

INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | EASTER 2020



Meet *Dwight*
He can't thank
YOU enough!

Because of you, Dwight's heart is filled with new hope this Easter.

“
They gave me time
to focus on God
and retrain my
thinking.”



Dwight felt loved as a little boy. “My parents did an amazing job raising me,” he says. “They divorced, but each parent did what they knew best.”

But when he reached high school, Dwight started getting bullied – and it dramatically changed him. “I’d do anything to fit in and feel wanted. I’d pick out people from a crowd and act like they did. I had no identity.”

As an adult, Dwight never healed from the unkindness he’d suffered from his peers and began numbing his feelings with drugs. It was the beginning of an eight-year struggle with addiction that nearly destroyed his relationship with his girlfriend and his children.

“I was the opposite of what my parents were,” he says. “I wasn’t even taking care of my kids. Finally, my kids told me if I didn’t get help, they were done with me.”

The day he walked into Wheeler Mission, everything changed for Dwight.

“They accepted me with open arms,” he says, smiling. “Just seeing God work was amazing.”

Dwight entered Hebron, our recovery program for men, and he committed his life to the Lord.

“They told me the truth about myself and helped me discover why I was an addict,” he says. “They gave

me time to focus on God and His Word, and retrain my thinking.”

Now, with a heart transformed by God’s love, Dwight has rebuilt relationships with his family. He’s looking forward to providing a safe, loving home for his children, just as his parents did for him.

“
Wheeler Mission gives us grace and
the truth about who we are, what
we’ve done, and what God says.”

He also has a new commitment to serve others. After graduation, Dwight entered Equip, our ministry training program, and he works with guests at our Bloomington Center for Men. “It’s a blessing to be a light for guys coming off the streets, and it’s teaching me to be a servant father to my children.”

You may never meet Dwight, but he’s eternally grateful to YOU for your support – today, his heart is filled with new hope for the future. “To help be a light to others is amazing. My identity is now in Christ.”

Here's how YOUR gifts care for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness this Easter season!



just \$2.10
for a meal
and help!

38,267 meals to serve



33,126 nights of shelter



Up to 100 men and women
in our addiction recovery programs
(on average)



2,464 sessions of
case management & counseling

**Thank you for touching so many lives
with your compassion & support!**

"For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness & transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom & forgave our sins." Colossians 1:13-14, NLT



A Message from RICK ALVIS

**YOUR GIFTS ARE
TRANSFORMING LIVES THIS
EASTER SEASON**

My friends, Easter will be here soon – and with it, the joy of being able to celebrate and shout, “He is risen indeed!”

I can't think of a truth that's more important to those staying at Wheeler Mission right now who are facing devastating struggles with homelessness, poverty, and addiction.

That Jesus overcame death and rose again to offer hope to a hurting world resonates with our guests.

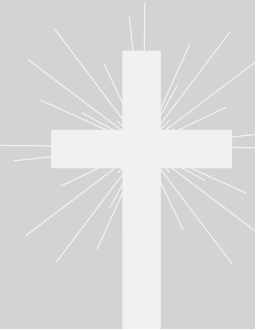
In Jesus, they see that they too can overcome! As they begin to trust Him, their past guilt and shame transforms into hope for a brighter future. They walk in freedom, knowing that they're forgiven.

Forgiveness is a doorway to new life. It opens up our guests to

accepting love – not just God's, but love from our staff, their families, and even themselves. From there, they blossom into the people they were always meant to be.

This Easter, I pray you'll experience the glorious hope of the cross in your life, and remember that YOU are making it possible for hurting people to find forgiveness and freedom through the cross too. I'm so grateful that each time you reach out to help, more hearts are touched by the love of a risen Savior.

Rick Alvis
President/CEO



**A groundbreaking ceremony at our
Center for Women & Children!**

Last November, we gathered together to break ground for the expansion of our Center for Women & Children. The freezing cold outside – barely above 20 degrees – was a poignant reminder of all the families who desperately need our help.

The expanded Center for Women & Children will offer:

- 164 new permanent beds
- 125 emergency overflow spots
- A new, secure childcare space
- An indoor play space for families to use together
- Improved bathroom and laundry facilities
- Additional staff and support
- Increased onsite medical clinics
- Larger education center



Deepest thanks to you and everyone in our community who gave generously to help make this expansion possible!

A heartfelt thank you to the Norton family!

We are incredibly thankful for the compassionate support of the Norton family, who have been loyal supporters of Wheeler Mission for many years. They recently made a generous gift to help make our Center for Women & Children even more welcoming for local families in need of help. Here's what they had to say about why they gave:

"The kingdom of God spreads through believers' eagerness to help others. We love this community, and our family has been blessed through it. With blessing comes the opportunity and privilege of paying it forward – a lesson we, as a family, try to embody. We are moved by the incredible ministry that Wheeler provides to our great community, and we see God's hand in every aspect of it.

Because we know the importance of family, it was our desire to support a place in the Center for Women & Children where moms and kids could play, be active, and have fun together – where challenges could melt away for a little bit and give way to simple joy."



(L-R) Tim Norton, Olivia Bell, Janet Norton, and Will Norton

**FELICIA
CAME FOR
A MEAL,**

**AND IT WAS THE START OF
A NEW LIFE!**

Felicia didn't have much hope left when she came to our door. Thanks to you, she was warmly welcomed and provided with the basic necessities that restored her hope:

- A hot meal and help for \$2.10 ← *Each meal you give makes*
- An overnight stay in our shelter (just \$7.50!) *a big difference!*
- Showers & Christ-centered care

This Easter, as Felicia celebrates the hope in her life, **YOU can give even more people the gift of meals and care** that's often the first step to healing and a new life in Christ!

✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

✦ Give online anytime at **WheelerMission.org**.

*Thank you again for your support of our Wheeler Mission guests!
Happy Easter!*