

THE

SPARK

Holiday 2009

A PUBLICATION OF
THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

THE BEST CHRISTMAS Over

“This will be the best Christmas ever—it’s the first one I can remember being clean and sober. I want this so bad. I know what women out there are feeling. They are stuck, waiting for a place to get help. Well, now I know, you don’t have to be stuck.”

Mary Kay is excited about her newfound freedom from addiction, accomplished through the help of The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center, gifts from friends like you and the transformational power of God. So many things in her life have changed.

As a teen, Mary Kay started experimenting with alcohol and marijuana. When she was 23, her mother died. Six months later, her father passed away. Her casual

drug use became an everyday occurrence, and she added prescription nerve pills to the deadly mix. Life spun out of control. Within another half year, she was divorced. “I thought the pain would last forever,” Mary Kay says. “The comfort I needed, I found in drugs.”

A second marriage to an abusive man—and the birth of another daughter—didn’t change things for her. When that relationship broke up, Mary Kay found her comfort in cocaine. That’s when Mary Kay reached the bottom and cried out to God, “Please, just do something. I can’t hold on much longer. Just let me die.”

The maintenance man at her apartment complex knew a graduate of our program. Together, they helped Mary Kay come to The Foundry. “I went to church as a child, and I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was a teen. But, I never understood what it meant to let Him be Lord of my life until I came here,” Mary Kay says.

In addition to helping Mary Kay overcome her drug and alcohol abuse, we gave her the encouragement and support she needed to complete vocational rehabilitation—and she’s ready to start a new job. The changes in Mary Kay’s attitude and self-confidence have had a positive impact on her relationship with her daughters, as well. “I’ve never experienced love the way I have the past couple of months. Now I can love my girls with the love I am given by God. I’m not the same mommy that I was.”

Mary Kay is looking forward to Christmas with her family, and she believes she has already received the greatest gift of all. “When you are sick and tired of what you are faced with, you don’t have to live like that anymore. We are loved beyond our imagination. I’m finally comfortable looking at myself in the mirror.”

Thank you for allowing The Foundry to be a place where God can reach people like Mary Kay and give them a second chance.

**HIS LAMP SHONE OVER MY HEAD,
AND BY HIS LIGHT I WALKED
THROUGH DARKNESS.**

—JOB 29:3





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Holiday 2009, Vol. 6, Issue 4

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Executive Director
Rev. Bill Heintz

**Director of Development,
Newsletter Editor**
Leslie Freeman

Our Mission

To restore hope and rebuild the lives of the addict, the ex-inmate and the homeless through Christ-centered recovery.



Where Do I Find It?

The Foundry SuperThrift Outlet

727 Bessemer Super Highway
(205) 424-2400

Auto Sales and Surplus Store

1402 4th Avenue North
(205) 425-3290

You Helped Make This Possible!

January — August 2009

Nights of lodging	54,548
Meals served	173,384
Recovery program graduates	57
Re-Entry program graduates	14
People receiving free clothing	1,123
Food boxes distributed	297
Residents receiving medical, dental, optical and prescription assistance	1,784
Medical visits and prescriptions for community members	1,787
Volunteer hours	4,900

Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

When I teach various classes every year at this time, I ask our residents whether this Christmas is going to be better or worse than their last. It's always enlightening and moving to hear the responses. Some believe it will be a far better Christmas, and others expect one of the worst.

Those who say it will be "the best Christmas ever" feel that way because, for the first time in a long time, they are sober or out of prison, thinking clearly, reunited with family . . . or they've recently accepted Christ as their Savior.

On the other hand, many of our residents have a very difficult time during the holiday season because they are estranged from family, struggling in their recovery from alcohol or drug addictions, emotionally distraught over bad choices and spiritually broken because they don't yet know Christ. We share the Christmas story and hope for new life in Jesus with these hurting souls—and we become their family as we gather for special holiday activities complete with a traditional Christmas dinner and gifts chosen especially for each guest. What could be a dreaded occasion becomes a delightful experience filled with warm memories. For many, "the best Christmas ever!"

We're so grateful for friends like you who enable us to be a light in the darkness for the addicted, the ex-inmate, the homeless and the poor during the holiday season—and a source for God's life-changing power 365 days a year. Thank you for your partnership, and may you and your loved ones enjoy the best Christmas ever!



Rev. Bill Heintz and The Foundry staff do everything they can to help residents feel like family during the holidays.

"WHEN WE COULD NOT GO TO HIM, HE CAME TO US."

—DONALD WATSON

In His service,

Pastor Bill

Rev. Bill Heintz
Executive Director



INVEST IN A LIFE

As one-on-one mentors, our life coaches work directly with men on the road to recovery to help bring stability and purpose to their lives. The relationship can be especially important during the holidays, when men are away from their families and often feel forgotten and alone. And according to Life Coach Jay Henson, "You'll get as much out of being a life coach as does the resident!"

Having overcome addiction issues of his own, Jay says in working, mentoring and sharing with an individual the issues he has already faced, he benefits just as much as the resident he is coaching. (Being a life coach is not limited to those who have battled addiction, however. Fewer than 65 percent of our current life coaches have experienced it personally.) Jay also believes when communication and the process is done correctly, the joy he receives when residents call him for advice is truly the biggest blessing.

If God has laid it upon your heart to minister one-on-one to men in our program, contact Micah Andrews at (205) 475-7737 or mandrews@thefoundryonline.org for more information.

What Is the Value of a Life Coach?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the monetary value of volunteer counseling staff at \$18.08 per hour, which saves an organization over \$36,000 annually!

We Need Your Hands and Hearts to Bring

Holiday Joy!

For details on the holiday and year-round volunteer opportunities below—including times, dates and donation drop-off locations—contact Micah Andrews at (205) 425-7737 or mandrews@thefoundryonline.org, or visit www.thefoundryonline.org. Your partnership will be a blessing!

Help Others Give Thanks

Sharing a time of Thanksgiving with friends and loved ones—while enjoying a delicious meal—is a comforting and inspiring experience. The Foundry distributes food boxes filled with all the ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving feast—along with a Bible or devotional—to needy families in our community. We also provide a special dinner for our 300 residents plus our homeless guests. You can help make these festivities possible by contributing the following:

- Turkeys and hams
- Stuffing mix
- Canned yams
- Boxed instant mashed potatoes
- Packaged or canned turkey gravy
- Fruits and vegetables
- 1-lb. bags brown sugar
- 4-lb. bags white sugar
- Marshmallows
- 3-lb. bags apples
- Cake mixes and frostings

Commercial and family sizes appreciated!



Make Wishes Come True

Every child looks forward to Christmas, dreaming of that special gift. At the same time, their parents wonder how they'll keep from disappointing them—when mom or dad is in recovery ... or when there's little money for even life's necessities. But with your help, we can make it *the best Christmas ever!*

Simply purchase new toys like basketballs, dolls and board games for boys and girls ages 1 through 12, and bring them, unwrapped, to The Foundry by Thursday, December 10. These gifts will be distributed to the children of our residents, as well as the youngsters of working-poor families in our community. While the children will be delighted with their presents, their relieved parents will be moved even more by your kindness and compassion.

Put Your Hands Together!

In December, The Foundry hosts our annual talent show, which truly is the highlight of our year! Residents showcase their talents as they entertain family, staff, board members, donors and volunteers—as well as each other! We hope you can join us for this exciting event on Sunday, December 6, at 6 p.m. in our Worship Center. If you can't be there in person, watch it live on our Web site, www.thefoundryonline.org.

Adopt-a-Table Christmas Dinner

Individuals, businesses and church or family groups can create a family-style holiday event for our residents while they are away from their own loved ones. As a table host, the evening's experience is entirely up to you or your group!

- Choose the menu, and prepare and serve a meal, dessert and beverages for 10 of our residents.

- Decorate the eight-foot rectangular table where your guests will be seated and provide all table-setting items, including cups, plates, napkins and cutlery.
- Prepare a gift bag for each guest (\$15-\$20). Purchasing the same type of item for each person is recommended and might include lotions, slippers and pajamas or manicure/pedicure sets for women; a daily journal, watch or wallet for men; and Walmart or Target gift cards for both.

To reserve a table, contact Micah Andrews at (205) 425-7737 or mandrews@thefoundryonline.org by November 23. We hope you'll choose to be part of our extended family!



FOUNDRY FARM WORKSHOP

Building New Creations while Building New Lives



Sometimes you don't know what God has planned until it appears before your eyes!

That's what staff and residents are saying about the woodworking enterprise at Foundry Farm. When the first men arrived in July, they teamed up to convert a space in the barn to a workshop—with surprisingly no suggestion or instruction from the staff. And when an unexpected load of donated lumber was delivered—and a resident stepped forward to offer his remarkable woodworking and leadership skills—beautiful creations started taking shape . . . or, as some might say, “coming out of the woodwork!”

We know this is God's hands-on way of demonstrating how something once discarded and seemingly useless can be remodeled and recycled into a much-loved and valued treasure. Visit thefoundryonline.org for photos of the picnic tables, porch swings, placards and other items that have been reshaped by the hands of men through the will of God.



Hope Awards Banquet

Celebrating 10 Years of Just Believing



More than 550 donors, friends, volunteers and community leaders attended The Foundry's **10th Annual Hope Awards Banquet** October 1 to honor those who've shown exemplary service in our community, to be inspired by keynote speaker NFL great and Pro Football Hall of Fame member Bart Starr and to raise funds to benefit the ministry's programs and services. Visit www.thefoundryonline.org for highlights, including this year's distinguished award recipients.

Hope Award for Religious Service

Rev. Chris Hodges, Pastor
Church of the Highlands

Hope Award for Community Service

Mama Lois Coleman,
Chairman Emeritus
Grace House Ministries

Hope Award for Education Service

Dr. Neal R. Berte,
President Emeritus
Birmingham-Southern
College



SPARKS NEW BEGINNINGS

The holidays are right around the corner—followed quickly by the end of the year! Plan now to make your most substantial financial contribution to The Foundry before December 31 to receive the full tax benefit this year. You might also want to consider donations of non-cash items including autos, appreciated stock and coupon bonds, which allow you to make a larger gift and receive greater tax benefits than if you conducted the transaction yourself and gifted the proceeds.

For more information on how you and The Foundry can spark new beginnings through your year-end giving, contact Director of Development Leslie Freeman at lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org or (205) 425-7737, ext. 16

Join The Foundry Network! Go to www.thefoundryonline.org and sign up to receive prayer requests, updates, news releases and event information to your e-mail or phone.