



SPARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

Spring 2008

I've Taken His Dream for Myself

Jackson Elliott paced the floor. He'd been released from prison the day before after serving time for robbery. Today, he'd already been to see his parole officer and the meeting had not gone well.

Back at his sister's house, he kept punching the number for The Foundry Re-Entry Program, which serves men transitioning to independence from prison, but for some reason no one answered the phone.

"I knew I couldn't go back to my neighborhood; if I did, I wouldn't be there long. It's not what others do to me. It's what I do to myself. When my day is bright and I'm doing good, I self destruct," he says. It was imperative that Jackson join The Foundry's Re-Entry program now!

Just then, the phone rang. It was The Foundry! A mix up had resulted in someone giving Jackson the wrong number, and a case manager was trying to track him down. "Can you come now?" the man asked. "We have a bed for you!"

Looking back, Jackson says joining Re-Entry was a smart move. "I'd advise anyone to go through this kind of program. You know, when you look at a pond and see the water, it looks smooth," he says philosophically. "But some spots are deeper than others; looking at the top, you just can't tell." Jackson feels Re-Entry has helped him navigate deep waters without losing his footing!

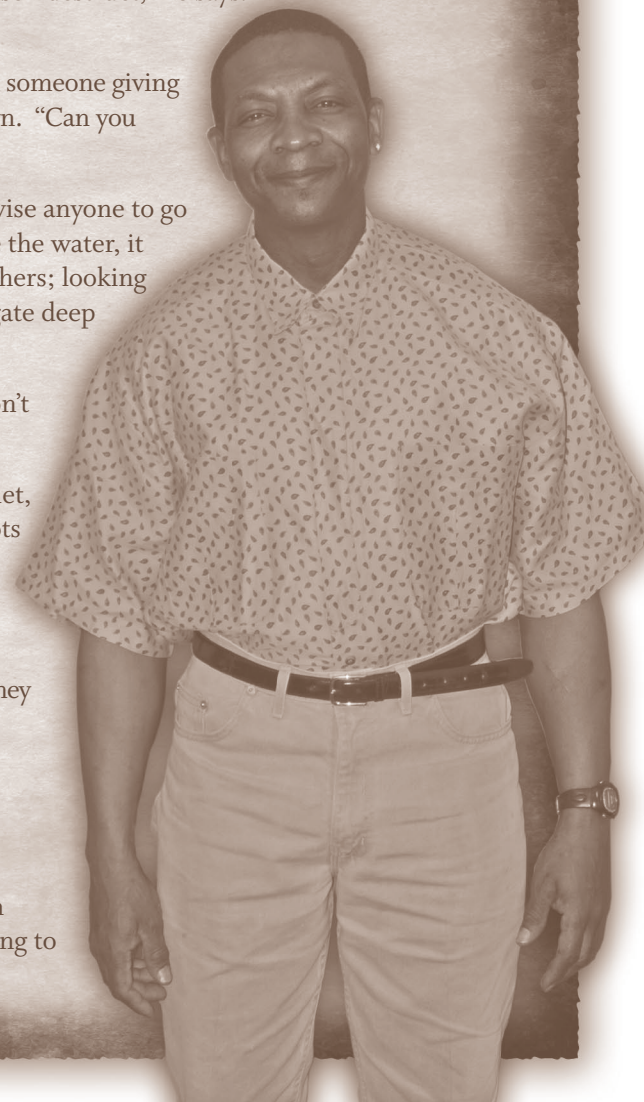
"It's better than a work release program where you make money, but don't learn how to live. Here, they keep pressure on me to stay clean."

Most mornings before going to work at The Foundry's SuperThrift Outlet, Jackson sits in a class led by Executive Director Rev. Bill Heintz. "He shoots straight from the shoulder," Jackson says appreciatively. "He has a vision for a better future."

Jackson's biggest barrier to a better future is his past. He's filled out several work applications, preparing for the day he leaves The Foundry, but he says, "They say they'll call me then they don't. I guess God will work it out in His time."

In the meantime, Jackson focuses on learning to live successfully in other areas of life: money management, conflict resolution and learning to get along with others are at the top of his list.

"I wish there were more places like The Foundry," he says. "Places with dreams like Bill Heintz has. I've taken his dream for myself and I'm learning to appreciate life more."



from the
Executive Director



Pastor Bill (third from left) has led The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center since 1996.

Dear Friends,

I don't get down very often. But when I do, it seems I'm worlds apart from everyone around me. For people who are discouraged or depressed even being in a room full of people can leave them feeling isolated and alone.

That's how I imagine it feels to be a homeless and addicted man or woman who walks the streets of our community. People on the sidewalk stride by with purpose ... a destination. The sun might be shining, but the person who's burned every bridge feels cold, lost and alone.

No one understands the suffering of the homeless and addicted better than someone who has been there. That's why we give guests in our resident recovery programs opportunities to share and grow together.

There's something comforting about the words, "I've been where you are." It means someone fully understands what you are going through and knows for a fact that if he or she made it, you can too!

You, our faithful friends, share your resources, time and prayer with The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center. When you add the healing power of Christ's love reflected in the empathetic actions of our staff, volunteers, and yes, our residents, too, this becomes a place of transformation. Thanks for giving from your heart.

With a grateful heart,

Bill Heintz
Rev. Bill Heintz

*You Helped
Provide
2007*

January–December 2007

Because you gave, The Foundry provided the following to homeless and addicted men and women, and to families in the low-income community in 2007.

Nights of lodging	91,250
Meals served	273,750
Recovery program graduates	61
Re-Entry graduates	18
People receiving free clothing	186
Food boxes distributed	772
Residents receiving medical, dental, optical, prescription assistance	541

You Warmed Our Hearts During the Holidays

Though the holidays are long behind us, the memories of joyful worship, fellowship with family and unexpected surprises linger in our hearts. Thanks so much for helping make our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations memorable.

Below, nearly 250 residents in our programs gather to enjoy a sumptuous meal at beautifully decorated tables and to open gifts during our *Adopt-a-Table* Christmas gathering. Residents also had the opportunity to choose gifts for their children, thanks to the generosity of caring members of our community.




*Where lives are reshaped
by the hands of God.*

**The
FOUNDRY**
RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

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The Foundry
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Executive Director
Rev. Bill Heintz

Public Relations 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.

**ASSOCIATION
OF GOSPEL
RESCUE
MISSIONS**

Living from My Heart

Shame seemed as natural to Michelle Heaton as her own skin. A shy, young mother of two girls, Michelle started smoking pot as a young adult and graduated to crack cocaine when she was 31. As her addiction grew, her daughters' father took over their care and Michelle went to live with her mother.

Michelle burned bridge after bridge as she stole, lied and continued to use crack. By August 2007, she had nowhere to turn but The Foundry.

"I had stolen money from my grandfather," she says regretfully. "My aunt called The Foundry that morning and there was one bed available. God had made a place for me!"

In The Foundry's recovery program, Michelle learned God had forgiven her sins—but it would be months before she could forgive herself and overcome the shame of her past behavior.

"God is changing me," she says today. "He's helping me to have a different outlook. It isn't just about not using drugs, it's about how to be a better friend and mother. I couldn't do it without God and I don't want to."

Michelle has a true servant's heart and serving others now comes as natural to her as the shame that once covered her life. "It's Jesus, others, me," she says. "When I can serve someone, it brings overwhelming joy to my heart."



Today, Michelle and her daughters talk regularly on the phone. She has mended relationships with loved ones and is learning to make decisions that will bring stability and blessings to her future.

"Before, I spent every cent I made. Now I'm learning to manage my money. More importantly, I'm learning who I am and that I'm worth something. I need to forgive myself for the decisions I made that got me where I am. I made the right choice to get help!"

Michelle says she is grateful to God for bringing her to The Foundry. "For the first time in my life, I feel alive. I'm excited about the future and what lies ahead." As she continues to grow in Christ, this young woman can truly live from her servant's heart.

2008 Hearts of Hope Luncheon



More than 220 attendees at last year's **Hearts of Hope Luncheon** raised nearly \$90,000 to help furnish new dorms and open the doors of our new Women's Center!

Wednesday, May 7, The Foundry welcomes compassionate women of central Alabama to the second annual **Hearts of Hope Benefit Luncheon** at the Vestavia Country Club. "This is an elegant and life-changing event," says Leslie Freeman, director of public relations at The Foundry. "It's an opportunity for women to make a tangible contribution to the lives of individuals who are determined to overcome addiction once and for all!"

This year, Executive Director and Pastor, Rev. Bill Heintz will take the stage with his wife and Women's Center Director, Michele, to share their inspiring story of how God used them to establish The Foundry as a Christian addiction recovery center that "reshapes lives by the hand of God." We'll also hear from Julie Larocco, author of "I Never Asked for the Easy Way" and enjoy heart-warming stories of women whose lives have been transformed through The Foundry.

To host a table for our **2008 Hearts of Hope Luncheon** or to learn more, contact Leslie Freeman, (205) 425-7737, ext. 16 or lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org.

Meet Sándor Cheka



In August, God called Rev. Sándor Cheka to the position of grant writer at The Foundry. He also disciples several men in our program. “The best part of my job is knowing this is where God wants me to be at this moment in my life,” he says. “God has confirmed this with little encouragements along the way; for instance, my first two grants have been accepted for funding!”

“My vision for my position

is to find areas where The Foundry can expand its ministry and help provide the needed monetary boost to bring those dreams into reality. I also want to provide opportunities for everyday individuals to be partners with The Foundry and make an impact through opportunities like **Birdies for Charity**. I will also establish a planned giving program allowing individuals to leave a legacy for future generations.”

To learn how you can benefit The Foundry with a gift through bequest, life insurance, property or stock, call Sándor at (205) 425-7737, ext. 21 or e-mail scheka@thefoundryonline.org.

May 12-18 is the **Birdies for Charity—Regions Charity Classic**, presented by **Bruno's Supermarkets!** Visit regionscharityclassic.com for details about this golfer's dream event, and to download pledge forms and other material to support The Foundry.

One hundred percent of your pledges will go to The Foundry's residential treatment program for addicted and homeless men and women, and our Re-Entry residential program for men transitioning from prison to independence.

Last year, more than 800 birdies were made during the tournament and those cents-per-birdie pledges added up fast!

For instance:

2 cents = \$16	5 cents = \$40
3 cents = \$24	10 cents = \$80
4 cents = \$32	15 cents = \$120

To learn more about how you can support The Foundry through the **Regions Charity Classic**, contact Sándor Cheka at (205) 425-7737, ext. 21 or scheka@thefoundryonline.org.



Where DO I FIND?

The Foundry

SuperThrift Outlet

727 Bessemer Super Highway
Monday–Saturday: 9 a.m.–9 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



Drive Away Addiction!

Donate a car before the year ends! You'll receive a great tax deduction (minimum \$500), and you don't have the hassle of selling it yourself! You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing you've benefited the ministry of The Foundry and our residents and community clients. To get started, call (205) 426-9000.

Simple Ways You Can Give!

Imagine the impact you have when you help The Foundry restore fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers ... families! Your gifts of any amount truly changes lives! Here are simple ways you can give:

- Make a one-time gift to our general fund by simply enclosing a check in the envelope provided.
- Give monthly through the electronic transfer of funds from your bank account to The Foundry. Just follow the instructions on the enclosed response form to get started.
- Add us to your online “bill payment” plan.
- Remember The Foundry as a beneficiary in your Will or through a life insurance policy.
- Contact Leslie Freeman at (205) 425-7737 or lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org to ask what our greatest need is, then help us meet it!



Thanks for helping homeless and addicted men and women find their way home again. Together, we are reshaping lives by the hands of God!