

A silhouette of a person standing next to a cross, with a small figure of a person sitting on the ground in front of the cross.

THE

# SPARK

Fall 2010

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THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

## I CREATED TO Love

“I’m not a bad person,

I just made bad choices—I know that now,” says 47-year-old Marsha, who came to The Foundry to end a vicious cycle of substance abuse, prostitution and crime.

She started using drugs as a teenager. To support her habit, which had escalated to crack cocaine, she became an exotic dancer and prostitute at 18. She soon realized not only did she need to work to buy drugs, she needed the drugs to numb her heart and soul to the kind of work she was doing.

“To go out there and dance—to make money—you had to be high,” she recalls with regret.

Marsha had grown up in church, so she knew there had to be more to life and tried desperately to find it. She struggled through a dozen drug treatment programs ... got married and had a child ... even taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. But nothing could break cocaine’s cold, steel grip. She left her family and began staying with “friends,” in motels or wherever she could find a place to sleep. Sadly, the type of shelter she grew to know best was a jail cell. She went to prison three times on drug-related charges.

When she was released last year, the judge allowed her to join The Foundry’s Recovery Program because of our success in helping people overcome addictions and reintegrate into society. Marsha knew coming to The Foundry might help her finally understand—and achieve—God’s purpose for her life.

Marsha has been with us for nearly a year now and has rededicated her life to the Lord. “No matter what I’ve been through, God still loves me and I have been forgiven. I don’t have to look down on myself anymore,” she says. Marsha is studying for her GED, and our Christ-centered counseling has given her the direction, strength and insight to overcome her addictive and destructive behaviors. “The love and teaching they give you here have been so helpful. My favorite class—Battlefield of the Mind—helps me understand what causes my addiction and how I can control it by controlling my mind and having control of myself. I know who I am today.”

Marsha believes God created her to love herself and to love others, and she wants to help other women who have used drugs and are struggling to overcome painful pasts as she once was. “I want to show them that God is able to pull them through anything,” she shares, with tears in her eyes. “They don’t have to live that way anymore—there is a better way to live. The best peace is to find God.”

*Through your gifts and prayers, The Foundry helps hundreds of hurting and broken men and women each year overcome destructive challenges and recreate lives of joy and fulfillment in Christ. Thank you and God bless you.*





# Director's Letter

## Dear Friends,



The people we serve here at The Foundry are referred to by many different names. Outside our walls, they're often described as outcasts, addicts or ex-inmates. But inside, our staff and volunteers call all of them God's children. And we know He created them for more than the desperate lives they were leading when they first came through our doors.

Regardless of past mistakes and poor decisions, every person we care for has the potential to become a new creation when Christ guides his or her life. Yet many think change isn't possible because of labels they've given themselves—weak, unworthy, irresponsible. Our Recovery and Re-Entry programs are effective in providing a foundation of life skills, education, accountability and responsibility that empower struggling men and women to meet the tangible requirements for stable and independent living. But the transformation of their spirits—which enables them to hold fast to their new course in life—comes from God.

Through Bible study, Christian counseling and guidance, and modeling Christ-filled lives, we help them build a loving and lasting relationship with God, of which all of them are worthy. Thank you for recognizing our brothers and sisters in Christ, and reaching out to them with your generosity and compassion.

In His service,

*Pastor Bill*

Rev. Bill Heintz  
Executive Director

**THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,  
HE IS A NEW CREATION; THE OLD HAS  
GONE, THE NEW HAS COME!  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NIV)**

## Honor a Loved One at Christmas ... and Support The Foundry

This holiday season, The Foundry will gratefully acknowledge every gift of \$10 or more made in honor or memory of a friend or loved one by sending a beautiful greeting card to the family of the person being honored or remembered. "Joy," designed by local artist Betty K. Freeman, graces the cover, and the message inside describes how the honorary or memorial gift will be used to rebuild the lives of the addict, the ex-inmate and the homeless.

The cards may also be "purchased" for \$10 each—with or without the acknowledgement message—and sent to your home to mail personally. There couldn't be a more meaningful sentiment at Christmas than giving the gift of new beginnings as a tribute to those who mean the most to you. You'll find all the details at [www.thefoundryonline.org](http://www.thefoundryonline.org).



## Where Do I Find It?

### The Foundry SuperThrift Outlet

727 Bessemer  
Super Highway  
(205) 424-2400

### Auto Sales

1402 4th Avenue North  
(205) 425-3290

## You Helped Make This Possible!

### January — June 2010

Nights of lodging	45,749
Meals served	138,831
Recovery program graduates	48
Re-Entry program graduates	10
Residents earning GEDs	9
People receiving free clothing	76
Food boxes distributed	154
Residents and community receiving medical, dental, optical and prescription assistance	3,681
Volunteer hours	2,343

# “Giving Back” IS Essential to Recovery

“One of the greatest aspects of Christ on earth and our mandate as believers is to be servants,” says Senior Director of Programs Micah Andrews. “We want our residents to become holistically disciplined and to understand that ‘to become the greatest, I have to become the least.’” The Foundry encourages men and women in our Recovery and Re-Entry programs to experience that core truth through opportunities for service to the community.

For example, our men have taken on the responsibility for mowing the lawn at another nonprofit organization and recently used their carpentry skills to help renovate a local church. And they’re praying for the soul of a destitute woman they see on the streets every day, and one resident has even shared his testimony with two men he met at a gas station. “As our men get involved outside themselves, despair begins to fade and they see they do have something tremendous to offer,” Micah shares.

Director of Women’s Ministries Michele Heintz has witnessed the same spiritual and emotional transformation with the women in our program. Twice a week, the ladies serve food and beverages to homeless individuals and working-poor families who come to our Community Outreach Center for meals. They also visit nursing homes, talking and laughing with lonely elderly residents—even helping them paint their nails!

“These women have come to The Foundry so wounded. When they begin to see others who hurt and have needs, it takes the focus off of themselves—there is a freedom that comes from serving,” Michele says. The women also find meaning in giving back to the Bessemer community in return for the acceptance and comfort it has offered to them. On Fridays, they join the men in picking up trash in the downtown area and have taken on projects like helping a widow or elderly citizen who needs his or her house painted.

“Our residents are learning to be selfless,” Michele explains. “The more they become healthy and their minds are renewed, they see the need to serve and find joy in serving.”

On the more practical side, The Foundry also has been evaluating local school curriculums and found it’s typical to require community-service hours before graduation. We determined that if this is important for the initial education process, it must be critical for the re-education we provide, as well. In addition, as men and women take part in community-service activities, they become acquainted with other volunteers, make connections and establish a social network that will be important as they complete our programs and reintegrate into society.

If you’re aware of a need in the community that could provide a service opportunity for our residents, we’d be pleased to learn more about it. We invite you to contact Micah at (205) 428-8449 with details!



Lawn care, carpentry work and trash pickup provide opportunities for The Foundry men to assist the community.



Residents of our Women’s Recovery Program discover a healing satisfaction in reaching out to needy families and the lonely elderly.

## Healed by Giving

“I grew up taking away from a community. Now I see the importance of giving back to a community,” says Willie, a resident in our Recovery Program who participates in The Foundry’s trash pickup service project on Friday mornings. He says it’s a messy job—removing garbage from areas throughout our city. But he’s asked the Lord to accept it as something he’s doing for Him.

“This is the first time I’ve really humbled myself and given back,” Willie shares. “I’ve learned it’s not about me—it never was. If I make myself open and able to be used, I can bless a lot of people. Giving back is addictive—it’s a euphoric feeling blessing others!”



Willie has learned a lot about himself through his community-service projects with The Foundry.

# The Foundry Fellowship Supports Mission and Vision



Charter member Tom Mayfield and The Foundry Stewardship and Resources Officer Lesley Searcy encourage those who want to enrich their commitment and financial support of The Foundry to join The Foundry Fellowship.

The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center is pleased and blessed to announce the formation of **The Foundry Fellowship**, which was established this summer to help The Foundry maintain its record of excellence in providing Christ-centered rescue, re-entry and recovery. The Fellowship is comprised of individuals with an *understanding of and commitment to* rescue and recovery for the addict, ex-inmate and destitute, and who support our mission and vision at significant financial levels. Currently **Fellowship** partners are working toward a goal of raising \$500,000 by November 1.

“I’m excited about **The Foundry Fellowship**,” says charter member Tom Mayfield. “Our partners have a great understanding, compassion and commitment to The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center and want to support this ministry as it reaches out to both men and women in need. I’m honored to be a member.”

**The Foundry Fellowship** will honor and thank charter members at a breakfast at the Birmingham Country Club on November 16, with speaker Drayton Nabers. For more information on how to be part of or support this vital group, contact Lesley Searcy, stewardship and resources officer, at (205) 425-7737, ext. 15.

## Partners in The Foundry Fellowship—Membership Giving Levels

Drafter	Molder	Caster	Blacksmith
Partner in Compassion	Partner in Hope	Partner in Restoration	Partner in Life
\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000

# Write Us In

During your workplace’s annual United Way fall campaign, consider directing your contributions to The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center by simply writing “The Foundry” as your designated charity. It’s a simple way to help! And here’s another way to boost the impact of your giving: Check with your personnel department to see if your organization matches employees’ charitable contributions. That means every gift you make to The Foundry will be doubled. Thank you for your ongoing financial support. Every dollar makes a difference.

## A “Note” of Thanks

The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery

Center is grateful to the sponsors of our first-ever **Hot Strings** bluegrass festival, benefiting the ministry’s programs and services. Our deepest thanks—and the gratitude of the men and women we serve—go out as well to everyone who attended and made this event a noteworthy success!



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Alabama Folk School  
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Alabama Bluegrass Music Association  
Brasfield & Gorrie LLC

# Can You Help?



The Foundry is requesting canned goods and staple items to help fill more than 150 food boxes for needy families who want to share a Thanksgiving meal in their own homes. The products are also used for the meals we serve to our residents and homeless guests throughout the year. If you, your church or other group can help, please bring your donated items to The Foundry Women’s Center at 1800 Fourth Avenue N. in Bessemer—Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.—by November 18. God bless you for anything you can do to help!

### The Foundry’s Thanksgiving Food Needs

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