

***"I want
to be the
mother
God
planned for
me to be."***

"I haven't spent Christmas at home with my children in so long," says Leann, a resident of our Women's Recovery Program. That's why the joy of knowing she'll be with her son and daughters for the holidays this year makes her heart sing.

So does the opportunity to become the mother her children deserve and God intended her to be. A few short years ago, she would never have dreamed it was possible.

Director's Letter

Dear Friend,

At The Foundry Ministries, we view sin in the light that we all have sinned... and we all can be forgiven.



Chief Executive Officer Micah Andrews and his family look forward to witnessing the wonders of God's love at the holidays and wish The Foundry's donors and partners a very blessed Christmas.

We find the holiday season inspires forgiveness. It's a time when hearts are open to God's message and the wonders of His love! This newsletter shares how you can join with us in creating a special Christmas celebration for those in their journey toward healing and forgiveness.

God bless you and Merry Christmas.

With gratitude,

Micah Andrews
Chief Executive Officer

Many of those in our care acknowledge that their lifestyles have been sinful. And their realization creates a perception of guilt, not only in the legal term, but in the sense of the wrongs they have committed toward others.

Our approach to helping these hurting and broken people is not to pile on additional guilt, but rather to allow each individual to understand, in their own time, their need for Christ's redemption.

We encourage them to know that, for a season, their journey through recovery is all about them – about renewing their minds in Christ so they think differently than in the past. Then their focus shifts from accepting God's forgiveness to the forgiveness desired from others and also to forgiving those who have wronged them.

"And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven."

—James 5:15 (NLT)

hearts of hope February 2018

A Luncheon and Marketplace to Benefit The Foundry Women's Recovery Program

Consider these important ways to take part:

♥ **As a Table Hostess:** Purchase a table for \$1,500 and fill it with eight friends or associates who share your desire to support women battling addiction.

♥ **As an Event Sponsor:** Opportunities are available for churches and corporations to receive special marketing benefits.

Watch our website for more details, including location and keynote speaker. To become a hostess or table sponsor, contact Julia Charleston at **(205) 432-0347** or jcharleston@foundryministries.com.

The Foundry's 2017 Christmas Card

Let friends, loved ones and associates know they are important in your life by including them in a cause that is important to you.



Glorious is our beautiful holiday greeting card designed by local artist Betty K. Freeman. Each card can be "purchased" for \$10, and the message describes how your contribution will be used in support of The Foundry's programs to restore lives and reunite families.

The cards will be sent to you to hand deliver. Or if you would like to provide a list of names and addresses, we'll hand address and mail the cards for you. Order your cards by visiting foundryministries.com and clicking on the "Christmas card" image, or by calling **(205) 432-0347**.

A Heart Restored by God's Love

Leann and her husband once had good jobs and a nice home where they were raising their three children. But Leann fell victim to an addiction that cost them their family and their future.

"I was spending more and more money on drugs," she shares.

The couple eventually divorced, and her husband took custody of the children. Leann was arrested and incarcerated for nearly a year. When she was released, she had nowhere to go. "I moved back in with my parents," she says, "and that was hard."

She vowed to maintain her sobriety so she'd be allowed to have contact with her children. But two years ago, when she learned she wasn't included in their father's plans for them at Christmas, she began using again. **"My heart was broken – I was so depressed,"** she says. After several more arrests, Leann knew she had to change if she was ever going to be restored to her children. And she came to The Foundry for help.

In our faith-based program, she has built a strong relationship with the Lord. Through employment-readiness at our Dental Clinic, she is gaining marketable skills. As a dorm leader, she is learning the virtues of patience and compassion. She's determined to put her experience together with God's guidance to become the mother her children deserve.

Last Christmas was a first step in that direction. The children visited her here, and partners in the community provided gifts for her to give them (see sidebar). **"To see their faces light up because 'mom' actually got them gifts... it was so awesome!"** she says. This year she will graduate in time to be home with them for the holidays, and it will be a celebration of the new life ahead of them.

"I want to go to work, take care of my children, lead a normal life and be the mother God planned for me to be," Leann says today. **"This place changes your heart."**



Make 2018 Your Year of *Yes!*

Order your copy of *The YES Journey* by Pastor Bill and Michele Heintz and give this inspiring gift to friends, co-workers and loved ones. The book will inspire, encourage and equip you in your daily walk with the Lord.

The Yes Journey is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Thank you for sharing the wonders of God's love – food, shelter, guidance and restoration – with all those in our care through your gifts and prayers. Your continued support this holiday season will be deeply appreciated.

Show Your Care with **Boxes of Hope**



This Thanksgiving we'll distribute more than **200 Boxes of Hope** to families in need.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- 1.** Sign up online at **foundryministries.com/boxesofhope** or call **(205) 425-7737** to let us know you'll be filling a box for a family in need.
- 2.** Fill a 10-by-10-inch box with the following:
 - 1 14-oz. can cranberry sauce
 - 2 15.25-oz. cans each (6 total) of mixed fruit
corn
green beans
 - 1 29-oz. can yams
 - 1 8-oz. packet instant potatoes
 - 1 6-oz. box stuffing
 - 1 5.1-oz. Jell-O no-bake cheesecake mix
 - 1 1-oz. packet turkey gravy
 - 1 10-oz. bag marshmallows
- 3.** Include a gift of \$15 for each food box to cover the cost of a turkey, or give online at **foundryministries.com/donate**.
- 4.** Include a devotional book and a card or letter to a family, and decorate your box if you wish.
- 5.** Deliver your box(es) to our Women's Center, 1800 Fourth Avenue N., Bessemer, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., by **Friday, November 10th**.

If you're unable to fill boxes yourself but still want to help ... visit foundryministries.com for a link to Amazon.com where you can purchase "food boxes" prepackaged with all the items listed above and have them shipped directly to us.

Make an Impact Through Year-End Giving

The Foundry offers a variety of giving opportunities to demonstrate your compassion for hurting men, women and families.

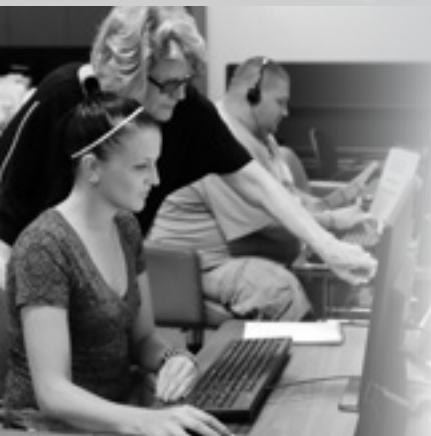
- Donations of **cash** are the simplest form of giving and offer the greatest benefit to our ministry.
- Including our ministry in your **estate plan** may offer current tax incentives as well as ensure your legacy of giving carries on.



- Gifts of gently used clothing and household items to our **Thrift Stores** support our services and provide employment-readiness opportunities for our program participants.
- Used **cars, trucks and vans** can be utilized in The Foundry's programs or sold for funding.
- Your commitment to send **monthly gifts** or contribute electronically through our **Simple Giving Plan** helps ensure a consistent source of donated income.

For more information on these and other ways to support our ministry, contact us at **205-424-HOPE (4673)** or development@foundryministries.com.

How Your Company Can Connect with The Foundry



The Foundry Ministries **Compassion in Action** program allows companies to engage their employees to connect to a greater purpose, create value among their employees, promote their corporate social responsibility and change the lives of the individuals and families we serve.

As a Compassion in Action partner, companies can offer employees an easy way to engage weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Volunteer engagement opportunities include serving food to our neighbors in need through our Mobile Food Pantry, sponsoring a meal, assisting program participants with career-readiness skills, hosting a donation drive, supporting seasonal events and many more!

To learn more about how your company can show its compassion in action, contact Erin Bentley at ebentley@foundryministries.com.

Reshaping Lives: January - August 2017

89,357 Nights of lodging



116,687

Hours of counseling, classes and chapel

293,097
Meals served



444,835

Hours of employment training and education



122
Program graduates



DELIGHT A CHILD DURING THE SEASON OF GIVING



Hold a drive for toys and books for the parents in our care to wrap and give to their little ones at Christmas. Purchase gifts from the list on our website and bring them to The Foundry Women's Center – 1800 Fourth Avenue North in Bessemer – from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by December 15. Or go to **Amazon.com** and search "The Foundry Ministries Wish List," select the items you'd like to order and have them shipped directly to us.

Thank you for making Christmas special for boys and girls!

BE A PART OF THE SEASON OF GIVING

Visit foundryministries.com/season-of-giving to learn more.

Boxes of Hope: Feed a family in need this Thanksgiving.

Community Thanksgiving: Distribute Boxes of Hope to neighbors in need.

Gifts of Hope: Create a Christmas to remember by purchasing gifts for the children of those in our Recovery and Re-Entry programs.

Notes of Hope: Bring a little Christmas cheer by writing Christmas cards to those in our programs.

Christmas Stockings: Stuff stockings full of Christmas goodies for 250 impoverished elementary school children.

Wrap and Pack: Wrap and pack Gifts of Hope to be ready for children to open on Christmas Day.

Bake and Take: Bake an assortment of your favorite cookies, cakes or pies for our program participants.

Party for a Purpose: When hosting your holiday party, ask guests to bring a designated item to donate to The Foundry.