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If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away or in honor of a special person, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:
Muncie Mission
P O Box 2349
Muncie, IN 47307-2349
 Please also include the name and address of a loved one of the person you would like a card to go to announcing your special gift. We will mail the card acknowledging your gift to the person you specify. What a wonderful way to share God's blessings!

Spotlight

Muncie Mission Ministries, Inc.
 SPRING 2011

Rebuilding Lives Since 1930

I Never Saw My Life With a Future - Only a Coffin!

"The only reason I came to Muncie Mission was because I had no other place to go. And the sooner I could get out, the better," Nick recalled. Nick had just spent the last 44 days in jail for a DUI and several other serious charges after a drunken night of terror. The ironic thing was that he had no recollection of the events that landed him in the Portland jail. He just was waiting for things to get cleared up and then he would be on his way back to Kansas.

Nick had been smoking pot since he was 12 years old and soon moved on to alcohol and drugs. He was full of anger, hatred and disappointment. "I was so lonely and hurt so bad inside that I used anything that would help me not to feel this way."

Nick was one of four children and at the age of four his parents divorced. Because of an abusive home situation, the children were separated and placed in different foster homes. At age 9, Nick and his brother were placed back in their father's care and custody. His sisters went to live with their mother. "You might think that was a good thing," Nick says, "but it wasn't long until the abuse started again. It was nothing for us to be beaten or smothered until we passed out. My dad was a master at it and it continued for three years." But when a teacher reported signs of abuse to the authorities, the boys were once again sent to foster care. Because of his anger, Nick didn't function well in these homes.

At age 13 he was sent to a group home facility that was designed for severely troubled older teens. "It was hard. I felt lost. I felt alone - and so angry," Nick says. Soon he joined a gang. He used drugs and alcohol and did things that he knew were absolutely wrong but at least he finally had a family - his gang. "I wanted to be loved and accepted. My gang would keep me no matter what; they became my family." But because of his violent activity, Nick was in and out of jail many times.

Now, here he was at Muncie Mission! Today, he knows that it was by divine appointment. Listening to the counselors didn't mean much at first - they were authority! However, what did touch his heart was seeing other men who were on a journey through the Mission's recovery program - men full of hope and peace. Several residents took this young 22 year old man under their wing. Standing 6' 6" tall and weighing 290 pounds, Nick could intimidate anyone with his size and mean demeanor. But the residents and staff embraced Nick and showed him a different way of life.

"I was so lonely and hurt so bad inside that I used anything that would help me not to feel this way."

Less Paper — More News — More Stories

Sign up now for the Muncie Mission E-Newsletter — our newest resource for the latest news, stories and updates. Simply enter your e-mail address on the enclosed remit, along with your donation, and mail it to us with the envelope provided.

8th Annual Muncie Mission Golf Tournament

'BUILDING HOPE WITH EACH STROKE'

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Players Club, Woodland Trails, Yorktown

2 Shotgun Starts - 7:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. (First-come, First-served)
 Golf & Cart
 Lunch - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Driving Range - Opens 6:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
 Snacks and drinks on the course

Register online at www.munciemission.org or contact Don Ford, 288-9122, ext.224



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Executive Director

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UPDATE 2200 walkers raised \$55,000

- Muncie Fire Department (Local 1348) led the 7th WAM from the new location of the Fieldhouse to the renovated Mission building
- Top Attendance Golden Sneaker Award went to The Gathering
- Top Fundraising Golden Sneaker Award went to Townsend Corp



Dear Friend,

What if you could start over? What changes would you make? I asked myself those questions at a recent program graduation ceremony at our Mission. We had just celebrated the accomplishment of several residents, all of whom had worked hard in life-skills, job training, counseling and Bible study – facing their strongest fears and deepest pains.

As each had an opportunity to share their testimony it became clear that their accomplishments were due to God's grace, hard work and the support and encouragement of others. This may have been our staff members, a volunteer, a pastor or Mission friend.

I left that ceremony thankful to God for working in the lives of our graduates, and to partners like you who faithfully and generously give to those in need of a second chance. As you read the story of Nick in this edition of Spotlight, I hope you, too, are encouraged by what is happening at Muncie Mission Ministries and by the lives that you are helping to impact.

Together Giving Hope,

Ray Raines, Executive Director



Nick's Story continued...

"The love and acceptance of these men and the staff caught me! And it wasn't long until God opened my heart to believe in Jesus and trust Him as the Savior of my life," Nick says with joy written all over his face. "God has a plan for me and He is changing me little by little. I am beginning to love people and find happiness and joy in life."

Nick has witnessed God perform many miracles on his behalf. During that terrible night of terror, months earlier, Nick had actually tried to strangle his twin sister and throw her out of a moving vehicle. Even though he was so drugged and he has no memory of that act, it happened. Due to technicalities, all charges were dropped but he owed large fines and fees. Working anywhere he could, Nick saved every penny and went to the courthouse on the appointed day with a money order in hand. "I was bummed because I knew I was \$150 short. I figured they would throw me back in jail and that was ok. But I had prayed for God to help me no matter what the outcome."

When he tried to explain to the clerk why he didn't have enough for his entire fine, she stopped him and said the money order was for more than he owed. "What, how can that be?" Nick asked. She explained that someone, an anonymous donor, came in the

day before and paid \$150 toward his fine and he only owed \$949. He was given a refund for \$101.

"Isn't that just like God! I had enough to pay off the last fine in Delaware County of \$100 plus \$.79 for the money order. I had 21 cents left," Nick laughed.

"God has a plan for me and He is changing me little by little. I am beginning to love people and find happiness and joy in life."

When asked how the Mission helped him, he answered, "I can't explain it. I just know God got hold of my heart and won't let go. I have lots of junk to work out yet but I believe God has a plan for my life and the Mission staff is helping me become the man God intended me to be. I am learning the word of God and going to a good church where I am part of a real family. The Mission's counselors really care about me – all of us here."

Nick is continuing on his spiritual journey and makes seeking God a priority. Is he still planning to return to Kansas? "Yes, but only to live up to my responsibility to pay fines I owe there. And I want to see my brother and sisters. But I have no intention to go back to my old lifestyle. I need to finish my recovery program at the Mission and let God lead me into my future. That's funny. I never saw my life with a future before – only a coffin. I'm excited at what's ahead."

Pantry & Kitchen Needs

Specific Needs at Muncie Mission Ministries

If you, your church group or coworkers would like to donate needed items to help the hurting and homeless, please call 765-288-9122 ext 225 for more information or to schedule a pickup.

Thank you!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Ground coffee | Canned fruit |
| Peanut Butter | Tea bags |
| Powdered drink mixes | Sugar |
| Paper towels | Syrup |
| Mayonnaise | Ketchup |
| Rice | Cereal |

Bed & Bread Report

Winter 2011

Thank you for your gifts that provide essential food and much-needed shelter for the hungry and homeless in our community. Your support is vital and appreciated!

	Nights of Shelter	Nutritious Meals
January	1694	5327
February	1563	5185
March	1579	5508