

# INSIDE STORY

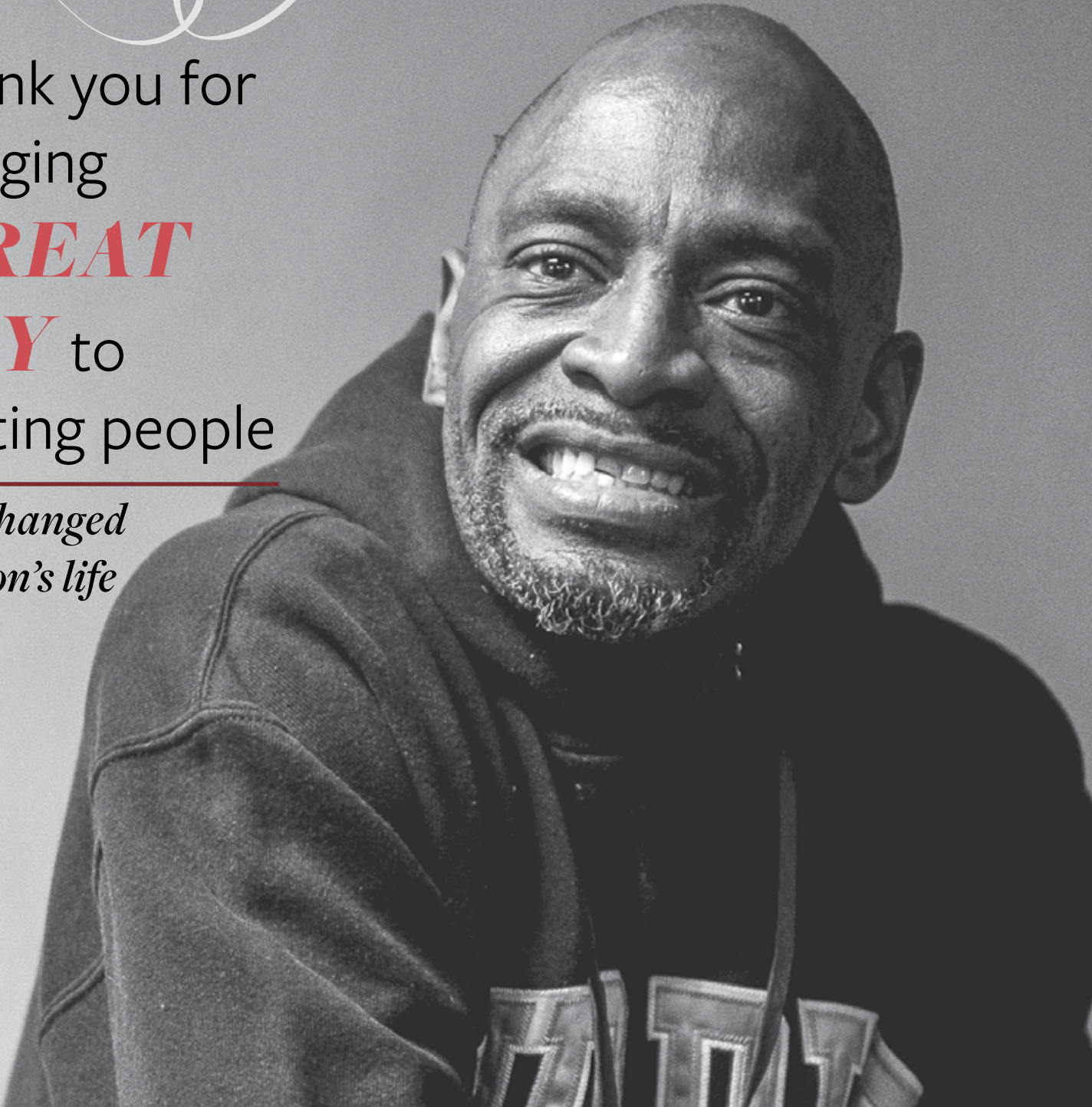


A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | HOLIDAY 2020

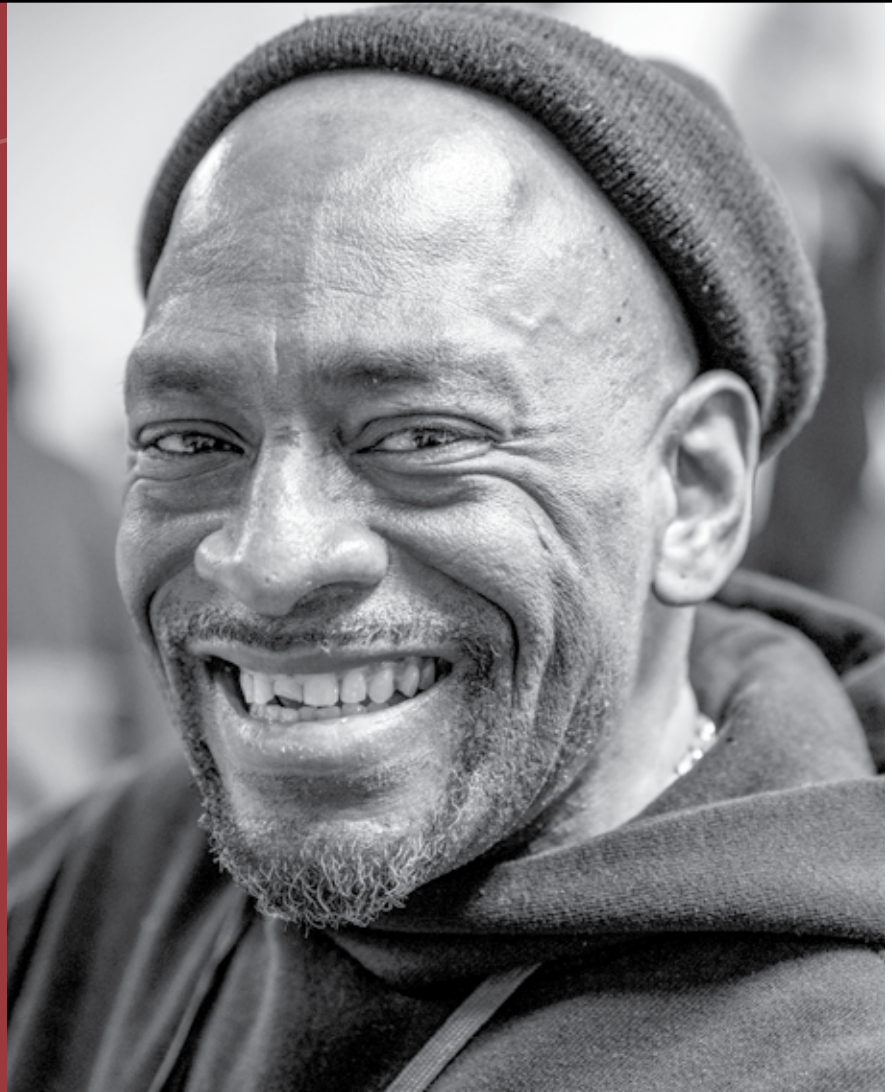


Thank you for  
bringing  
**GREAT**  
**JOY** to  
hurting people

*You changed  
Lyndon's life*



**“I thank God for Wheeler Mission. They gave me a new outlook on life.”**



Lyndon sat in the motorhome in the darkness, cold and lonely, thinking about the choices he'd made so many years ago that had brought him to this place.

“I'd just gotten married and my wife and I started experimenting with drugs. She stopped using, but I kept on,” he says. “I'd seen what drugs did to other people and said, ‘They won't do that to me.’ But they did. They grabbed hold of me. I never knew I could get caught up like that.”


For 20 years, Lyndon struggled with addiction, destroying his marriage and costing him jobs. Eventually, he found himself facing homelessness, staying in a motorhome with no electricity or running water. “I was panhandling every day to pay for my addiction,” he says. “I was just living day to day.”

Finally, he hit rock bottom and decided he wanted to change his life. “Times had gotten so bad. **I was looking for a way out, but I couldn't find one.**”

Then a friend told him about our Foundations program, and he knew it was the answer he'd been seeking. Through Bible studies, chapel services, life

skills classes, and Christian counseling, Lyndon has grown strong in his faith and addressed the root causes of his addiction. **“I've healed a great deal,”** he says. “I've been clean for over a year now.”


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**“I feel closer to Christ than ever before.”**

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Lyndon completed Foundations and went on to our Equip ministry training program, spending his days caring for the men in our programs and honing his gifts and skills for a career in ministry. “I love to serve,” he says. “I always want to be helping somebody else.”

**This year, Lyndon will be celebrating Christmas as a new creation, filled with the great joy of God's love.** “I thank God for Wheeler Mission. They gave me a new outlook on life, and I'm not looking back.”

A Message from  
RICK ALVIS

## Celebrating rebirth this *Christmas*

As we celebrate the Christmas season and the miracle of Jesus' birth in a lowly manger, we must keep in mind the ending: that He gave His life on the cross so you and I could be reborn as children of God.

You know that the guests of Wheeler Mission have had a tough time before they come through our doors. Poverty, addiction, homelessness, hunger, violence – you name it. **But what's so incredible is not their past stories, but how their lives are completely transformed thanks to you.**

You believe that change is possible. More than that, your generous support gives these men, women, and children the very services and support they need to be restored and reborn through Christ's love. You give them the most incredible gift there is this Christmas: the chance to find peace, purpose, and a new life filled with God's blessings.

As you celebrate this joyous season with loved ones, all of us at Wheeler hope you'll remember your neighbors who still need healing. After this difficult year and the many challenges caused by COVID-19, our prayer is that God will move in mighty ways in hearts and communities across the country. May you be filled with peace and love, and continue to share His love with others.



Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## *It Starts With You* You make transformation possible!



This has been a hard year for everyone, especially for your struggling neighbors in Central and South Central Indiana who lost jobs or experienced unexpected difficulties during the pandemic. But they have hope thanks to YOU!

Your compassionate support provides:

- Safe shelter
- Life skills classes and practical guidance
- The message of God's life-changing love



Just \$2.03 provides a meal and care for one person, and could be the first step toward lasting transformation.

### **Please Send Your Gift Today!**



**\$2.03**  
for 1 hot meal



**\$7.50**  
for 1 night of  
safe shelter

**CAN GIVE  
SOMEONE**



**A new life healed  
by God's LOVE**

**READ LYNDON'S STORY TO LEARN MORE!**



## **JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF HOPE**

Each day, new people come to Wheeler Mission, hungry for food, for healing, for hope through Christ's love. Providing a meal feeds their weary bodies, but healing a hurting soul takes time.

What if you could support the long-term care they need to recover from homelessness?

You can, by joining our Circle of Hope!

This monthly giving community is made up of generous and compassionate people like you, committed to walking alongside our guests as they make the long journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency, from despair to hope.

Your monthly gift can do so much:

- Equip a father to find a full-time job so he can support his children
- Help a single mother find safe, affordable housing
- Provide emotional support for a young man as he rebuilds relationships with loved ones

When you join our Circle of Hope, you're standing beside our guests, cheering them on as they heal, giving them a second chance at life.

To become a member of this life-changing community, go to [WheelerMission.org/monthlygiving](https://www.WheelerMission.org/monthlygiving) or mark the back of the enclosed response slip.



# DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds are an easy and tax-efficient way to manage charitable giving. They allow donors to receive an immediate tax deduction for their charitable contribution, and then recommend grants from the fund on the donor's own timeframe.

Grants made to Wheeler Mission through Donor Advised Funds can be designated to be used "Where Most Needed" or to match a donor's specific interests. Wheeler Mission is also a resource and partner for donors to discuss projects that are aligned with those areas that match a donor's unique vision and legacy.

Clients of some of the largest Donor Advised Funds can easily make a designation by conveniently clicking on the link of their Fund at [WheelerMission.org/daf](http://WheelerMission.org/daf).

Wheeler Mission's tax I.D. number is 35-0888771.

For more information, please contact **Steve Kerr, Executive VP of Advancement**, at [SteveKerr@WheelerMission.org](mailto:SteveKerr@WheelerMission.org) or **Jeff Boxell, Senior Director of Donor Relations**, at [JeffBoxell@WheelerMission.org](mailto:JeffBoxell@WheelerMission.org).

# Share your Blessings this Christmas

## FILL THE TABLES & MEET URGENT NEEDS



Donate these foods for the thousands of meals we'll serve throughout the holiday season.

turkeys & hams \* boxes of stuffing \* bags of potatoes \* canned fruits and vegetables \* coffee, creamer & sugar



These items are a vital part of Wheeler Mission's everyday operations and the comfort of our guests.

cold medicine \* cough drops \* deodorant \* soap \* disinfectant wipes \* toilet paper men's and women's pajamas \* sweatpants \* socks \* thermal sets winter pants and shirts \* new underwear

Please drop off your donations at our Men's Residential Center at **245 N. Delaware St. in Indianapolis** or our Center for Men located at **215 S. Westplex Ave. in Bloomington**.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING!**

## The CARES Act Have you heard about this new benefit?

During the pandemic, the U.S. government created the CARES Act, which provides new benefits for generous friends like you during these difficult times.

How does this affect your charitable giving for 2020?

- **Gifts up to \$300 are 100% deductible, even if you're using the standard deduction.** You can deduct up to \$300 this year whether you itemize deductions or not. Contributions by cash, credit card or check are eligible; gifts of stock are not.
- **The maximum charitable deduction is raised to 100%.** Previously, you could only deduct up to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for charitable deductions of cash (not gifts of stock). The CARES Act allows you to deduct up to 100% of your AGI in 2020.

This is helpful if you're considering making a major cash gift because it can reduce your overall federal tax burden. In addition, donations in excess of AGI may be carried over to future tax filings for up to 5 additional years.

*This information is not intended to make specific gift recommendations for you or to replace the counsel of your trusted advisors. You can learn more about how this will affect your charitable giving at [home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares](http://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares) and through the advice of your financial planner or tax professional.*

**Rick, please use my Christmas gift to bless my struggling neighbors who have had such a challenging year:**

- \$22.33 to feed & care for 11 people
- \$50.75 to feed & care for 25 people
- \$75.11 to feed & care for 37 people
- \$93.38 to feed & care for 46 people
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help as much as possible
- Designated for Bloomington

*This really helps!*



CHECK ENCLOSED  BILL MY CREDIT CARD

VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS

CREDIT CARD #

EXP. DATE

PHONE #

EMAIL

**Donate now! ☎ (317) 635-3575**

[WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org)

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CITY / STATE / ZIP

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