2019

LEARNING TO LOVE AGAIN

Barbara found God's peace and purpose to be greater than she ever imagined.

On Page 3: Read how your support gives Barbara a reason to celebrate this Easter!

Easter 2019
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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Here's how your gift provides comfort and care over the next month!



31,357 meals to serve



18,853 nights of shelter



96 men and women to care for in our recovery programs



8,706 hours of educational and biblical classes to provide

A Message from RICK ALVIS

YOU RESTORE Hope



When we pass a person who is homeless on the street, it's often easier to avert our eyes to our phones rather than engage with that person's very real pain. That way, we don't have to hear their cries, see how broken their lives are, or feel how much they suffer.

But their pain is real, even if we look away.

On the cross, Jesus didn't look away from suffering, but endured it, fixing His eyes on "the joy set before Him." The glory of the cross is that Jesus boldly engaged with our pain. He experienced our struggles and our cries, and suffered with all of humanity. Jesus took our pain upon Himself and redeemed it.

Easter is our celebration of that new hope!

Your generous gifts demonstrate that you **turn toward** those who are hurting – and want to offer them healing and

restoration through Christ's love.

Because of you, people like Barbara are celebrating HUGE changes in their lives. Barbara's story is on page 3, and I hope as you read, you're inspired by how your gifts can turn a life filled with pain into a beautiful new beginning.

By God's grace, and your support, many like Barbara are experiencing hope restored. On behalf of each person in our care, thank you for reaching out to them with the love and kindness that helps renew lives this Easter.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO

BUILDING FOR CHANGE

Homelessness among women and children in Indianapolis is growing, and our Center for Women & Children is currently above capacity every night. To provide safety for everyone who needs it, we regularly put cots on our gym floor, but that's no solution.


It's time to make room!

We're "Building for Change," and raising \$12 million to expand our facility. **Our Center for Women & Children's Expansion more than doubles our program capacity and shelter beds, enabling us to serve hundreds more women and children each day. We're adding:**

- An additional 164 permanent beds
- An improved children's ministry space, education center, bathroom, and laundry facilities
- An indoor play space for families to use together
- Additional staff to improve our staff-to-guest ratio, security, and programs
- New space for medical clinics

Will you help us?

We're thrilled to share we've already raised \$3.5 million, but we've got a long way to go! To learn more and contribute to our Building for Change campaign, visit **Wheeler125.org**.



“I’ve seen miracles and I am a miracle ... a surviving miracle.”

Barbara remembers the first time she reached for a bottle of alcohol. “I got married at 16 and my husband was abusive,” she says. “I used to drink so I wouldn’t feel the pain of him hitting or choking me.”

Barbara stopped drinking after her son and daughter were born, and she got divorced. “I made my decision to get out when both my babies were underneath the bed holding each other, watching me being abused. I would never let my children be treated the way I was.”

She stayed sober for many years. But when her son died from an overdose, she spiraled downward due to the grief and guilt she felt since she had not been able to save him. “When my son passed, there truly was not enough alcohol to put me in the grave with him.”

Then, one night, Barbara cried out to God, saying, “Lord, help me.” God answered her prayers through a cab driver who picked her up and dropped her off at Wheeler Mission – a place she didn’t even know existed.

Barbara found the strength to quit drinking and started to pick up the pieces through the classes and counseling she received through Higher Ground, our long-term addiction recovery program. “For the first time in my life, sitting in chapel one night, I actually

felt God hold me. I heard him say, ‘You are going to be alright.’”

“
I didn’t understand why
God would let me go
through so much.
”

Today, Barbara serves as a ministry intern in our 9-month program, Equip, using her story to lead others to God. “I am so excited, and I know that God’s going to use my testimony as well as my son’s to either stop a mother from losing her child or a child losing their mother due to addiction.”

This Easter, Barbara and her daughter have reconnected and will celebrate the beautiful new beginning in their lives – another miracle made possible by your generous support. “I’m healthy and I have faith. I can love and trust again. I don’t think I can ever thank Wheeler Mission enough for that.”

Easter Will Soon Be Here

AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TODAY!



LARRY HAS A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

Meet Larry! He came to the Mission believing all hope for his life was gone. Your support provided the hot, nourishing meal that changed everything – and gave him hope for a new life in Christ.

Today, you can help more people like Larry with your gift to feed, shelter, and share God's love during our annual Easter campaign.

A meal is just \$2.25. The hope it provides in the lives of people who are homeless and hungry is truly a reason to celebrate!

GIVE NOW using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

GIVE ONLINE anytime at **WheelerMission.org**.

Thank you for the new hope you make possible in hurting lives!
Happy Easter!

We expect to serve more than 31,000 meals for men, women, and children this Easter season...

And there's no way we can feed them without you!

How you can help:

Host a food drive or drop off food items at Wheeler Mission's Shelter for Men, 520 E. Market St., Indianapolis, IN. Make a gift online at **WheelerMission.org** or by phone at **(317) 635-3575**. Volunteer to help between now and Easter Sunday at **WheelerVolunteer.org**.

Your support is needed by Friday, April 19 to make this Easter dinner a time of rejoicing and rebirth. Thank you!

Turning Lemonade into Life Change

Carter is proof that you're never too small to make a big difference in the lives of others! Our new friend first learned about the struggles of our homeless neighbors when he took a tour of Wheeler Mission last year with his elementary school class.

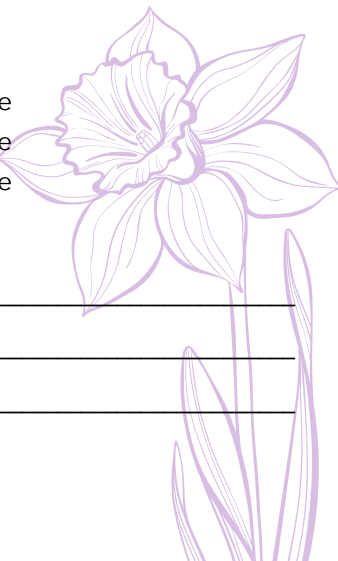
After his visit, Carter decided he wanted to do something to help – so he set up a lemonade stand to raise money for the Mission. And boy, was he successful! This budding entrepreneur sold 10 gallons of lemonade and 20 dozen cookies.

Carter has turned this into a family affair. With a little help from his grandmas, Carter made pillows, ornaments, and thank you cards for his school craft fair. He raised \$500 and can't wait to come down and deliver his check. He tells everyone who asks that Wheeler Mission needs help.

A big, big thank you goes out to Carter for your kind heart and generous spirit! We are encouraged by your actions, and hope they will inspire others in our community to help those who are less fortunate.

Rick, I want to help my homeless neighbors find hope and new life. Here's my Easter gift to provide meals, shelter, and care:

- \$20.25 to feed and care for 9 people
- \$51.75 to feed and care for 23 people
- \$76.50 to feed and care for 34 people
- \$90.00 to feed and care for 40 people
- \$_____ to help as much as possible



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

CHECK ENCLOSED BILL MY CREDIT CARD



CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

PHONE # _____

EMAIL _____

Donate now! ☎ (317) 635-3575
 WheelerMission.org

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