

# INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | FALL 2022

## JULIE IS GRATEFUL & BLESSED THIS THANKSGIVING *because of your support*

You've given her hope and  
new life this holiday!





“Now I know  
that  
**I'M SPECIAL  
BECAUSE GOD  
CREATED ME.**”



**W**hen Julie was in junior high school, she used to clean up after her parents' parties. That's when she first tasted alcohol. "I was so shy, and I found out it made me a lot more sociable."

By the time she was in high school, Julie was drinking every day, and in the years to come, her addiction destroyed her marriages, alienated her daughter, and left her with nothing. Then she found sobriety and a relationship with Christ here at Wheeler Mission.

She was doing well for years, working hard at her job and taking care of her ailing mother, physically and financially. But when her mother died, Julie's grief brought her world crashing down around her. "I was angry at everybody, including God. I'd been sober for 12 years, but I relapsed and ended up homeless, scared, lonely, and hopeless."

Thankfully, she knew she could find help and hope at Wheeler Mission, so she entered our Higher Ground addiction recovery program for women. Since then, Julie's faith has grown stronger through Bible studies and fellowship, and she's processed her pain through Christ-centered counseling and life skills

classes. "I looked inside and identified the feelings that were making me angry," she says.

Her daughter is overjoyed at her transformation, and Julie is working to restore her other family relationships as well. "I've learned that God forgives me and accepts me no matter what, and now I'm seeking others' forgiveness and learning to forgive myself."

**“I'M HOPEFUL, HAPPY,  
AND CONFIDENT.”**

Julie graduated from Higher Ground and became a ministry intern in our Servant Leader Training program. She plans to join our staff one day, helping other women find the new life in Christ she found here at Wheeler Mission. "I have a future," she says, joyfully.

**Julie's heart is overflowing with gratitude this Thanksgiving because YOUR loving support gave her the confidence and support to rebuild her life.** "Now I know that I'm special because God created me. I'm somebody."

# Celebrating Thanksgiving Every Day of the Year



## A Message from RICK ALVIS

Here's a wonderful Bible verse for this season of Thanksgiving: *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24) During

Thanksgiving, we gather to thank the Lord for blessings of family, food, and health.

*But what if we kept that same, abundant spirit of the holiday in giving thanks every day of the year?*

Each day at Wheeler Mission, I see people who are thankful for the gift of new life that YOU helped make possible! You wrap them in God's loving embrace, teach them skills to build brighter futures, lift up our ministry and guests in prayer, and rejoice over every heart restored and life rebuilt!

Life is challenging right now. With continuing inflation,

costs for necessities like housing, gas, and groceries are higher than ever. It's even harder for our struggling neighbors to make ends meet and for our ministry to meet our community's pressing needs.

Through it all, I remain faithful to God's calling and grateful that I can rely on friends like you. My prayer this Thanksgiving is that you will do the same.

I hope you will take comfort in the love of friends and family, and the joy of knowing hearts are changed thanks to you. God bless you!

Rick Alvis  
President/CEO

## 2022 THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

**YOU can give our hurting neighbors reason to celebrate!**

# 79,123

**Meals and Care Needed this Thanksgiving Season**

Thanksgiving can be another difficult day for our neighbors struggling to overcome homelessness, poverty, and addiction. But you can change that!

**Just \$2.73 provides a hot, nourishing meal and care.** Your gift welcomes someone to our table and leads to a better life through:



**Safe, welcoming shelter**



**Recovery services**



**Classes and job training**



**God's life-changing love**



We need your help to provide thousands of meals along with vital care this holiday season! **Please rush your 2022 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [WheelerMission.org](http://WheelerMission.org).**

*Read Julie's story—a life you helped change!*





Thanksgiving holds a special time at Wheeler Mission. This year we will celebrate 20 years of the Drumstick Dash!

This 5k race was started by Steve Kerr, who presented this idea: Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for daily provision, so what better way to recognize one's bounty than to run for those who are not so fortunate?

This began what is now known as the Drumstick Dash, a family friendly 5k run/walk that has become Wheeler Mission's largest event and fundraiser. Join us this year for our 20th anniversary by registering today at [drumstickdash.org](http://drumstickdash.org)!

# Help Us Get Ready!



You wouldn't believe how much we still have to do to get ready for the Thanksgiving season. **You can help!** Host a food drive or shop for these critically needed items, then drop them off 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**.

Don't have time to shop? Send a gift in the envelope provided to help us purchase what's needed on our food list.

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 70 turkeys   | 50 2-lb. boxes of Velveeta cheese |
| 20 boneless hams   | 100 lb. boxes of elbow macaroni   |
| 20 #10 cans of sweet potatoes or yams, or 4 large cases (200 lbs.) | 20 lbs. of butter                 |
| 100 individual boxes of Stove Top stuffing                         | 50 #10 cans of green beans        |
| 10 gallons of turkey gravy   | 50 #10 cans of corn               |
| White granulated sugar   | 12 #10 cans of cranberry sauce    |



*Thank you for making these meals extra special!*

## Are you connected yet? Be the first to know what's going on!

**Follow us on social media!** Every post shows you how your partnership is transforming lives and healing our community.

**Sign up for our emails!** You'll be the first to

hear about urgent needs, special events, and more.

And when you tell your friends about us, they can join the celebration this Thanksgiving, too!

WheelerMission.org

