

A silhouette of a person standing next to a cross, with a small figure of a person sitting on the cross. The background is a textured, light brown color.

THE

SPARK

Spring 2010

A PUBLICATION OF
THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

“What if I hadn’t come to The Foundry?”

It hasn’t been long since Robert quit asking himself this question several times a day. He’s finally stopped imagining himself lying on the street, cold and suffering. Today, he’s replaced the negative “what ifs” of the past with the positive “what ifs” for the future. And The Foundry—and gifts from friends like you—made this possible.

Robert was neglected as a child and placed in the foster-care system—then experimented with drugs as he grew older—so he’s experienced his share of heartache and trouble. Yet, somewhere along the way, he learned to pray. “I always talked to God,” Robert says. “I knew He was real, but didn’t know how good He really was.” Now he does.

Robert was living in his brother’s house—helping him cover the bills and household expenses—when, for no reason Robert can point to, his brother asked him to leave. “I didn’t have anyone to turn to,” he says. “So I slept under a bridge for a couple of days. It was the first time in my life doing anything like that. I was so cold.”

On top of that, he had a promising job interview coming up, and he was determined to keep that appointment. He at least needed a good night’s sleep, a shower and a fresh change of clothes. Then just in time—just in God’s time—someone told him about The Foundry. “I didn’t think of it as a place to rebuild myself,” he recalls. “I came here thinking I’d stay a couple of nights while I figured things out.” That’s when his life turned around.

Robert got the job, but he didn’t have a car. So he’d leave The Foundry at 1 a.m., walking several miles to make it to work by 3:55 in the morning. One of our staff members noticed Robert’s daily treks and offered to help Robert get a ride if he could come up with part of the gas money. “I donated plasma,” Robert says. Soon, Executive Director Bill Heintz heard of Robert’s determination to build a stable life for himself and offered him a job. “Pastor Bill recognized the real me, and I thank God for that.”

Today, Robert works four days a week in The Foundry’s warehouse, in addition to the job he used to travel to on foot (The Foundry now provides his transportation). And his “what ifs” reflect his new outlook on life.

What if I earn enough to afford an apartment and a car ... get an education ... do something meaningful with my life?

“I want to share my determination with others,” he says, and he lives by the words of Mark 12:31 ... Love your neighbor as yourself. “The Foundry took in a guy who comes from nothing, but they saw ME. They didn’t judge. That’s what I want to do.”

And that’s what you, dear friend, do too, every time you bless The Foundry and men like Robert with your gifts and prayers. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

A large, stylized orange question mark graphic that serves as a background for the main title.

No More What Ifs!



“God is not a genie, but God is a merciful God,” says Robert, who is following His path to a stable and productive life.



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Executive Director
Rev. Bill Heintz

**Director of Development/
Newsletter Editor**
Leslie Freeman

Our Mission

To restore hope and rebuild the lives of the addict, the ex-inmate and the destitute through Christ-centered recovery, re-entry and rescue.



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 — March 2010

Nights of lodging	23,831
Meals served	71,124
Recovery program graduates	32
Re-Entry program graduates	12
People receiving free clothing	104
Food boxes distributed	88
Residents receiving medical, dental, and optical assistance	543
Community receiving medical assistance	797
Prescriptions	539
Volunteer hours	676

Director's Letter

What if I'd never taken that first drink . . . stolen that car . . .
lost my job . . . wrecked my marriage?

Dear Friends,

We hear statements like these almost daily at The Foundry. The men and women in our Recovery and Re-Entry programs have many regrets. Their failures, missed opportunities and broken relationships are difficult to overcome or to accept God's forgiveness for and then forget. But we help them turn those "What if" statements around, replacing them with more positive and constructive considerations:

What if I overcame my addiction . . . earned my GED . . . took responsibility for my actions . . . gave my life to Christ?

It can be difficult at first to change a negative mindset that has been reinforced for years, sometimes even decades. But when our residents begin to think in terms of the opportunities for the future—rather than the mistakes of the past—the joy in their hearts is simply awesome to behold, and they grow in faith that through Him, all things are possible.

What if The Foundry didn't have a financial foundation of good and faithful friends to make this work possible? I won't even consider it! Because The Foundry is carrying out God's vision, I know He'll provide the partners we need every step of the way. Thank you for being one of them. Your generosity is truly a blessing.

In His service,

Pastor Bill

Rev. Bill Heintz
Executive Director

**"I AM THE LORD,
THE GOD OF EVERY PERSON ON THE EARTH.
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME"
—JEREMIAH 32:27**



Pastor Bill is grateful God is using The Foundry to extend His love to the addicted and hurting.

Woodforest Charitable Foundation Helps The Foundry Feed the Hungry

Woodforest National Bank—which serves Alabama and 14 other states through 700 branches—created **Woodforest Charitable Foundation** in 2005 as a direct result of its desire to support and invest in the communities it serves, including our own. In November, the Foundation made a financial contribution to The Foundry, which was used to fund our Community Meals Program. Our Community Meals Program provides grocery boxes and a noon meal Monday through Friday to nearly 1,000 homeless and near-homeless men, women and children each month.

"Our main focus last year was on food," says Kim Marling, the Foundation's executive director/vice president. "Because of the downturn in the economy, many people are trying to support their families and have to make a choice between food and utilities, and we wanted to help provide the most basic of necessities. This is one of the reasons we looked into The Foundry, as well as the other good work they do."

The Foundation is creating a legacy of commitment to those in need, enriching lives by providing funding to qualified nonprofits like The Foundry. We're grateful for their partnership.



For many, food is the beginning of hope for a better life.

“Giving Back”

Brings Blessings for Everyone on Missions Trip

For three days in March, seven residents from The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center teamed up with members of **Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church** to serve the Lord by lending their time, talents and helping hands. The group of 13 traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi, to assist in the ongoing cleanup and reconstruction of homes after the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Lynn Griffin, co-chair of the missions program at the church, has been leading trips to the area for several years. He was looking for volunteers and asked The Foundry if we would like to be involved. We were certainly a logical choice, because several residents are already part of this church family. “On the first Sunday of each month, one of our members who is also a graduate of The Foundry Recovery Program picks up residents for church and then cooks lunch for them. Others come Wednesday night for supper,” he explains. Lynn is also a local probation and parole officer who works closely with The Foundry, and he knew the high caliber and skill level of the men are exactly what were needed.

“We do a little of everything on the trips,” Lynn says. “We put in new floors and drop ceilings ... we rip everything out and install new insulation and sheet rock, we paint—whatever needs to be done, we get it done.”

The Foundry resident Gary Lambert, who participated in the March missions trip, said he and his fellow residents were pleased the church reached out and offered the opportunity. “We wanted to give back to that community—to brothers and sisters who’ve had a string of bad luck and lift their spirits and give them hope for the future. It’s all for Jesus Christ. We’re working in His service to give back for the blessings He’s blessed us with.”

Lynn says the trip was a blessing on many levels. “Seeing the people we’re helping so happy to get settled back into their own homes, and building our relationship with The Foundry guys—working with them and letting them know they’re part of us and the community—everyone really enjoys that.”

The Foundry is always seeking ways for our residents to be involved in giving back to the community. If your church or other organization has a need for volunteers that fit our residents’ talents and skills, please contact Jessica Carpenter at (205) 425-7737, ext. 19 or jcarpenter@thefoundryonline.org.



The Foundry residents feel good “giving back” for the blessings they’ve received by helping hurricane victims return to their homes.



The Foundry Education Center is a certified Laubach Way to Reading Program site and also offers residents assistance with basic computer skills, as well as resume preparation and job searches.

studies, reading, math and language/writing. Bev develops an educational plan for each student based on his or her current level of knowledge, and tutors are available every week to assist in the study process. At any one time, approximately 22 students are preparing for the exam.

“Getting their GED is a big part of their road to recovery,” Bev says. “Having a place to ‘get well’ is a priority, but we can add something more before they leave. Returning to their families and the community prepared to continue their education or build careers—they feel like they’re getting back to normal.”

For more information on ways to support this vital program through financial or volunteer assistance, contact Leslie Freeman at (205) 425-7737, ext. 16 or lfreeman@thefoundryonline.org.

GED Preparation:

The Foundry Offers a Critical Step Toward the Future

Overcoming addictions and destructive behaviors is certainly a major component of The Foundry Recovery and Re-Entry programs and a critical first step toward rebuilding lives. But with little or no education, the potential for the future is severely limited, even for men and women who are clean and sober or who are ready to re-enter society. “So many of those in our program dropped out of school in the eighth or ninth grade,” says Beverly Woodham, GED coordinator. “Without a high-school diploma, they don’t have a whole lot of hope of moving forward in the job world.”

Bev coordinates the courses offered through The Foundry’s Education Center to help residents prepare for their GED exams. The Foundry partners with Lawson Community College, which provides state-mandated materials to help students get up to speed in five required areas of testing: science, social

studies, reading, math and language/writing. Bev develops an educational plan for each student based on his or her current level of knowledge, and tutors are available every week to assist in the study process. At any one time, approximately 22 students are preparing for the exam.

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Transforming a Dorm into a Home



Resident Dorm Leader Sheena appreciates the peace and comfort of her new room on the "Sheep" floor.

Local renowned decorators and artists pooled their creativity to transform the simple bricks and mortar of our newly renovated four-story women's dormitory into space our Recovery Program residents can truly call "home." The decorators chose colors, fabrics and accessories, including bedspreads, pillow coverings, lamps, mirrors and rugs—and the artists created original paintings on canvas—all according to themes.

Decorator Pandy Agnew, owner of The Good Life, coordinated the "Angel" theme on the dorm's second floor with artist Betty K. Freeman and says the project opened her eyes to the positive impact a pleasing decor could truly have on someone's life. "I've realized that no matter who we are or where we are in life, everyone deserves to have the best home they can have—a place that truly feels like home."

Ellen Mayer Interiors and artists Lisa Opielinski and Peggy Green Tilly designed the dorm's first floor to the theme of "Arts." Decorator Cassie Clayton partnered with artist Lila Graves on the third floor for "Nature." And "Sheep" was the theme depicted on the fourth floor by Sally May Interiors, with artists Gina Hurry, Lee Wilson and Betty K. Freeman.

Director of Women's Ministries Michele Heintz said she couldn't be more pleased with the warm and welcoming environment created for the hurting women who need a place to heal and feel God's presence. "These women left the security of their homes, their families, their familiar belongings and need to know they're loved. The designers and artists embraced this project, and when they saw the joy on the residents' faces, their hearts were filled with joy, too." Michele is also grateful to the financial supporters who contributed funds to furnish and decorate the space at \$5,000 per floor.

Come ... Be Moved by Worship

If your heart cries out for a worship experience with real people ... where the message is relevant to your daily walk ... in an environment that brings refreshment to body and soul—join us in worship at The Foundry.

Thursday Evening, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning (except first Sunday of the month), 9:30 a.m.

The Foundry Worship Center

On the corner of Fifth Avenue and 18th Street, Bessemer

A breakfast sandwich, a side salad, maybe a soft drink ... or *a new life*. When it comes to deciding what to do with a dollar, you won't find a better investment than the hope you can bring to men and women working to regain their independence by contributing \$1 per day to The Foundry—through our **Small Investment, Big Return: \$90 for 90 Days** campaign.

**SMALL INVESTMENT,
BIG RETURN:
\$90 FOR 90 DAYS**

You can help The Foundry provide cool and safe shelter, nutritious food and necessary medical care, vital addiction-recovery and re-entry programs, and God's refreshing Word by donating just \$1 per day—\$30 for 30 days, \$60 for 60 days or \$90 for the entire season. And if you visit our Web site beginning June 1, you'll hear from one Foundry resident per day—90 men and women in all—whose lives are being blessed by your generosity!

Watch your mail for more information on how you can get involved, or visit www.thefoundryonline.org to learn how to make the coming months a summer of hope.

Join Hands in Helping Others this Summer



Employees of BB&T Bank in Hoover treated The Foundry residents to an old-fashioned ice cream social.

The Foundry's outreach to our residents and the community through our volunteer program includes activities for people of all ages and interests! Those wanting to lend a hand can help in our SuperThrift Outlet, serve meals in our Outreach Center or even use their unique talents to bless our residents through music lessons, sewing classes, cooking instruction and other activities that can help them lead fulfilling and productive lives when they leave our care.

We're also in need of volunteers from the business community to provide services especially for the women in our programs, including financial planners, real estate agents, estheticians, hair stylists, mental health professionals and educators who share a common goal of empowering women through God's Word.

If you'd like to join the ranks of our caring and compassionate volunteer team this summer, visit www.thefoundryonline.org or contact Jessica Carpenter at jcarpenter@thefoundryonline.org or (205) 425-7737, ext. 19.