

WINTER 2011

THE SPARK

A PUBLICATION OF THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

A Life Reshaped ... a Family Restored

You don't have a home anymore. Until you do something, we are done.

"When my dad said that to me, it was the defining moment for my decision to change my life," says Frank Burder, who graduated from The Foundry's Recovery Program five years ago.

Frank was 27 when his father delivered the ultimatum. He had abused alcohol and drugs since he was a teenager and started dealing after high school. He went to college because his parents wanted him to, but soon dropped out. "The allure of quick money was more important than school and took over my life. I was lying to everyone—and good at keeping up my clean image. Nobody knew the extent of what I was doing." Not even his parents.

At 25 he admitted he needed help, but a 30-day rehabilitation program had little effect. He left town to live with an aunt in Michigan, but his problems went with him. So he moved back to Alabama and into his parents' home. "My mom would go to work with me to get my paycheck because I couldn't cash it without buying drugs. I had taken my parents down this road for three or four years and they were having trouble in their marriage because of me. I bottomed out and disappeared for three or four days." That's when his father told him he was no longer welcome at home . . . and we accepted him into our Recovery Program.

"It was difficult for him," says Frank's dad. "He didn't think he could do it. I told him, 'You have to, son. We can't do this for you.'" But God could. Two days after Frank joined our program, he invited Christ into his heart.

"It was time to give up control and to be serious about my life," Frank says. And he wasn't alone in his journey.

While Frank was in the program, his entire family got involved. "We wanted to support him every way we could," his dad recalls. "We visited him on Thursdays and Sundays for church. We didn't see it at the time, but by becoming part of his recovery, we were actually healing ourselves."

Frank graduated in February 2005 a changed man—a new creation with Christ at the center of his life. He went back to college, earned a degree in Web design and started his own company. He met his wife, Rebekah, at church and she shares his devotion to God. The couple joined Adventures In Missions (AIM), and after several trips to Nicaragua—establishing Bible-based recovery programs similar to The Foundry's—they returned home to continue their work with AIM, helping others enter the mission field.

Frank now says he was blessed by his parents' actions, no matter how harsh they seemed at the time. "You have to stop enabling your loved ones (who are battling drug and alcohol addiction). That's a hard thing for parents and husbands and wives to do."

Frank's story demonstrates the emphasis we place on not only healing the individuals in our care, but restoring their families, as well. It also shows how the impact of your financial support can begin a ripple effect that touches lives around the globe!

We invite you to make a special anniversary gift today—of \$40 or more—to help us continue to be a place where God can change hearts and transform lives.



**Celebrating
40 Years
of Restoring Hope
and Rebuilding
Lives**



THE SPARK
Winter 2011 • Vol. 8, Issue 1

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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

Auto Sales Center
1402 4th Avenue North

YOU HELPED MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

JANUARY — DECEMBER 2010

Nights of lodging	92,575
Meals served	275,861
Recovery Program graduates	109
Re-Entry Program graduates	20
Residents earning GEDs	20
People receiveing free clothing	639
Food boxes distributed	429
Residents and community members receiving medical, dental, optical and prescription assistance	6,704
Volunteer hours	3,440

Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

In February this ministry we now call The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center will be 40 years old. As we recall the many miracles and milestones of the past four decades, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the magnitude of God's faithfulness.

When we arrived here in 1996, it was to build upon the foundation laid by the godly men who started Bessemer Rescue Mission in 1971. The Lord had been true in guiding them to create a short-term refuge for the homeless—many of them addicts. Our vision was to expand the scope of the ministry to provide a place where both men and women battling addiction could permanently transform their lives through the power of Jesus Christ. We had every intention, but none of the tools. We had few staff and inadequate facilities to house a vision that large.

God, again, was faithful—over the years He blessed The Foundry with a staff that now numbers over 60 and more than 15 buildings that house our chapel, enterprises, community outreach services and comfortable lodging facilities here in Bessemer, as well as our beautiful farm near Cullman. He went above and beyond what we asked for or even imagined!

In 2005 we felt called to expand this ministry once again. We realized a good portion of the individuals coming out of the prison system had the same issues as those coming to The Foundry. We acquired Re-Entry Ministries to provide ex-inmates the opportunity to transition back into society as productive citizens. Through God's design, the results have been greater than we'd hoped.

The Foundry continues to be God's work in progress. Yet as we create more opportunities to share His hope and mercy with the addicted, homeless and destitute, the tragedies of substance abuse, broken families and shattered lives bring an ever-increasing number of men and women to our doors. As big as our vision is, we're not yet big enough to help all of them.

That's why we're grateful, too, for God's faithfulness in bringing friends like you to partner with us on this incredible journey—and for *your* faithfulness in holding our vision as your own. Our prayer for the next 40 years is that we'll one day be able to welcome every person who is ready to be faithful in building a new life.

In His service,

Rev. Bill Heintz
Executive Director

Michele Heintz
Director of Women's Ministries



Rev. Bill and Michele Heintz believe God's incredible role in The Foundry's history is described in the words of Ephesians 3:20: Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us . . .

Did You Know?

The Foundry opened its first emergency shelter for homeless women on New Year's Eve, 1992. Then called Bessemer Rescue Mission, the women's facility held 10 beds. Today, the four-story women's dormitory at 1800 Fourth Avenue North—which underwent a complete renovation in 2009—offers a home-like environment for 52 women in The Foundry's Recovery Program.



Transforming the Lives of the Addict, the Ex-Inmate and the Destitute

Recovery for the Addict



"I was about to lose my husband, my daughter, my home," says Kim Upton, who entered The Foundry's long-term Recovery Program in 1999 after she received her eighth DUI conviction and risked being sent to prison for the second time in her life.

Kim says it was her family who finally convinced her to come to The Foundry. "At 9 years old, my daughter told me she loved me but didn't like the mommy I'd become and didn't want to live with me anymore. My husband, who adopted my daughter when she was little, threatened to divorce me and take her away." At The Foundry, Kim rededicated her life to Christ. "I thought the Lord couldn't love me enough after everything I'd done. But He does. My life has been restored, much more than one-hundred fold."

Our recovery programs for men and women are devoted to giving residents like Kim the spiritual and emotional guidance they need to permanently overcome the addictions, habits and behaviors that are destroying their futures. Our Christ-centered curriculum includes Bible study, prayer and worship, and classes that focus on rebuilding self-esteem. Essential life skills—budgeting, anger management, parenting and setting appropriate boundaries—are taught to foster successful everyday living. Residents also assist the needy in Bessemer by packing food boxes and serving meals at our Community Outreach Center.

Just last year, Kim and her husband founded a ministry in Hartselle, Alabama, to help other women battling addiction. "The Foundry was such an amazing training field—the best year of my entire life," she says.

Re-Entry for the Ex-Inmate

Rodrick Hightower robbed a store at age 18 . . . and was sent to prison for 14 years. When he was released last summer, "I wasn't prepared to live on my own," he says. "In prison, you're surrounded by people all the time—you sleep in a dorm with 200 other men. Technology had changed on me, too. I had to adapt back into society."



Rodrick was accepted into The Foundry's Re-Entry Program, which mimics the "real world" inside our walls. It's a loving environment that provides ex-inmates the opportunity to merge successfully into their community as, over a period of six months, they gradually build greater levels of maturity and responsibility, develop sound life and work skills, and restore broken relationships.

"I'm adjusting well," Rodrick says. "The Foundry helped me locate a job, which keeps me focused and away from those still involved in illegal activity. I'm rebuilding my relationship with my family. And I just rededicated my life to God." When he graduates, he wants to study business management and one day own his own restaurant.

While the national prison recidivism rate stands at 85 percent, only 11 percent of The Foundry's Re-Entry Program graduates have returned to prison. That's why Rodrick recommends The Foundry to others released from incarceration. "You are going to need a lot of support, and faith-based programs like this one can help you come back into society. I see the positive changes in people's lives who've been through what I went through."

Rescue for the Frightened and Destitute

Mary, a 21-year-old single mother of an infant and a toddler, faces one of the most common challenges afflicting the poverty-stricken and near-homeless in our area: Her family's needs—as basic as they are—often exceed Mary's financial capacity to provide for them. When that happens, she might be forced to make tough choices. Should she buy food to feed the babies . . . or pay the rent and utilities . . . or purchase her prescription medicine? Fortunately, she has a better option—The Foundry's Community Outreach Center.

Mary comes to our Outreach Center each month for food boxes that contain enough groceries for several nutritious meals. "And when my son and daughter were born, The Foundry helped me with beds for them and baby clothes," she says. In addition to food, clothing and household goods, struggling families and individuals can also join The Foundry for weekday meals in the dining room and receive necessary health-care services. Our staff also works with clients on an individual basis to meet specific needs. Mary believes she'd also be lost without the words of comfort and encouragement she receives during each visit to the Community Outreach Center.

For 40 years, financial support from friends like you has made possible thousands of stories of recovery, re-entry and rescue like these. Your over-and-above anniversary gift—of \$40 or more—will be put to work immediately, restoring more hope . . . and rebuilding more lives. God bless you.



A Timeline of The Foundry's Growth and Outreach

- **1971:** The Bessemer Rescue Mission—founded by Sam Reynolds to save lost souls, rescue the perishing and provide a place for transient and homeless men to find food, clothing and shelter—is incorporated.



Rev. Bob Bell, a recovered alcoholic, is appointed the first executive director.

- **YEAR:** With the help of Board Chairman Rev. Gerald Price and his friends, Bessemer Rescue Mission constructs a 5,000-square-foot building at 608 18th Street that includes two offices, a chapel, dining room, kitchen, storage room, clothes closet and dorms and baths for 18 men.



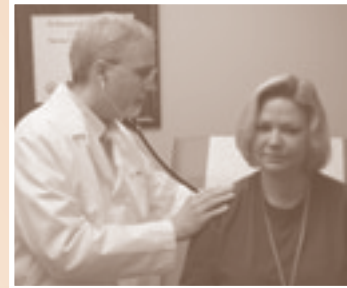
- **1992:** Bessemer Rescue Mission opens a shelter for homeless women.
- **1996:** Rev. Bill Heintz becomes executive director of the Bessemer Rescue Mission with a vision to provide a place for men and women addicted to drugs and alcohol to permanently transform their lives through the power of Jesus Christ.
- **1997:** First Alliance Church at 1816 Sixth Avenue North in Bessemer is purchased and renovated to provide 39 additional beds for men in the long-term Recovery Program.

- **2004:** The Mission changes its name to The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center. The original mission is renovated to include a commercial kitchen, dining room for 150 and a food pantry—all part of the present-day Community Outreach Center. The Mission's thrift store relocates to 727 Ninth Avenue North, and the new SuperThrift Outlet is one of Alabama's largest thrift stores, helping generate funds that are critical to the ministry's growth.



- **2005:** The Foundry takes over Re-Entry Ministries to provide men leaving the prison system a safe haven and opportunity to transition back into society as productive citizens.

- **2006:** The Foundry Medical Clinic opens to provide full-time healthcare to residents of The Foundry and low-income families in the community.



- **2007:** The Foundry opens a new Worship Center at 1800 Fourth Avenue North, which includes a 500-seat auditorium for weekly worship services for residents, their families and the community, and classrooms for daily educational sessions.

- **2009:** The four-story Women's Dormitory opens, offering a home-like environment for 52 women in the Recovery Program. Foundry Farm opens near Cullman, as an extension of the men's Recovery Program. The Education Center opens to provide computer training, literacy classes and GED courses.



- **2010:** The former women's facility is renovated to provide transitional housing for up to 12 women who have completed the Recovery Program.

- **2011:** *The Foundry celebrates 40 years of restoring hope and rebuilding lives, thanking partners for standing alongside them and inviting their financial support in the years ahead.*



You've
Been
There
for Us!

As we celebrate these milestones in our history, it's important to celebrate those who helped make them possible—friends and supporters like you, whose faithful giving allows us to realize God's purpose for this ministry. We thank the Lord every day for your generosity.

But our work is not—and never will be—complete. New drugs of choice . . . discouraging economic conditions . . . overwhelming social pressures . . . and the changing face and form of addiction and homelessness continue to threaten futures and families, and your partnership is more important than ever before.

We invite you to attend a *Lunch and Learn* and tour our facilities to see your gifts in action. Or, become a member of our new Foundry Fellowship and join others who share their understanding of and commitment to rescue, recovery and re-entry by supporting our programs at a significant financial level. To learn more about these opportunities, simply contact Lesley Searcy, stewardship and resources officer, at (205) 425-7737, ext. 15.

Today, we encourage you to celebrate with us by making an anniversary gift of \$40 above and beyond what you might have planned. You've been a vital part of our history, and we pray you'll help shape our future. Your ongoing compassion and generosity are so deeply appreciated.