



The SPARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

Formerly City of Hope

For more than 30 years, Ned's life was driven by his addiction to alcohol. Traumatized at 15 when his mother died, Ned began using alcohol to ease the pain. But soon his addiction became the cause of the pain he experienced as he lost family, jobs, home and self-respect.

In 1997, Ned joined The Foundry's recovery program and came to know Christ. After graduating 18 months later, he left The Foundry, but neglected his relationship with the Lord. Soon, his addiction returned full force.

Ned gave himself a gift when he returned to The Foundry for a refresher course, June 28, 2004 — his 50th birthday. "I had to wait a month for a bed," he says. But the wait was worth it!

At The Foundry, Ned immersed himself in work, counseling and God's Word. An introvert, Ned began reaching out to staff and other men in recovery and his job at The Foundry's SuperThrift Outlet became a classroom where he learned to serve others.

Late last fall, Ned realized he could not afford to fly to Michigan to join his family for Christmas. Though disappointed, Ned accepted his situation — but his friends at The Foundry didn't!

A Gift for Ned's Soul

"We had a Christmas party and talent show in early December," Ned recalls. "Afterward, a resident went up on stage and said, 'I'd like to make an announcement. Since this is the season of granting blessings, I want to present this roundtrip ticket to Michigan to Ned.'"

Even today, Ned's voice trembles as he remembers receiving the ticket and the love that went with it! "Everybody had pooled whatever they had. Someone loaned me a big coat; someone else loaned me a

suitcase. It was a 'shock and awe' blessing."

After Ned stepped off the stage, a close buddy hugged him and asked, "Do you know why you got this?" Childlike, Ned responded, "Because I was good?" "It's more than that," said his friend. "You've been obedient."

"We have such a good God," says Ned tearfully. "I love Him so much I get choked up talking about it. I'm a different person, functioning normally, involved with others. And the icing on the cake is I have everlasting life!"

Ned, center, finds strength and encouragement from his friends at The Foundry.





Where lives are reshaped
by the hands of God.

**The
FOUNDRY**
RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

Formerly City of Hope

THE SPARK

Winter/Spring 2005
Volume 2, Issue 1

THE FOUNDRY

(formerly City of Hope)
1816 Sixth Avenue North
P.O. Box 824
Bessemer, AL 35021-0824
205-428-8449

Executive Director
Rev. Bill Heintz

Development Director/Newsletter Editor
Leslie Freeman

OUR VISION

To be the leader in Christ-centered
recovery, permanently transforming lives.

OUR MISSION

To restore hope and rebuild the lives of
the homeless and addicted through
Christ-centered recovery.



Did you know?

Each day, members of The Foundry's
recovery program gather to study
and pray. You can help them grow
by donating new notebooks, pens,
pocket folders and NIV Bibles.



From the
**Executive
Director**

Dear Friends,

If you were to visit The Foundry on any given day, you would likely find men and women working together at assigned jobs. You would hear brothers in Christ, with heads bowed, praying for one another. You would see sisters in Christ comforting each other. You would see fellowship — one of God's greatest gifts to His creation.

Ironically, the men and women in our recovery program tell me that when they are indulging their addictions, they want to be left alone. Ned, whose story you'll find on the cover of this issue of *The Spark*, said, "Wanting to be alone is characteristic of anyone who is drinking. You isolate yourself."

Many times that desire for isolation follows our guests right into The Foundry. They have trouble trusting our staff or other guests. They must be drawn out of their silence. Ned explains: "You can be really self focused and you don't share yourself with others."

We can tell when a person is really working at recovery. She begins to open up at Thursday night chapel ... he suddenly discloses something that has gnawed at his heart for years. Best of all, he or she begins to seek out encouragement and guidance — *fellowship* with others.

Behind what looks like selfishness or apathy lies the hurting heart of a person suffering deep shame and lack of self-respect. With your help, your financial support and your prayers, we have the means through Christ to reach that heart and bring fellowship. Thank you so much!

If one falls
down, his friend
can help him up.
But pity the man
who falls and
has no one to
help him up!
—Ecclesiastes 4:10

In His Service,

Bill Heintz
Rev. Bill Heintz

Want to learn more about The Foundry
firsthand? Call (205) 428-8449 and
ask for a tour!

**You Helped
Provide** **in 2004**



Because you gave, The Foundry provided the following in 2004 to homeless and addicted men and women, and to families in the low-income community.

Nights of lodging	41,975	People receiving free clothing	117
Meals provided	125,925	Food boxes distributed	267
Recovery program graduates	49	Residents receiving medical, dental, optical, prescription assistance	196
Counseling sessions	5,571		

We Found the Gift of Fellowship at The Foundry



Because of a group of people whose sole purpose is to teach the Word of God and reshape lives, I've been given the opportunity to begin anew. I'm finding out the real meaning of friendship and what it means to care for someone else. The other women in the program are like my family. I draw my strength from this family. — **Yolanda**



I've learned a new way of living at The Foundry. I didn't know who God was before coming here. Now not only do I know Him, but I have a relationship with Him. It helps to know there are ladies here with similar stories and backgrounds. We're growing together. When one of us is down another lifts her up. Helping others helps me, too. — **Amy**



After my wife and I separated, I ran from God until I couldn't run anymore. I was broken when I came here. The Foundry gave me new hope and a chance for new life through Christ. I have nine men here I call my brothers. We study the Bible, pray together, hold each other accountable and encourage each other. — **Glenn**



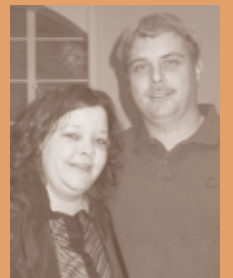
I've finally found what I've been looking for. I wish I had come to The Foundry 20 years ago. I have peace and contentment I never knew and I feel like I'm home. It's great to know the other guys are here to help me and I like knowing I'm there for them, too. — **Jeff**



The Foundry not only changed my life, it saved my life. I've come to understand forgiveness and how to love. I have friendships with women who pray for and encourage me. Before coming here I didn't know how to trust anyone. — **Mary Jo**

Alumni Gather at The Foundry

Around 60 former graduates of The Foundry gathered Saturday, January 29, for the first annual Alumni Dinner. Graduates and guests enjoyed a great meal, music, testimonies and a slide presentation. "The Alumni dinner was awesome. It was encouraging to see so many people I went through the program with are still free from drugs and alcohol," said Carmen, a Foundry graduate, shown here with husband Phillip.



Shop the SuperThrift and Help the Homeless!



Meet Ned from our cover story when you shop at the SuperThrift Outlet!

Visit our SuperThrift Outlet — Alabama's largest thrift store — and support The Foundry each time you shop! You'll find household items, new and used clothing, furniture ... even computer equipment bargains as you wander through 89,000 square feet of new and gently used merchandise.

Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
(except Thursday)
Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Call (205) 424-2400 to schedule a pick-up.

Did You Know?

These businesses provide a training ground for our residents and raise valuable funds for The Foundry.

The Foundry SuperThrift Outlet and Upholstery Shop

727 Bessemer Super Highway
(205) 424-2400

Auto Sales and Service

1402 4th Avenue North
(205) 425-3290

Adopt-a-Block News and Needs

Last fall, we told you about our new *Adopt-a-Block* project, through which our residents provide mowing, trash and yard clean up, food delivery, and other assistance to the more than 220 families in our community.

Adopt-a-Block is scheduled the first and third Saturday of every month, but that's not enough for our residents! "They actually wait in line to volunteer for these projects," says Michele Heintz, assistant director at The Foundry. To volunteer with *Adopt-a-Block* or to donate one of the items listed below, call Michele at (205) 428-8449 ext. 10.

Adopt-a-Block Spring Needs

- o Push mowers
- o Riding mowers
- o Weed eaters
- o Leaf blowers
- o Garbage bags



Compassion in Action

Our community found comfort during chilly nights with new blankets donated by Alabama First Lady Patsy Riley. Here, Michele Heintz, Larry Harrison, and Jimmy Hutchins, right, accept the gift from Allen Perdue, governor's mansion administrator, left.

You Decide the Distribution of Your Estate

Dear Friends,

Have you taken the time to create your estate plan or will? I encourage you to make this the year you do! After working with donors for many years, I've become increasingly concerned that only about 30% of adults take time to plan how their assets will be distributed after death.

While we hope you consider The Foundry as you create your estate plan, my greater concern is that you and your loved ones have a voice in the distribution of your estate, rather than leaving this important issue to probate.

If you'd like to learn more about including The Foundry in your will, please call me at (205) 428-8449 ext. 16, or e-mail me at lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org. I look forward to talking to you soon.

Leslie Freeman
Director of Development

