



The SPARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

Back to the Basics

Sidney's family had a habit of rabble rousing. Get-togethers always included drinking and even drugs

at times. Though he got tired of it all, it was just the way things were.

Finally, Sidney left his family in Texas and came to Alabama to help his nephew care for his great-nephews. Things went well until the drinking began. "Then we started arguing, and it escalated to where we almost went at each other."

April 14, 2005, Sidney took a walk to clear his head and ended up at a Baptist church. "The pastor called The Foundry for me, though he said they always had a waiting list," Sidney recalls. "But they had a bed! It was a miracle."

At The Foundry, Sidney found something other rehabs didn't have — Jesus. "I'd never known love like these people have shown me," he says. "I'd always felt an emptiness.

I learned I could fill the void with Christ and the Bible."

As a resident at

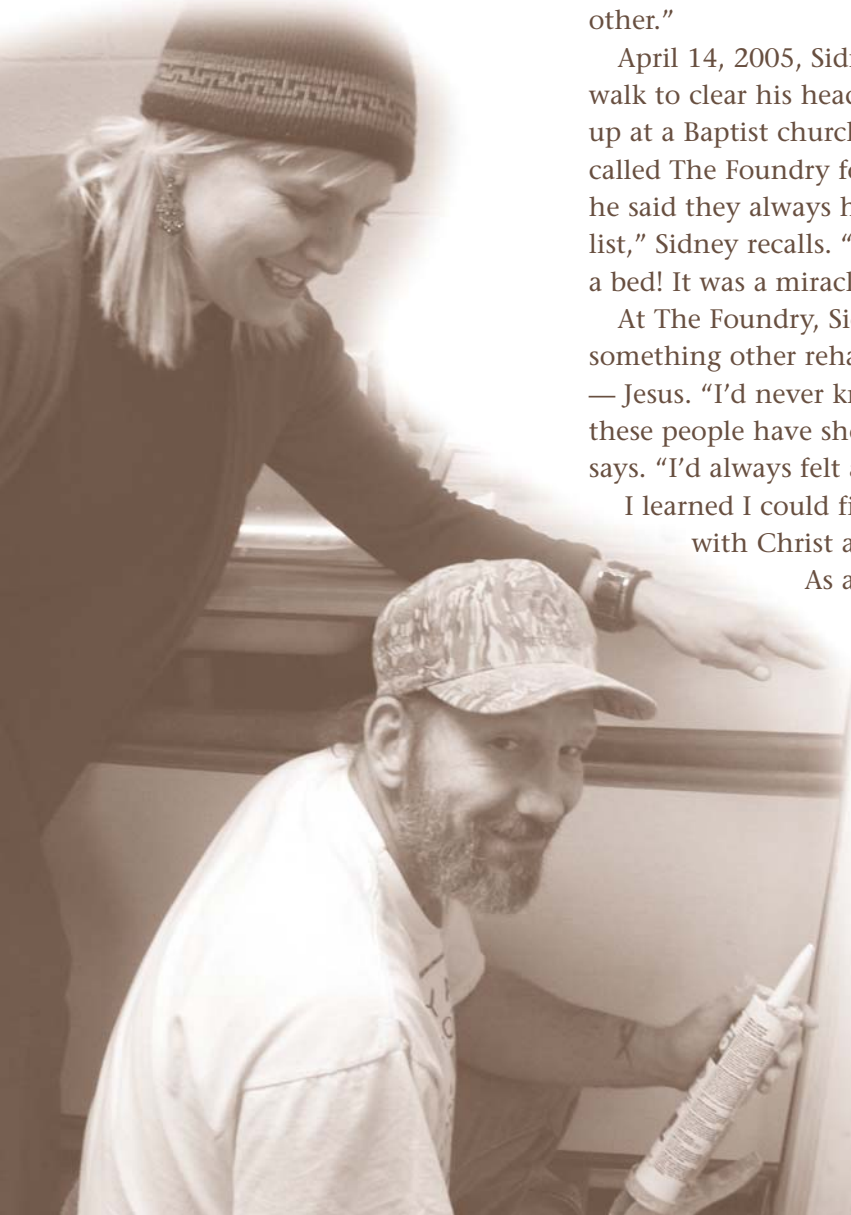
The Foundry, Sidney settled into the basics of life — structured work, a growing relationship in Christ and earning the respect of others.

Then last fall, his new faith was tested when his sister — "a mother to me," he says — died. "The staff asked if I wanted to go to the funeral," he recalls. "But knowing the person I am and how my family handles funerals, I knew it would take me back to drinking." After praying about it, Sidney felt even his sister would want him to stay at The Foundry.

As Sidney awaits graduation in April, he attends morning classes, acts as men's dorm leader and repairs appliances at The Foundry's SuperThrift Store. "The classes teach me about living on the terms God wants for me," he says.

Sidney admits he's "lived most of life crazy in a family where drugs and drinking were tolerated. Normal was getting messed up."

Today, he's learned a new kind of "normal" — he eats right, works hard and walks with God. "At one time, I didn't want anyone close to me. I didn't think I could be loved. Here everyone is happy, focused, joyful," he marvels. "That's what I want. The Bible says whatever the devil has stolen, God will give back. Normal is getting up each day and asking God what His purpose is for me."





Where lives are reshaped
by the hands of God.



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THE FOUNDRY

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Rev. Bill Heintz

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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?

Job-skills training is a basic
component of The Foundry's
recovery program, helping men and
women build a strong work ethic,
develop appropriate behavior and
learn marketable skills.



From the
**Executive
Director**

Dear Friends,

Every year during the holidays, folks in my family pull out the digital cameras and start snapping away. Some of the photos would be better left in the camera. Others do a great job of showing our family enjoying each other as we grow and change from year to year.

It would be nearly impossible to record all the changes that occur yearly at The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center! Our facilities continue to grow and improve. New folks join our programs as others graduate and move on. And sadly, some of our residents find they aren't quite ready for healing and return to the streets.

Though each year brings change for my family, we live by some basic principles that help keep us strong, healthy and happy. We practice our Christian faith. We eat nutritious food. We play together and pray together. We wear clean clothes and live in as safe an environment as possible.

These same "basics" are practiced among our family at The Foundry, too. That's important because often the men and women who come to us have lost the comfort and security that comes with applying basic healthy principles to life.

Thank you for helping The Foundry welcome the homeless and addicted into such a warm, secure and healing environment. And thanks for assisting us as we bring basic necessities to our growing Adopt-a-Block family, too. With your help in 2006, we will continue to minister "the basics" to those who need them most.

What does the
Lord require of
you? To act
justly and to
love mercy and
to walk humbly
with your God.

—Micah 6:8

In His Service,

Bill Heintz
Rev. Bill Heintz

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

**You Helped
Provide** **October–
November 2005**

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

Nights of lodging	9,150	People receiving free clothing	31
Meals provided	29,280	Food boxes distributed	114
Recovery program graduates	9	Residents receiving medical, dental, optical, prescription assistance	259

Each day, men and women in our recovery program are guided through Bible classes, counseling, work assignments and life-skills courses in their journey toward restoration. It all starts with the basics: a hot meal, safe shelter and the Gospel. Here are Mary Ann's experiences in the program.

Mary Ann's intake photo, taken the first day she came to The Foundry.



I'm Learning the Basics

Today, Mary Ann feels more confident as she "puts it all in God's hands"!

May 22

Another night with no place to stay. I hate this. I've lost everything to crack and alcohol — my family, my daughter, my car. I just can't keep this up. I'm sick and tired of living this way.

May 23

Well, I've done it. I've checked into The Foundry and at least I'll sleep in a bed tonight. Last night was the last straw. I tried to sleep for a while, but most of the night I just walked the streets. I have to change my life, but what makes me nervous is this: Can I really do it?

June 15

I've been sick almost since the day I got here, but I'm feeling better now. Three meals a day and regular sleep has helped. I've been able to go to classes with the rest of the residents, but I have to admit, they are kind of boring. I can't keep my mind on them, so I think about my daughter instead. She's been living with my parents since she was a year old. She doesn't seem to even know I'm her mama. It's been tough on me.

August 22

I'm still here and I think I am going to make it through this program! I've started to enjoy the Bible studies and other classes. And



Today, Mary Ann learns job skills as a cashier at The Foundry SuperThrift Outlet.

I like working at the thrift store, though it's been hard getting up early every morning. That's something you forget on the streets.

October 4

I've only seen my daughter once since I've been here. It hurts to think about. All I can do is put it in God's hands. But things are going pretty good in my program. They've trained me to be a cashier and I really like it. I'm in third phase now and by God's grace I'll be in fourth phase in January. I'm learning some basic skills that are making me a better person and

hopefully a better parent. For instance, how to control my anger ... and my mouth.

December 8

This evening, I got baptised during The Foundry's Thursday night service. And I learned I'm going home for Christmas where I'll get to see my grandmother and hopefully, my little girl. I move to fourth phase January 14 and I've been clean and sober for more than seven months. Things are really looking up for me! That's how it works when you put it all in God's hands and take it day by day.

Making Your Will in 2006

Dear Friends,

Did you know that only about 30 percent of American's have a legal will? Are you one of the 70 percent who don't?

Here are 10 good reasons, plus one VERY good reason to plan your estate now ... that have nothing to do with estate taxes:

1. Who will raise your children?
2. What if you become incompetent?
3. How does your family inherit your assets?
4. What if you have a blended or multi-marriage family?
5. What if you have a special needs child?
6. What if you want your money to stay in your family?
7. Can your spouse and children survive financially?
8. What if you have an IRA?
9. What if you own a business?
10. What about the probate (estate settlement) process?

What about those charities you supported during your lifetime?

Make 2006 the year you create your will or update your existing estate plan. If you'd like information about making an estate gift to The Foundry, please call me, Leslie Freeman, at (205) 428-8449. Thanks and have a blessed new year.



Leslie Freeman
Development
Director

Where Do I Find ...?

The Foundry SuperThrift Outlet Furniture Manufacturing and Upholstery Shop

727 Bessemer Super Highway
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.

Auto Sales and Service

1402 4th Avenue North
(205) 425-3290
Don't forget! Donate your car, truck, boat or other vehicles by calling (205) 426-9000. Have a wonderful new year!



Warm Holiday Memories— Thanks to You!



More than 60 children enjoyed treats, opening brightly wrapped gifts and hearing about the true *Reason for the Season* during our Adopt-a-Block Christmas program.



Hope Awards Banquet 2005

Over 650 attended the 2005 Hope Awards Banquet, which raised over \$125,000 to benefit The Foundry.

From left, Kevin Derryberry, Kermit Kendrick, Rev. Gates Shaw and Rev. Tim Kallam.



Rev. Bill Heintz, second from left, with Jeremiah Castille, Victor Hanson, III and M. James Gorrie.

Not pictured, Curtis Coleman.