

# INSIDE STORY

WHEELER MISSION  
help. hope. healing.

A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | FALL 2023

## A Heart of Thanksgiving

Mark wants to share how your support changed his life!



# Anticipating This New Season with Thanksgiving



## A Message from PERRY HINES

It's hard to believe we're here again: over halfway through another year. Here at Wheeler Mission, preparations for our busy fall season are already underway.

In the fall, we expect to have colder nights. But inside our doors, it's still warm and inviting as **we get ready for the many men, women, and children who will come to us during the months leading up to Thanksgiving.** It's one of my favorite times of the year, and it's possible thanks to the generosity of friends like you.

As we think about this time of the year, we're reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

Each time someone comes to Wheeler Mission for help, their season changes. They leave a time of pain and struggle that they may not have anticipated and certainly didn't

desire—and they choose a season of support and recovery. **We truly believe this is God's hand at work through your partnership in this life-giving ministry.**

Now, as we prepare to serve an estimated 97,301 meals in the coming months, we ask you to pray for every struggling man and woman who finds a seat at our tables. Pray that if the time is right for a new season in their life, God will make it known and see it through.

Thank you. We're thankful for you now, and always.

Perry Hines  
President & CEO



Join us Thanksgiving morning in Broad Ripple for our **21st Annual Drumstick Dash** and help bring healing and hope to those experiencing homelessness in our community.

This year's event will include a 4.5-mile run/walk, a 2.5-mile run/walk, and an OuttaTownDashAround Virtual Race, all beginning at 9:00 a.m.

For more information or to sign up to run/walk, volunteer, or be a sponsor, visit [DrumstickDash.org](https://www.DrumstickDash.org).

Your participation may give someone in need a wonderful reason to be grateful this Thanksgiving.

*Thank you!*



**Join Our**  
**2023 Thanksgiving CAMPAIGN**

**97,301**

**Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season**

This Thanksgiving, countless guests will gather at our tables. Many are alone—longing to overcome homelessness and poverty—wishing they could reunite with their families for the holidays.

**For just \$2.08, YOU can provide a meal and care** to nourish their bodies and lift their spirits. Your gift surrounds hurting people with loving care that leads to a better life through:



**Safe, welcoming shelter**



**Warm clothing, coats, and shoes**



**Classes and job training**



**God's life-changing love**

**Please help our neighbors in need this holiday season!** Send your 2023 Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [WheelerMission.org](https://www.WheelerMission.org).

*Meet Mark—who is thankful for your support!*



# “Now, I’m walking in God’s light.”



**M**ark was just 16 when he came face-to-face with unimaginable tragedy. “I walked through the front door of my house and found my stepfather dead on the stairs.”

He was devastated, and that night he turned to alcohol to numb his pain. “From that point on, whenever anybody died or I lost anything, my grieving process was to self-medicate.”

Mark struggled with addiction for more than 50 years, always acting like he was happy when, in fact, he was dying inside. “I faked a smile all the time.”

Then his biological father passed away, sending Mark’s addiction spiraling out of control. Before long, he found himself experiencing homelessness, wandering the streets, aimless and

hopeless. “I started praying that God would take me home,” he says.

But God led Mark to Wheeler Mission instead, and through our Foundations Program he found shelter, meals, and a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. “Bible studies taught me a deeper meaning of scriptures, and it changed my outlook on life.”

Through quiet times with the Lord and biblical counseling with our compassionate staff, Mark has also unearthed and addressed the root causes of his addiction. “It was a great relief to confront and get rid of those things,” he says. “Now I’m happy.”

**“I don’t have to fake a smile anymore.”**

For the first time since he was a boy, Mark is clean and sober and walking in the joy of the Lord. And he has shared his joy as a volunteer in our kitchen, providing for the physical needs of our guests through his culinary creations and ministering to their wounded hearts and spirits by sharing his testimony of transformation. “Now, I have a mission. I’m here to help people, and it’s a true blessing to be able to serve.”

**Mark is filled with thanksgiving for God’s redeeming love in his life—and your incredible generosity and support!** “Before I came to Wheeler Mission, I was lost, but now I’m walking in God’s light.”





## Wheeler Mission Store

*Thrift with a Cause!*

When you shop at Wheeler Mission Store, or donate your gently-used items, you're helping to save and transform the lives of our hurting neighbors here in Indiana.

All store proceeds go to support our life-changing programs and services and give our struggling neighbors access to affordable essentials.

Shop at Wheeler Mission Store at 8640 E 96th St, Fishers, Monday—Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For donation drop-off locations or to schedule a pickup right from your home, go to [WheelerMission.org/Dropoff](http://WheelerMission.org/Dropoff).



## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

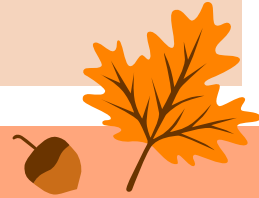
John has been generous to his family, friends, and the charities he believes in for years, but doesn't have a will, living trust, or other plan.

He's not alone! More than half of U.S. adults haven't planned for their passing.

Without a will, your estate will be divided according to the state in which you live. And the result may be very different from what you had wished—especially if your desire was not only to care for loved ones, but to leave a lasting legacy for the causes close to your heart.

Wheeler Mission can help make sure your wishes are followed and help you create a lasting legacy of generosity that will live on for future generations. To determine which opportunities may be right for you, please contact Steve Germani, Senior Director of Philanthropy and Development, at [SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org](mailto:SteveGermani@WheelerMission.org).

*And if you have already included Wheeler Mission in your will, please let us know so we can say "Thank you!"*



## Volunteers needed—like YOU!

Ever thought of how you can do more for men, women, and children here at Wheeler Mission? Come serve as a volunteer! There's plenty to do, and no experience or skill sets required—just open hands and a willing heart. We'd love to have you!

Contact us today to see how you can help.  
Call: **(317) 635-3575**  
Email: [Volunteer@WheelerMission.org](mailto:Volunteer@WheelerMission.org)

*Sign up now!*