

# INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | FALL 2021



**GRATEFUL  
THROUGH IT ALL:  
Nicole is especially  
thankful for YOU!**

Your compassion &  
support change lives.



“

I was lost,  
but now  
**I'M FILLED  
WITH HOPE.**

”



**N**icole was a sad and anxious little girl, overwhelmed by her emotions. “I struggled with really intense feelings that nobody else could understand,” she says. “I started seeing a counselor when I was 12 and was diagnosed with anxiety and depression at 17.”

She was placed on disability and prescribed medications. But they didn’t work, and she began numbing her pain with alcohol.

For more than 20 years, Nicole struggled with depression and addiction, unable to develop healthy relationships with her children or engage with life.

“Instead of embracing the things that were good for me—family, education, jobs—I didn’t want anything to do with them. I resented them,” she says.

Finally, she’d had enough. She

was desperate for a different kind of life than she’d been living. “I said, ‘I can’t give in to the anxiety and depression anymore.’ I was ready to do whatever it took to change.”

It was then she turned to our Higher Ground addiction recovery program for help. Through mental health counseling, Nicole was placed on medication that effectively treats her depression and anxiety. **“I finally found stability in my life,”** she says.

Chapel services and Bible studies led her to surrender her life to the Lord. And biblical counseling and life-skills classes have taught her how to engage with life and build healthy relationships with her children. **“I’ve learned social skills, job skills, how to maintain my sobriety, and how**

*“I never realized life could be this good or fulfilling.”*

**to stay in community,”** she says. “Now, I know how to care for and value my relationships with others and with God.”

Nicole graduated and went into our Equip program, further strengthening her faith while serving other guests within our ministry. “I really appreciate helping others,” she says.

**As Nicole celebrates this Thanksgiving, she feels incredibly thankful for your compassion, prayers, and support—and how it’s given her a fresh start.** “Now I have a deep appreciation of people and of life.”



## GIVING THANKS FOR ALL GOD'S BLESSINGS

It might surprise you that in another year filled with hardships and uncertainty, the overwhelming messages I hear are ones of gratitude and hope.

Despite the challenges we still face as a community—or perhaps because of them—we remain connected to each other in a spirit of love and generosity. **Your care and compassion have never been more evident here at Wheeler Mission than right now, as we prepare for the Thanksgiving season.**

You have stepped up to help our hurting neighbors as God has called us to do. You've provided nourishing meals, safe shelter, and biblically-based guidance. More than that, you've prayed for our ministry and guests and encouraged others to join our mission to transform lives. Your love has made it possible for hearts to be restored and lives rebuilt. Now that's something to celebrate!

As we count our blessings this Thanksgiving, you and other faithful friends are at the top of my list. As you enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones, both near and far away, I pray God will fill your heart with joy, peace, and the comfort of knowing that lives have been changed thanks to your kindness.

I am grateful for you—today and every day. God bless!



Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## 2021 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

*It's been another challenging year for so many of our neighbors.*

# 82,412

### Meals and Care Needed by Thanksgiving

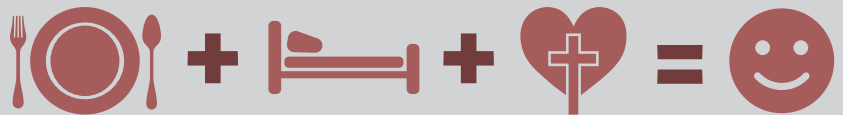
Many of our neighbors are still struggling, trying to get back on their feet, and trying not to lose hope. Today, YOU can help them!

For just \$2.18, you can provide a nourishing meal and care for a neighbor experiencing hunger this Thanksgiving season. And that meal opens the door to so much more:

- Safe, welcoming shelter
- Classes and job training to help them get back on their feet after another tough year
- A chance to experience God's love that changes lives



### YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE AN IMPACT!



Please—help us be ready to provide thousands of meals and care to our neighbors who are hurting and experiencing homelessness during the busy holiday season! **Rush your 2021 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today.**

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- 💻 Give online anytime at [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org).

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

*Thank you, Steve Kerr, for a lifetime of service!*

After 27+ years of compassionate and selfless service, Steve Kerr has retired from his position as Executive Vice President of Advancement. We're so thankful for all he's done to help save and transform the lives of countless people in need! We are sad to see him step down, but are thankful to keep him around as the Race Director for our run/walk events.





## *A Reason to Celebrate*

It was a momentous day for our ministry. A day filled with gratitude and joy. On August 11, 2021, we dedicated our expanded Center for Women & Children!

This special day marked the beginning of our ability to care for more women and children than ever before in our history. Many more lives will be impacted because of your generous and loving support to reach hurting neighbors in need.

Thank you to all who joined us on this special day of celebration for all that God is doing in our community!

# OUR THANKSGIVING NEEDS LIST

There's still so much to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season! Please consider shopping or hosting a food drive for these critically-needed items.

70 turkeys  
20 boneless hams  
20 #10 cans of sweet potatoes or yams, or 4 large cases (200 lbs.)  
100 individual boxes of Stove Top stuffing  
10 gallons of turkey gravy  
White granulated sugar

50 2-lb. boxes of Velveeta cheese  
100 lb. boxes of elbow macaroni  
20 lbs. of butter  
50 #10 cans of green beans  
50 #10 cans of corn  
12 #10 cans of cranberry sauce

Drop off your donations at our Men's Residential Center at **245 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204**, or our Center for Men located at **215 S. Westplex Ave., Bloomington, IN 47404**.

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING!

## *Move Your Feet so Others Can Eat!*

Join us on Thanksgiving morning for the 19th annual Wheeler Mission Drumstick Dash presented by Huntington Bank and help those experiencing homelessness in our community!

We're excited to gather in person this year, but there is also a virtual option available. All proceeds provide meals, shelter, and care for those in need in our community.

For complete event info and to register, please visit [DrumstickDash.org](https://www.DrumstickDash.org).

