



# Boulware Mission Newsletter

## Random Acts of Kindness

Do you enjoy going to parties? If so, do you have a couple of hours each month to help put smiles on children's faces while supporting one of your favorite charities at the same time?

That is what the Owensboro Twister's do... they twist at local events and parties, making balloon animals and putting big bright smiles on children's faces. And, every penny that they make twisting gets donated to Boulware Mission.

The Twisters club began with a caring man who believed in doing one random act of kindness each day. Tom Gaston was a retired English professor from Purdue University who knew how to do magic and twist balloons.

One December day in

2007, his random act of kindness was to twist for children at the Goodfellows Club's annual Christmas party. He learned that day that one person twisting for all of those children was not enough, so he set out to recruit some friends.

The following year, he and several friends twisted at the party and from there the Twisters club was formed.

The club started out twisting at 2-4 gigs per month. They did not charge to twist, as they were all volunteers, but they did accept donations and all money raised went to charity.

As the club became more and more popular, they were requested for more and more events.

Soon, they adopted Boulware as their charity of choice and began to donate all money raised to the mission.

Richard Thomson took over the club in 2010, because Mr. Gaston was in his eighties and in poor health. Mr. Gaston passed away in March of last year, but he certainly left a legacy behind with his Twisters club.

The club continues to thrive, with a total of 112 gigs booked for 2015.

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*The Twisters twisting at the Trail of Treats at Smother's Park.*

## Thank You For Your Life Changing Support

The reason we send this newsletter out is to keep you up to date and to say THANK YOU for your support of Boulware.

Your gifts of money, food, hygiene items, time, and other necessities are what keep Boulware Mission

open and homeless individuals off the street!

We see God at work every day through you.

He uses ordinary people to accomplish great things and small, humble gifts to make a big impact.

So many people out there feel that they have nothing to give or that they cannot make a big enough impact, so they just don't do anything. That is not the case when it comes to you!

You understand that every

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# The Joy of Giving

The holidays are approaching and every charity is looking for support—Boulware Mission is no different. The next couple of months are critical to the mission's operating budget as much of our income is received during this time of year.

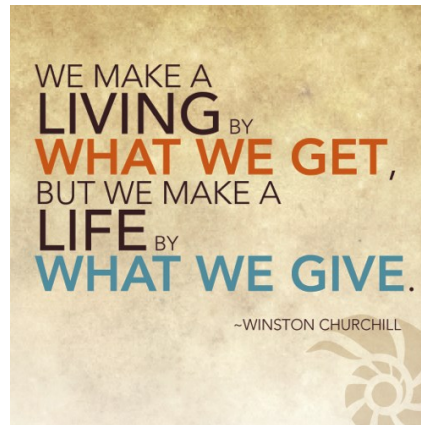
## When you give to Boulware...

**Your gift is personal**—you are helping real people who are in need. People just like you who, because of their circumstances, have found themselves homeless or very near homeless.

The good news is that your support has already helped to serve over 300 individuals this year. Without it, those same 300 people might not have had a chance.

The bad news is that there are another 300 people out there who are hopeless and in need of your help.

**Your money stays local**—your gift will help serve individuals from Owensboro and the surrounding GRADD area (Green River Area Development District). When you give to Boulware, your money stays right here, providing food, shelter, case management, treatment, and programming to the people in your community who need it most.



**Your donation is helping a small non-profit stay open**—Boulware Mission is a local organization, established in 1921 by 4 school teachers. It is not run by a parent corporation or highly paid executives; instead it is run by a small, dedicated staff and Board of Directors who want to serve your community. It's not federally or state funded; it's totally dependent on the generosity of this community to stay open.

**Your contribution really does make a difference**—it takes around \$580,000 to offer the life changing programs and services that we offer on a yearly basis. Broken down, that's approximately \$40 per person per day to empower homeless

individuals to achieve healthy, independent living.

That is not much, when you consider the impact you are making. What a small price to pay to save a life!

**You have options**—we will work with you however you prefer to give to the mission. Boulware can accept cash, checks, credit cards, gifts of stock, endowment gifts, in-kind gifts, special assets, bequests, etc. We can even set up a monthly gift, if you so desire. However you choose to give, we are greatly appreciative of any and everything we receive.

**It's easy**—to make a monetary donation, simply send your check or credit card information in the enclosed donation envelope to the mission. Prefer to make a donation online? We offer online giving through our website: [www.boulwaremission.org](http://www.boulwaremission.org).

Donations are also accepted on-site; just bring them to 609 Wing Avenue in Owensboro.

However you decide to give back this season, we thank you for the valuable part you've played in fulfilling our mission of ending homelessness, one life at a time!

## 2015-2016 Boulware Board of Directors

- Wanda Cecil, President
- Philip Rullman, Vice President
- Debbie Clayborn, Secretary
- Chris Chinn, Treasurer
- Ed Allen
- Jennifer Allen
- Jeanie Cannon
- Jason Goddard
- James Green
- Heath Greenwell
- Chris Lovekamp
- Chuck Persons
- Matt Schell
- Mark Watson
- Dr. John Walker
- Erica Yartz

## Your Support Cont'd.

gift, large and small, has the potential to be life altering.

A kind word or smile, or the gift of your time means the world to a lonely person. Giving of your talents (no matter how ordinary they may seem to you) mean a great deal to a person or organization who doesn't possess those skills.

And the smallest amounts of money add up. Even 100 pennies equal a dollar—and every dollar counts.

It is humbling to think that since 1921, for 94 years, Boulware Mission has been able to stay open solely because of the support of this community!

Each and every supporter and volunteer

helps to provide food, shelter, education, fellowship, programs, substance abuse treatment, and opportunities that are life changing to our residents.

You may never know the full extent of how your gift has enriched someone's life, but you can rest assured that the Father will bless your gifts and you will be blessed as well.

*The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' -Matthew 25:40*

## Random Acts Cont'd.

Thomson and Pat Cureton, the club's only two retired members, are at almost every single event. When asked why they continue to do it, Thomson said, "Because Tom asked me to and because I enjoy twisting... I enjoy seeing the smile I put on a kid's face when he gets a balloon and I like knowing that I'm doing a community service."

According to Thomson, anyone who can spare 2 hours between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on any day of the week could be a Twister – and they can really use **YOU!**

The Twisters have twisted on each day of the week and at all different times – occasionally they've had to turn down gigs because they did not have enough members available to help. If you have the time to spare, please consider this unique opportunity to give back!

You say you can't twist?

Well, Thomson says that if you give him 10 minutes, he can have you twisting the 3 most basic and most popular balloons (the dog, flower and sword).

Don't believe him?



*Twisting an event at the Sports Center.*

Well, my 9-year-old daughter and I gave it a try and we can now twist a dog, flower and sword!

When Cureton joined the club, he was

afraid he'd never learn to twist; he can now twist over 400 different types of balloons!

Even if you are very limited on time and would only be able to attend a limited number of gigs, your time matters and would make a difference! Think about it... through this ministry, not only would you be able to brighten a child's day and put a smile on their face with a 10¢ balloon, but you would be helping to raise the life-saving money that helps keep Boulware Mission open at the same time.

If you are interested in helping or would like some more information about the Twisters, please call Richard Thomson at: 270-685-5371.

You can also contact them via Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/owensborotwistersclub](https://www.facebook.com/owensborotwistersclub) or visit their website: [www.owensborotwisters.org](http://www.owensborotwisters.org).



## From Tornado to Case Manager

Your support saved Stan's life.

Stan grew up in a small town with a good family. He played sports, went to church, and even sang in the choir. He had a good life.

When he was a junior in high school, a girl that he had a crush on asked him to smoke pot with her. He wanted to impress her, so he went along with it; that instant began a lifetime of addiction for him.

Stan was a "functioning addict" - he worked his entire life, but he didn't save anything. Every penny he had was wasted on drugs and alcohol. Stan says that he was basically a tornado, in and out of jail, and destroying everything that came into his path—his marriage, children, future... everything.

Years ago, Stan was injured in an accident while working on a barge. He was prescribed pain killers which caused his addiction to escalate. His life was a bigger mess than ever. He was caught up in a bar fight, charged with a felony and

served 18 months in prison.

When Stan got out of prison, he had no idea where to turn or what to do. He owed thousands of dollars in restitution and back child support; he had no job, no home, and only about \$27 to his name.

He could have returned back to his home town, he still had family there; but he knew that if he did, he'd end up hanging out with the same old crowd and probably back in jail. He didn't want that... he wanted a fresh start.

Stan had heard of Boulware Mission and decided to ask for help.

He ended up living at the mission for 18 months. During that time, he went through the licensed treatment program. He got a job and paid off every penny that he owed in restitution and back child support.

He saved up and bought a used vehicle—it was nothing fancy, but it was reliable transportation. He also moved out into his own apartment.

Stan has been clean and sober for 5 years now. He's been certified and now works as a treatment case manager at Boulware Mission, helping people who are in the same situations that he was once in himself. He's so thankful to be able to give back and try to make amends for his past.

Stan's story is not finished, but it has changed; it's no longer the story of a one-man tornado, but it's one of giving back and rebuilding hope for others.

He has been known to share his story, to bring awareness to Boulware, and every time he does, it brings him (and everyone listening) to tears. Tears because of what Stan has overcome and tears because there are so many others with similar stories in need of help.

You have the chance right now to change someone else's story. Each time you give to Boulware Mission, that's exactly what you do! Thank you for helping to save people's lives... it truly could not happen without your support!

## Boulware Fundraising Report

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A big thank you to all of the sponsors of our third annual Dancing with Our Stars Owensboro Style and our fifth annual golf scramble.

Because of these two events, the Mission netted enough money to cover about 15% of budgeted expenses for the year!

These two events allow Boulware to have an active part in raising money to stay open, instead of relying solely on the generosity of our donors.

We are so thankful for your support of these two events and hope to see them continue to grow!



 OLD NATIONAL BANK® *presents*

# dancing with *our* stars *Owensboro-Style*

Save the date...

4th Annual

August 13, 2016

Owensboro Convention Center

Expo Hall #3



View the 2015 event Trailer by using your QR Reader to scan this code.

If you do not have a QR Reader, you may also view it on our website.