



THE SPARK

A PUBLICATION OF THE FOUNDRY RESCUE MISSION AND RECOVERY CENTER

A Place Where Hearts are Healed and Lives Become Whole

"Before I went to prison, I got saved," shares 43-year-old Kevin. "God took away the desire for drugs I'd had since I was a teenager. He opened all kinds of doors for me. I had my own business. I had a wife and kids, and we were happy." Then pride came knocking on Kevin's door. "I'll never forget that day—I decided to get some drugs, and I took that first hit out in my shed. Right then, the devil started in with the lies: 'God turned His back on you. There's no hope, there's not a chance.'"

Kevin was sent to prison and lost everything he loved. When he was released five years later, he was homeless . . . and he called The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center. "They said I'd be on a waiting list, and I didn't think I'd make it. I was shooting enough drugs to have killed a normal person. Finally they said, 'Come on in.'" Kevin entered our Recovery Program at Foundry Farm near Cullman. "After I'd been here about a month, I asked God back into my heart, and it was healed. Since then, He's done amazing things in my life. He's made me whole."

Now Kevin is an intern and project supervisor at Foundry Farm. Recently God presented the opportunity for him to help heal the life of a Cullman neighbor in need. He volunteered to do some painting in her home, and while there, he noticed she had no running water, holes in her floor and many other repairs that needed to be done.

"The place was in real bad shape," Kevin says. "It reminded me of when I was out in the world—before I came to The Foundry—living on the street and eating out of dumpsters. If it hadn't been for God putting people in my path to give me a helping hand, I wouldn't be here today."

Kevin gathered a crew of Foundry Farm residents and they put linoleum on the neighbor's floors, installed cabinets and ceiling fans and made electrical and plumbing repairs. The Foundry donated a refrigerator and stove, and the crew shared God's Good News, too. "Before we were done, we were talking about Jesus and reading the Bible with her. You know God is in it when it all just falls right together," Kevin says.

Your prayers and gifts allow The Foundry to be a place where lives are healed and become whole every day. And we're grateful when our residents and graduates share their blessings with others. God bless you for your continued support.

"We're called to give back—that's what keeps us alive!" Kevin says.



Celebrating
40 Years
of Restoring Hope
and Rebuilding
Lives



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Meet our new members on this page!

Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

While the term "healing" at The Foundry certainly applies to the arduous physical challenges of overcoming drug or alcohol addiction, for men and women striving to rebuild their lives, it has much deeper and greater implications.

Deep-seated guilt . . . regret . . . self-loathing. Our Recovery and Re-Entry residents long for spiritual healing of these destructive emotions as well, which often starts by making amends for wrongs they committed at the lowest points in their lives. That's why a significant portion of our Recovery and Re-Entry curriculum includes opportunities to "give back" through work-therapy assignments in our SuperThrift Outlets and other enterprises, community improvement projects and hands-on volunteer activities. And as you may have already read on the cover, sometimes these exchanges become life-changing encounters that help others' lives become whole.

But "giving back" doesn't only apply to our residents. The Foundry staff, too, understands the importance of demonstrating an "attitude of gratitude" in everything we do. And I pray I can express how deeply grateful we are for friends like you who make all we do possible. Thank you for giving us the amazing privilege of making lives "healed and whole."

In His service,

Rev. Bill Heintz
Executive Director



The Foundry Executive Director Bill Heintz praises a resident's efforts in our SuperThrift Outlet.

Experience how The Foundry restores hope and rebuilds lives. Attend a "Lunch & Learn" event—held the second Wednesday of every month—for an informative video and tour. Visit www.thefoundryonline.org for details and to reserve your place!

Welcome The Foundry's New Board Members!



Dr. Philip Cleveland

Philip, his wife, Trina, and their three children—Travis, Tyler and Jackson—live in Snead and attend Blountsville United Methodist Church.



Mayor Tony Petelos

Residing in Hoover, Tony attends the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Holy Trinity-Holy Cross, along with his wife Judge Teresa Petelos and their two daughters.



Paul Sumner

Paul lives in Vestavia Hills with wife Shelley and children Gage, Conner and Caroline 12. The family attends Dawson Memorial Baptist Church.

Foundry Farm Residents Get “Ready to Work”

Helping our residents prepare for the workforce is one of The Foundry’s most important roles. With assistance from Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, residents of Foundry Farm are receiving practical guidance and training.

“As part of our ‘Ready to Work’ program, Wallace State comes in two nights a week and brings a bank of computers,” explains Foundry Farm Director Dusty Hammock. Instructor Cortez Walker teaches the students how to navigate the Internet and use e-mail, and introduces them to software programs they’ll need in the workplace including Microsoft PowerPoint, Word and Excel. The training also includes constructing and submitting resumes online, and Cortez provides encouragement and insight, as well. “One of the biggest challenges the men face is the gap in their employment history,” Cortez says. “I stress they should be honest about their circumstances and there are people out there who will give them a chance.”

“Ready to Work” is receiving rave reviews from Foundry Farm residents. “Men in their 20s to men in their 60s are saying, ‘This has helped me,’” Dusty says. “When you see their faces filled with confidence over using the computer—they’re no longer stumped and the world has opened up to them—it’s really rewarding.”

Teacher Cortez is pleased with the men’s progress, as well, and feels he receives a far greater blessing from the residents than they do from him. “When I see that glimmer of hope taking hold, it does me a world of good. It could be so easy for them to give up and throw in the towel. I tell them it’s just a blip in the road, and they still have time to have a life. I want to give them that sense of hope—it’s part of my job.”

Fifty residents currently participate in the state-funded “Ready to Work” program. The Foundry is grateful for the partnership of Wallace State Community College and especially the dedication of Cortez Walker.



Foundry Farm residents gain new confidence as they gain much-needed computer skills.



Foundry Farm residents Zach (left) and Dan (right) assist shoppers in our new SuperThrift Outlet in Cullman.



Help Stock our Stores!

Your donations of gently used clothing, household items and other goods to be sold at our two SuperThrift Outlets are always greatly needed and deeply appreciated! Items can be delivered to 727 Ninth Avenue North in Bessemer and 1636 B Second Avenue Southwest in Cullman—or call (205) 424-2400 to schedule a pickup!

SuperThrift Outlet in Cullman Now Open!

The Foundry’s second SuperThrift Outlet is now open in Cullman! As with our popular SuperThrift Outlet in Bessemer, shoppers will find quality, low-price clothing, computers, appliances, furniture, household items and more. And we’re pleased to provide this resource to help our Cullman neighbors stretch their budgets. Residents of The Foundry’s Recovery Program who reside at Foundry Farm near Cullman staff the store as part of their work-therapy curriculum. More than 61 percent of The Foundry’s overall operating budget is generated through our SuperThrift Outlets and other enterprises. We invite you to visit us soon at 1636 B Second Avenue Southwest in the Cullman business district!



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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.

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Misty (center), a resident of The Foundry's Recovery Program, enjoys fellowship with her volunteer mentor Lesli Travis (right) and Bevery McClendon (left) at the May 4 women's event.

Hearts of Hope Luncheon Blesses The Foundry and Attendees

More than 500 women attended The Foundry Rescue Mission and Recovery Center's fifth annual **Hearts of Hope Benefit Luncheon and Silent Auction**, May 4 at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center in Birmingham. Proceeds benefit our Recovery Program for women. This year's event raised over \$93,000 and a portion was designated for tornado relief. "We're so grateful for everyone who turned out for the event—guests, hostesses and sponsors—in the aftermath of the tornado devastation that occurred in our area just one week earlier," says Senior Director of Women's Services Michele Heintz. "We pray we were able to bring some hope and comfort to their lives through their participation, in return."

YOU HELPED MAKE THIS POSSIBLE! JANUARY — APRIL 2011

Nights of lodging	XXXXX
Meals served	XXXXXX
Recovery Program graduates	XXX
Re-Entry Program graduates	XX
Residents earning GEDs	XX
People receiveing free clothing	XXX
Food boxes distributed	XXX
Residents and community members receiving medical, dental, optical and prescription assistance	XXXX
Volunteer hours	XXXX

Hot Strings 2011 Set for October 9!

Two-time Grammy nominee and International Bluegrass Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year **Claire Lynch** will be among the Bluegrass performers at this much-anticipated family friendly event to benefit The Foundry's programs and services. For the second season, **Hot Strings** will feature not only great music, but also great food, the work of local artists, a kids' area and sponsor booth visibility—all in the beautiful setting of The Preserve in Hoover. If you're interested in sponsorship or participating as an artist, e-mail lsearcy@thefoundryonline.org. For volunteer opportunities, e-mail jcarpenter@thefoundryonline.org. Watch for more details on our Web site—www.thefoundryonline.org—and plan now to attend!



Claire Lynch