



**Ministries:**

*Clothing Bank*

*Food Bank*

*The Diner*

*Epic 1:3*

*Worship Services*

*Youth Programs*

*Baby Basics*

*Bible Studies*

*Celebrate Recovery*

*G.E.D. Classes*

*R.O.A.R.*

*Joseph's Place*

*Jail Ministry*

**Needs List:**

**15 Passenger Van**

**Disposable Diapers**

**Baby formula**

**Baby wipes**

**Blankets**

**Boxes of cereal for  
youth snacks**

**Craft supplies**

**Bright colored paper  
& poster boards**

**Volunteers**

**Children's Clothing**

**Your Love, Prayers,  
& Support!**

## Message From Our Pastor: The Peace of God

Hello friends and partners:

I hope and pray that each of you are safe and enjoying a good and fulfilling life during these times of stress. With tornados, floods, fires, tsunamis, mudslides, wars and rumors of wars; I pray for your safety and protection as we get closer to the return of our Lord and Savior.

We are busy as usual here at the Potter's Wheel, and are gearing up for the big Fourth of July celebration, where we expect to feed over a thousand people. There will be singers and entertainment for the young and old. It is always a joy for us to see people around the inner city being blessed, and your giving has helped with every program at the Potter's Wheel. I'm so thankful that you have a heart for others and have shared with us in this endeavor.

The scripture I felt led to send out is found in **St. John 14:27**

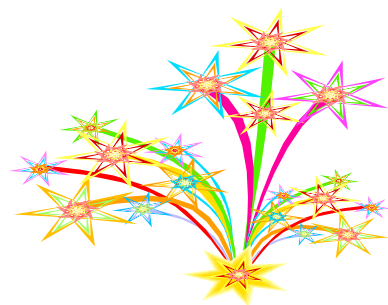
**"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."\*KJV**

Dear ones, I speak peace over you and your circumstances; I ask

our Lord that He would rain peace upon you, your home, your marriage, your children, your finances and every area of your life. I ask God to show you how much we appreciate you and all that you do for the Potter's Wheel. May He bless you coming in and going out.

We are careful with any and all donations, for we are accountable to God. We have a complete audit every year so that our partners can know that we use the funds for the good of the poor and hungry, and for the running of the Potter's Wheel.

Love in Christ,  
Sharon Ballard  
Pastor's Wife



For more information  
on our 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
celebration call  
(812) 401-4440



*Celebrate Recovery  
A Christian 12-Step Program  
Friday's at 1:00PM  
Call (812) 401-4440*



*Amanda Schaefer and  
Jonah Courlione (top right), with  
the children of parents who  
attend Baby Basics*



*Joshua Knabel (far left), and  
Amanda Schaefer (far right),  
with several youth*

### The EPIC 1:3 Vision

*"...To teach the inexperienced  
the ropes and give our young  
people a grasp on reality."  
Proverbs 1:3 (Message)*

## Fall Festival Booth Becomes Reality

After years of praying and believing, our faith has been rewarded. The Potter's Wheel has been approved to have a booth at the 2011 West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. For those who are not familiar with the Fall Festival, it is an annual street festival where different community organizations sell unusual or specialty food items in booths in Evansville. **This is big!** We hope our supporters are as excited as we are.

Our full menu is still in the planning stage, but whatever food is served, there is no doubt that it will be extremely delicious. We are already at work putting teams of volunteers together. Our booth will be open each day 10:00 a.m. until closing.

Volunteers will be needed to work two hour shifts at the festival as well as help with cleaning and set up. Further assistance will be required with all the tasks that go into preparing and transporting any food or materials to the west side. Anyone interested in volunteering for the brand new Potter's Wheel Fall Festival booth, or to help with other tasks, should call the Potter's Wheel at 812-401-4440 and ask for Lauren Legate. We are counting on you to come out and support us!

Lauren Legate  
Potter's Wheel  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Northeast Park Baptist Church Volunteers in Soup Kitchen

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in" Matthew 25:35*

A year has passed since members of Northeast Park Baptist Church put this bible verse into action by serving breakfast the second Saturday of each month at the Potter's Wheel. We started out with a small group of Christians who wanted to serve the Lord in a mission outside of our church. Before taking on the responsibility of providing breakfast every month, there were several meetings that took place where the importance of this monthly commitment was stressed. After much prayer, thought and consideration, we accepted the challenge. Our members have fulfilled their

promise and **continue to be committed!** Not only have we had additional church members volunteer but also friends of members who go to different churches. Several Memorial High School students are now volunteering almost every month. The numbers of volunteers have increased because we make the work fun and enjoy the fellowship. We've also seen an increase in the unity of fellow believers within our own church family. Members who haven't been involved in other church activities before are finding this mission to be very rewarding in many ways. But most importantly, we serve God by serving those who are hungry and thirsty.

Rick Simpson  
Missions Director  
Northeast Park Baptist Church

## Teen Challenge: A Testimony from Former Crack Addict

The following is a testimony from Jerome, a former Evansville native who was assisted by the Potter's Wheel and Teen Challenge. Ever since I have given my life back to the Lord, my life has changed, and I will never be the same again. My life was bad five years ago. I was a drug addict, an alcoholic and a womanizer. God has made all those areas in my life change. I don't live that way anymore. It took some major changes. First, I allowed God to be my master. Then I began working on my inward self, making heart and mind changes. You have to allow scripture to change your life and, above all else, you must have a personal relationship with God,

Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God equals Almighty, for "He is Lord." Jesus Christ is the Son of Man, "The Savior," and the Holy Spirit is "The Supernatural Living." My testimony is that I was in a car wreck. My brother-in-law was killed, and I was badly injured. I was even paralyzed for a time. But God restored my body and opened doors for me to change. The Potter's Wheel helped me go to Teen Challenge in Cleveland, Ohio, and there my transformation began. After completing the Teen Challenge program, I began working for Teen Challenge in New York and later Texas. I want to thank the Potter's Wheel for helping me with a second chance on life.

Jerome



Jonah Courlione (left), an Intern, with LaQuinton, a child who attends the Thursday night youth program

## GED Student Shares Her Experience

Alana Phillips, a GED student at the Potter's Wheel, was asked the question "How do you define success?" for her practice essay test question. Her instructor, Phyllis Lloyd, was so moved by her response that she asked Alana if she would share her answer through our newsletter. Alana's response is as follows: To many, success is defined by one's annual income or monthly bank statement. To some though, success is measured by the amount of hard work a person dedicates to a cause and the feeling of pride and self-fulfillment one feels seeing hard work pay off.

I gave up on my education and dropped out of high school at a young age. Every day that choice has followed and presented me with new obstacles. Finding employment was difficult as many employers are reluctant to hire a

high school drop-out. I eventually married and became a mother. It was soon after that I decided it was time to complete my education, but I knew it would require much hard work and dedication. A lot of time was spent studying, not only to re-educate myself on subjects I'd learned in school, but also to teach myself in subjects I never took the time to learn all those years ago. It has been a challenge but a necessary one; for I know that the knowledge I gain from this experience will benefit me—as well as my family—for years to come.

I am now nearing the end of my journey to finish my education. When my journey is complete I will feel as though I am the most successful person in the world because I know that I worked  
(continued on page 4)



Joshua Knabel, (upper left), and Gene Murray (far right) with children at Epic



Lauren Van Hook mentoring children during the Epic program

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their spirits always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."*

*Matthew 18:10 (ESV)*



Justin Pollock, a high school volunteer, with a child at Youth night

#### INFORMATION WATCH

**Be on the Watch for  
Stories about  
Vacation Bible  
School and  
Summer Camp  
Coming Soon!**



Baby Basics



Jonathan Weir (right)  
with children at  
Thursday Night Youth

## GED Student Shares Her Experience (Continued)

*(continued from page 3)*  
hard and achieved a goal that my family can be proud of. If I can inspire even one person to stay in school (or return, if that is the case) then my success will one day be another's success as well.

**Alana Philips  
GED Student**

*If you, a family member or friend, are interested in attending GED classes in order to obtain your GED, the Potter's Wheel has 3 tutors who will work with your schedule to help prepare you for the exam. Our main instructor,*

*Phyllis Lloyd, and our two tutors, Debbi Murray and Lauren Van Hook, would be more than willing to help equip you for the test. The hours for GED tutoring have been extended **through August**. They are now:*

**Tuesday – Friday 1:30 – 5 pm**

*Please call ahead so that we can ensure someone is here to meet with you.*

*Daycare is also provided for those with children who would still like to be a part of the GED program.*

## Still Keeping Evansville Beautiful

On April 16, the Potter's Wheel participated in the Keep Evansville Beautiful/Great American Cleanup kick-off day. In spite of rain, teams of volunteers went into the Goosetown and surrounding neighborhoods and cleaned sidewalks, alleys and gutters. Volunteers also worked at Joseph's Place, a home for previously incarcerated men. This is a ministry that was recently added to the Potter's Wheel. That same day, the city held its annual tire-recycling project. Since spring 2006, the Potter's Wheel group has been part of the Great American Cleanup on its kick-off day, but we don't stop there. By holding several neighborhood cleanups throughout spring, summer and fall, the Potter's Wheel volunteers have maintained the condition of the neighborhood by bringing in hundreds of bags of trash and

litter plus taking truckloads of abandoned tires to the Civic Center parking lot. Each year the number of tires has decreased. This spring only two were found for recycling. The neighborhood's appearance shows how much change can be made when you have great volunteers and neighbors who care.

We want to give special thanks to the Newburgh Young Life group headed by Seth Michels, who came to our May 7<sup>th</sup> cleanup. The Newburgh Young Life group concentrated on Goosetown Park and the surrounding area. The Potter's Wheel would like to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who braved the rain and trekked through the mud to help keep our neighborhood clean.

Lauren Legate  
Potter's Wheel  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Homeless No More

View Full Article at [www.potterswheelministries.com](http://www.potterswheelministries.com)



Percy Before

Percy is originally from Alabama but has lived on and off the streets of Evansville for the past twenty-five years. However, he has not always been homeless and originally lived with his family running a lawn service. One day Percy's life was tragically changed when a gang brutally beat, raped and killed his teenage daughter leaving her naked body in an ally. When justice was not served to all four gang members guilty of committing the crime, Percy's anger overtook him resulting in drug and alcohol addictions and ultimately life on the streets with no job, money or medical care. During Percy's time on the streets he turned to violence to survive and has been in and out of jail innumerable times, slept wherever he could find shelter including abandoned houses and per Percy, "in places where dogs would not sleep," and found most of his food in trash cans.

Percy's life changed when the Potter's Wheel was opened in 2003, and little did Percy know how much his life was going to change over the next few years when he experienced the love of God through Pastor Mike Ballard. Percy originally had the intent to dictate and bully the Potter's Wheel, and manipulate his way with violence just as he had been doing on the street with a "club" as Pastor Mike calls it, but again per Percy, his "American Express card" which he stated "you never leave home without." However, Percy had met his match, a pastor who was not afraid of him but showed the love of God unconditionally to a very unlovable man. Percy soon found out that when Pastor Mike said the "club" was not allowed at

the Potter's Wheel during services or the soup kitchen that the "club" would not be allowed inside and the rules would be enforced. After a few matches, Percy became compliant and quit insisting the "club", his most prized possession, be with him while he was at the Potter's Wheel, but that did not mean Percy would not be banned multiple times, for brief periods, during the upcoming years for misbehavior and disorderly conduct.

After years of witnessing to Percy and praying, **God's love won out!** Percy is now a believer in Christ and attends a local church every Sunday morning. Percy is now living in an apartment and is no longer a threat to society. Percy describes his past anger and violence as being out of control and not himself. Now that Percy has committed himself to Christ, he has been freed from the evil that dominated and ruled his life. Percy says he loves, loves, loves, loves Pastor Mike and Sharon who he refers to as "Momma" and "Dad" and states there is no place like home, referring to the Potter's Wheel. The Potter's Wheel will be participating in a fundraiser for the homeless on August 5-6<sup>th</sup> with the Mid America Bow Fishing Organization, The 4C's of Southern Illinois and Aurora. For more information you may call the Potter's Wheel at 812-401-4440.

Shari Bryant  
Potter's Wheel  
Board Member

**UPDATE: BABY BASICS**  
*Be sure to update your calendars for the upcoming Baby Basics speakers*  
Every Wednesday

- June 22** -Scott Township Fire Dept.
- June 29**-Crafts with Missy Gwaltney
- July 6**-Wessleman's Nature Center
- July 13**-Arc Crisis Care Center
- July 20**-Basic Plumbing Repairs
- July 27**-Right to Life
- Aug. 3**-Family Games with Debbi
- Aug.10**-GED with Phyllis Lloyd
- Aug. 17**-St. Mary's Hospital
- Aug. 24**-YWCA Children's Program
- Aug. 31**-Lampion Center



Percy Today

## Potter's Wheel

333 Jefferson Ave  
Evansville, IN 47713

PHONE:  
(812) 401-4440

FAX:  
(812) 401-4442

E-MAIL:  
[pastormikeballard@gmail.com](mailto:pastormikeballard@gmail.com)

If you help the poor, you are  
lending to the Lord---  
And He will repay you!  
Proverbs 19: 17 NLT

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.potterswheelministries.com](http://www.potterswheelministries.com)

## Make a Donation to the Potter's Wheel

Making a financial contribution to the Potter's Wheel Ministries has great benefits. Not only do you feed the hungry, provide daily necessities for individuals and families, and provide a safe environment for people to learn and recover, you are also honoring God by your generosity. Countless lives have and will continue to be

changed - thanks to the donations from partners like you. All donations to and through the Potter's Wheel Ministries are tax deductible. Each person who gives or makes a donation will receive a tax donation receipt at the beginning of each year for tax purposes. Donations may be made online through PayPal at [potterswheelministries.com](http://potterswheelministries.com)

or via mail. Currently, the Potter's Wheel is in great need of a 15 - passenger van to pick up the elderly for services and to transport children on outings and field trips.

### GOING GREEN

If you want to help in the Green Movement, please send us your e-mail address. It saves money and resources!

## *Weekly Sunday Services...*

*Worship Services* are held Sunday afternoons at 2:30 pm each week. Pastor Mike Ballard and Pastor Mike Kough lead the service. The worship team consists of Holy

Spirit filled musicians and singers who lead the worship and praise portion of each service with uplifting music. Visitors are most welcome and are treated

as our special honored guests. Sunday school classes are available for children of all ages.

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