

THE

# SPARK

Winter 2010

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

Donna had been a devoted Christian for much of her adult life—even traveling with her husband and family to evangelize. But in her late 40s, after a series of traumatic and heartbreaking events, she found herself divorced, homeless and watching everything she'd worked for slip away. "I had a bad back; no one would hire me. My children were grown and gone, and I assumed I'd never get married again. I'd given my life for my family, and now I had nothing. I thought I was 'finished' for the rest of my life."

Hurting, desperate and confused, Donna turned away from God ... and turned to alcohol and drugs to ease her pain.

"I spent several years on the streets, doing whatever I wanted to do—I was really wild because I didn't think I had anything to live for. But I was getting to the point where I was sick and tired of being sick and tired," Donna says.

One day Donna and some friends took a trip to the mountains of North Carolina and visited Fields of the Wood Bible Park. As they walked up a mountain on a path lined with Bible verses, one caught Donna's eye: *He dropped His head and said, "It is finished, it is done."*

Just then, Donna heard God asking *her*, "Are you finished ... are you done?" As she began to cry, she told her friends, "I have to go to rehab. ***It's time.***"

"My friends thought I was crazy. But I'd told them God would speak to me when it was time—and when He did, I would be gone." When the group returned home to Alabama, Donna contacted The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center.

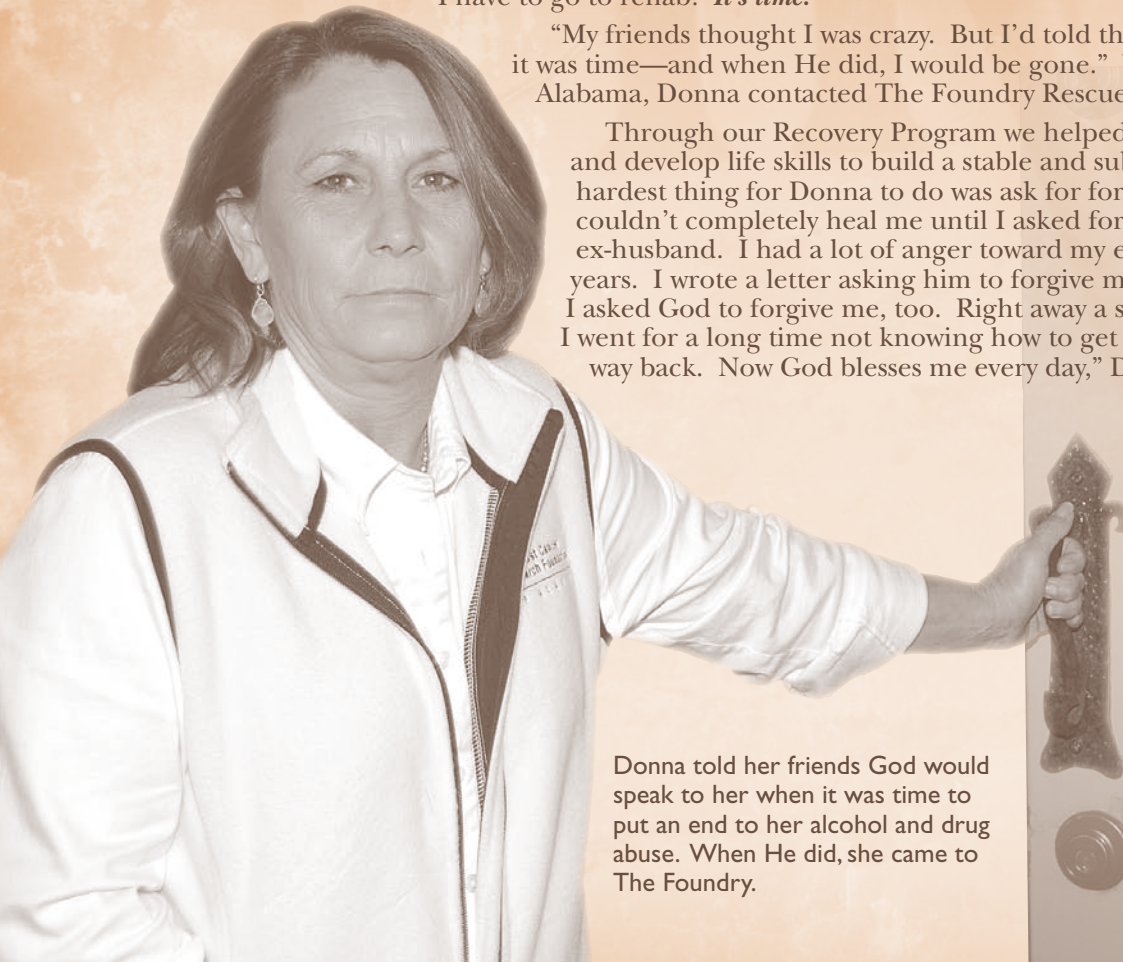
Through our Recovery Program we helped Donna overcome her addiction and develop life skills to build a stable and substance-free future. But perhaps the hardest thing for Donna to do was ask for forgiveness. "My counselor told me God couldn't completely heal me until I asked for forgiveness—from Him and from my ex-husband. I had a lot of anger toward my ex that I'd been carrying around for years. I wrote a letter asking him to forgive me and put it in the mailbox. Then I asked God to forgive me, too. Right away a spirit of joy and peace came over me. I went for a long time not knowing how to get back to God or if I ever would find a way back. Now God blesses me every day," Donna shares.

Donna has several weeks left before graduating from our program and is content to take one day at a time. "I'm open to whatever God intends my life to be. For the first time in a long time, I'm at peace with myself ... and everything!"

*Thank you for supporting The Foundry in our efforts to enhance our Recovery and Re-Entry programs so people like Donna can get the help they need when God tells them, "It's time."*

Donna told her friends God would speak to her when it was time to put an end to her alcohol and drug abuse. When He did, she came to The Foundry.

## It's Time ... to Change My Life





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Executive Director  
Rev. Bill Heintz

Director of Development,  
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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 — December 2009

Nights of lodging (includes residents & transients)	85,091
Meals served (includes residents & community)	275,236
Recovery program graduates	106
Re-Entry program graduates	23
People receiving free clothing (includes residents & community)	1,285
Food boxes distributed	601
Residents receiving medical, dental, optical	2,071
Community receiving medical	2,325
Prescriptions (includes residents & community)	735
Volunteer hours	7,617

# Director's Letter

## Dear Friends,

Each year we select a theme here at The Foundry to guide our goals and intentions. This year, in support of the vision God gave Michele and me 14 years ago, we believe *it's time* to maximize the resources God has given us through our facilities, staff, partners and donors to provide the most-effective Christ-centered recovery program possible for even more hurting and addicted men and women. Therefore, our mantra for 2010 is **"It's Time!"**

We're taking the year to perform a thorough examination of all aspects of our programs—from our counseling to our classes—to help men and women with addictions or prison records achieve transformation and *permanent* change. While we believe we're currently doing a *good* job, we must move from good to *great*. And our focus is primarily on two areas.

First, we're restructuring our Re-Entry Program to offer a more methodical process through which ex-offenders can become prepared and equipped to face society and a productive life can be a true choice for someone who doesn't want to return to the prison system. Second, we're enhancing our Aftercare Program to ensure graduates have a system of support, encouragement and guidance to stay the course and avoid temptations to return to destructive behaviors.

This year, as we challenge ourselves to serve at an even greater level than ever before, we're also challenging our friends and supporters to get on board with us. We're not only reshaping lives, we're asking God to use us to save lives. And when we do that—with you as our partner—we'll see quality of life for all of God's children enhanced in a great way.

**"It's time!"** Thank you for standing beside us once again in 2010. God bless you.

In His service,

Rev. Bill Heintz  
Executive Director

**"YOU HAVE STAYED LONG ENOUGH AT THIS MOUNTAIN. BREAK CAMP AND ADVANCE INTO THE HILL COUNTRY ... SEE, I HAVE GIVEN YOU THIS LAND. GO IN AND TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND ..."**  
—DEUTERONOMY 1:6-8



Pastor Bill congratulates resident Brandon on his progress in Phase II of The Foundry Recovery Program.

## NEWS FROM FOUNDRY FARM A Building Partnership



More than 40 individuals and business representatives from Cullman joined us for *Lunch & Learn* at Foundry Farm on December 9, including Linda and Leroy Pope. After a luncheon presentation, attendees enjoyed a tour of the grounds, our wood shop and other facilities. If you're interested in attending one of these informative events at Foundry Farm or at The Foundry's main campus in Bessemer, call Lesley Searcy at (205) 425-7737 or e-mail [lsearcy@thefoundryonline.org](mailto:lsearcy@thefoundryonline.org).

Never mind they're adults; the residents of Foundry Farm will tell you with all sincerity Santa paid them a visit last year! **Linda and Leroy Pope**, owners of **Smith Lake Hardware** in Cullman, donated a number of items for the Foundry Farm wood shop: lumber, exhaust fans, paint and thinner, air conditioners, hammers, nail guns and a table saw, to name just a few. As you can imagine, the men at Foundry Farm felt like boys on Christmas morning.

"Linda and Leroy have hearts of gold," says Foundry Farm Procurement Assistant Manager Karl Armstrong. "When I don't call on them, they call me with items to donate. They are like family here in Cullman." Karl says the Pops live nearby and have toured Foundry Farm. They've even invited the men to fish in their catfish ponds. "They're some of the happiest people I know," he shares. "Maybe it's because they give so much."

The staff and residents of The Foundry are truly grateful to the Pops—and all of our business partners in Cullman—for their generosity and friendship.

# Community Meals Offer **NOURISHMENT** for Homeless and Low-income Neighbors

At 61, Frank often recalls his lifelong hopes and dreams—and they didn't include depending on a rescue mission for food. Yet, as he joins The Foundry daily for community meals to ease his hunger, his heart fills with gratitude, and he counts the experience among the most meaningful of his life.

You see, Frank isn't a substance abuser or an ex-inmate. Instead, like many of the people who join us for our community meals, he's simply a neighbor who's fallen on hard times and struggles to make ends meet.

Frank has two college degrees and was employed for more than 25 years as a steel worker in Bessemer. When that industry declined and he lost his job, he chose to stay in the area to care for his elderly mother, and he took over the operation of her flower shop when she died. Sadly, Frank was forced to close the shop due to unforeseen circumstances. Now he's on a limited, fixed income and depends on The Foundry for food and fellowship.

Each month, The Foundry offers food for Frank and scores of other men and women in similar situations. We serve meals at noon, Monday through Friday, and special meals on holidays—opening our dining room to the homeless, near-homeless and working-poor in our community. Currently, our meals are served by a team of our residents and many compassionate volunteers.

We recently added a time of devotion before each meal, led by local pastors, our residents and volunteers, to feed hungry spirits, as well. We're also working to make the meals program a gateway to other needed services. For example, we're providing donated coats and hair cuts to guests who come in for a meal. We also distribute 601 food boxes every year—with enough items for several nutritious meals—to qualifying low-income individuals and families.

We're grateful for the financial support and donations of food items that allow us to extend our outreach to our hurting neighbors like Frank and so many more. "When I get back on my feet," Frank says, "I'm going to give back to this ministry because they've given so much to me."

## Knitting for New Life



Felicia and Sheena are just two of nearly a dozen Women's Center residents who have found joy and peace in knitting new creations as they're building new lives.

If idle hands are the devil's workshop, he'll be sorely disappointed at The Foundry—especially at our Women's Center. If you visited there today, you'd find residents hard at work turning colorful strands of yarn into beautiful new creations, symbolic of the new lives God is creating for them. As with so many of the heart-changing activities here, this sudden enthusiasm for knitting and crocheting wasn't planned. It started when one resident taught another, and from there it spread like wildfire.

Michele Heintz, director of women's ministries, says nearly a dozen ladies are participating. "They're teaching each other ... learning different stitches ... making scarves, hot pads, hats and afghans. They're zealous about it and doing it in their spare time."

One of our Recovery Program residents, LaJuana, says she took up crocheting because it helps her get still and hear God. "I was struggling with a lot of things and the ladies who were doing it seemed so at peace. The first thing I made was an afghan for my niece. It builds my self-esteem. It makes me confident."

The yarn and needles used for the projects come from The Foundry's SuperThrift Outlet, and the women are planning to share their creations with the community and help future residents at the same time. They're looking for ways to market and sell many of the items so they can use the income to pay the intake fees for new residents who don't otherwise have the means. "This is my second chance; my way of giving back to others," LaJuana says.

If you'd like to donate yarn or other knitting and crocheting supplies—or have ideas about how we can sell our crafts—contact Leslie Freeman at (205) 425-7737 or [lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org](mailto:lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org).



Volunteers and staff treated more than 300 residents of The Foundry and scores of low-income individuals from the community to a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

# The Holidays Bring Hope to Hundreds



We're grateful for the kind hearts and helping hands of our volunteers who made the holidays meaningful for our residents, guests and needy families and individuals in our community.

Thanks to the time, efforts and contributions from our loving volunteers and donors, hundreds of lives were touched during the holiday season. Donations of food items like turkeys and hams, canned fruits and vegetables and other staples allowed us to provide a traditional Thanksgiving meal for our 300 residents and guests and distribute food boxes to needy families. And our residents with children—along with struggling parents in the community—were delighted and relieved by the new toys donated for their sons and daughters at Christmas. Individuals, businesses and church groups also “adopted” tables—complete with Christmas meals, holiday decorations, gifts and warm fellowship—to create a loving family atmosphere for our residents.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who opened their hearts to the hurting and made the holidays a time of joy and peace.

## What's Happening AT THE FOUNDRY?

You can keep up with all the details on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, lives you've helped to change and more, when you:



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(Twitter.com/tfoundry)



Bookmark  
[thefoundryonline.org](http://thefoundryonline.org)



Find us on  
YouTube.com

# Can You Help?

If you or a group you're associated with would like to help out with the activities below or others, contact Leslie Freeman at (205) 425-7737 or [lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org](mailto:lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org).

- With more needy neighbors joining us for our Community Meals, we need volunteers to help prepare and serve food and fellowship.
- As you can imagine, The Foundry uses what seems like tons of laundry detergent to help ensure our residents maintain their cleanliness and self-esteem. We welcome donations of powdered laundry soap in bulk or packaged in re-closable bags in one-load amounts.
- God's Word is the foundation of our residential programs, and we provide each resident with a personal Bible. Currently we need 450 new Bibles—The Life Recovery Bible, New Living Translation, Limited Celebration Edition—which can be purchased for \$19.97 each at [www.biblesatcost.com](http://www.biblesatcost.com).
- Our new women's dorm needs new sets of bath towels and wash clothes, twin sheet sets with pillowcases and cozy pajamas to help our residents feel comfortable and loved. If you can help, please bring your donated items to our Women's Center, 1800 Fourth Ave. N., Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thank you!

Thank you in advance for your compassion and partnership!



Heidi Bennett was one of 15 undergraduates from Lee University, a Christ-centered liberal arts college in Cleveland, Tennessee, who visited The Foundry in November during a service trip required to complete the students' Urban Outreach course. These young men and women spent their first evening at The Foundry organizing toiletry supplies and arranging food items that would be provided in the food boxes delivered to needy families at Thanksgiving. The next day, the students packed the boxes with everything needed for a traditional meal—from turkeys to cranberry sauce—along with the toiletries and a new Bible. The students assembled nearly 150 boxes in all.

“Everyone really enjoyed the experience,” Heidi says. And because none of the students in the group knew each other, it made the trip even more meaningful. “It was a great way to meet new people and make new friends, as well as serve at The Foundry.”