



Joseph's Coat

Newsletter
APRIL 2010

**“What does love look like?
It has the hands to help others.
It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.
That is what love looks like”.**

- St. Augustine

Wonderful Friends,

The last time we got together over a newsletter it was December, 2009 which proved to be a very remarkable month. Once again, you gifted us in the most amazing way. You dropped off cookies and other holiday treats so we could keep our strength up. You brought hard candy that we put by the door so our clients could help themselves to a sweet as they were leaving. You brought dozens and dozens of new jackets for men, women and children, new gloves and mittens (many hand made) for everyone, bed linens, new hand made quilts, blankets, and new clothing items. Some of you purchased hygiene products for us, others brought new socks and/or underwear, and still others helped with small new items that we could give away from our holiday gift cart the last week we were open. Some tell me they offered prayers for us or thought of us while we worked. What ever you did, we are deeply grateful for your love and for your great kindness.

THANK YOU!

We give thanks and praise each day for our wonderful employees and our faithful volunteers. Without their help and their amazing generosity, we wouldn't be able to open our doors!

THANK YOU!



Liz laughs with a client



Jasmin has found a great game and is so happy



Trolonda waits in line for her hygiene products



Yeisa hit the jackpot at the toy box



Todd welcomes guests

Now, here it is: **SPRINGTIME!!**

As I am writing this, the temperature is in the high 70's and it is barely April! Weren't you delighted to see the ice and the huge snow piles on our sidewalk melt away? It has made dropping off donations so much easier. Most of our clients are already looking for spring things, both for themselves and for their children. That said, we would be very grateful if now you would begin to hold onto heavy winter clothing items until next fall and bring us items appropriate for these warmer temperatures. You are kind and generous and we so appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

THANK YOU!

Currently, we are offering assistance to about 500 adults and 80 children each shopping day (Monday and Wednesday). All of you who are reading this, our staff and our wonderful volunteers make this possible.

WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WONDERFUL CARE OF JOSEPH'S COAT.

A NOTICEABLE MIRACLE

Miracles happen every day, so they say. Just because we don't notice them, doesn't mean they're not taking place. Call them coincidences if you will, but sometimes you can't help but wonder if God hasn't authored a timely interaction. Margaret, one of our volunteers who believes in miracles, shares the following story:

Margaret deemed him, 'The Mountain Man', tall, with an unkempt beard, ruddy complexion and cracked lips. He introduced himself by telling Margaret that he lived in the woods and desperately needed a different pair of winter boots. As prudence dictates, Margaret asked him what was wrong with the boots he was wearing, they looked pretty good. He proceeded to lift his foot in the air to show her a wide crack that ran the length of the sole of his boot, exposing a wet sock.

"I've worried about how I would get boots for weeks now", he confessed. "Finally, I decided praying wouldn't hurt, and here I am. Do you have boots in a size 12 for me?"

All of the donated boots we receive are set out on the store floor; there were no size 12 to be found. Margaret decided to look in a bag of men's clothing that had been donated that morning by a friend who had recently lost her husband.

I'm sure you've already figured out the end of the story, but I'll tell you anyway. Without her knowledge, Margaret's friend had donated a beautiful pair of men's winter boots, size 12!!

Not only was the Mountain Man elated, Margaret's friend said her husband would be delighted to know that he had helped someone so much ~ even after his death.

Some don't believe in miracles, but at Joseph's Coat, we notice them with some regularity.

- This story was written by volunteer and part time employee, Cheryl Bade



Kimberly with an Easter basket



Sandy gave away Easter baskets

Want to help?...We really need hygiene products: soap, deodorant, lotion, shampoo & conditioner.

Thanks so much!

"No act of love, however small, is ever wasted." Aesop

Addy from St. Paul, got two dollars from the tooth fairy! She wanted to give the money to Joseph's Coat because **she likes us!!** Thank you, Addy, for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



Some of the hundreds of Easter baskets we gave away

"Whatcha got back there??" On shopping days many people come to the store looking for some specific item that they need. It might be dishes, or a soup pot, a picture for the wall or some candles. To get these items, they gather outside the curtained area and as a volunteer comes out or goes in, they ask, "would you please look for a toaster for me?" or, "do you have a radio back there?" And, our wonderful volunteers do their best to locate the requested item.

This week, a dear woman with a big smile asked one of our volunteers, "Do you have a good man back there with just a little bit of money?" Her comment produced big smiles all around!



Fernado and....Little Fernando



Quilts from St. Odellia's quilting group



Kelly collected socks and underwear for us

If I could rearrange
the alphabet,
I'd put 'U' and 'I'
together!!

Following is a commentary on a scripture passage I read during Lent:

"The Sanhedrin couldn't believe that this man standing before them was the Son of God. He didn't look the part. It is not always easy to recognize Jesus in people, especially in the poor. They don't look the part. I will meet the Lord in a lot of people today. Will I recognize him?" - The Little Black Book, 2010

These few lines helped many of us who work at Joseph's Coat to see those we serve in a totally different way.

At holiday time, I heard from Dan, a former volunteer and a great guy who now lives and works in Rochester. He told me that working at Joseph's Coat was one of the best experiences he'd had in his whole life! Every evening he felt contentment and anticipation of the day ahead and every morning, he felt joyful to be coming! - An unsolicited endorsement

We give thanks for the wisdom and guidance of our Board of Directors. They are Arch Mrkvicka, Bill Culbertson, Bob Brezinski, Brian Zaidman, Herb Mischke, Marilee Miller, Rita Quigley and Wayne Beierman. Each one is a gift to Joseph's Coat. They are wonderful friends, caring, generous, and thoughtful people. They are a great blessing!

Messages from grateful clients:

As Al left the store, he thanked us for Joseph's Coat and said, "You all got me out of the poor house! God bless you!"

And, a woman spoke to me and said that she had been working at the post office and got laid off. She stated that she wouldn't be able to pay her rent without coming to Joseph's Coat for help.



**MARCELLA HOEMKE,
95 YEARS YOUNG!!
A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION
FOR A VERY SPECIAL LADY,
AN INSPIRATION
TO ALL WHO
KNOW AND LOVE HER!!**

Marcella, and some of the "Tuesday girls", have worked at Joseph's Coat almost every week since 1989. They are like sisters! They come from near and far. Each week they and others bring food to share and eat together. Everyone visits while they sort through donated bags of gently used clothing. They work hard and have fun! Happy Birthday, Marcella, and thank you for being with us each week.

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

- Luke 7:38



Marcella with her daughter Carol and son-in-law, Rich

MANY THANKS...

To the church communities, foundations, businesses and individuals who support us financially. We could never manage without your generous help.

To our faithful donors who continue to gift us with clean seasonal clothing, household items and hygiene products. We are very grateful for your generosity.

To our wonderful volunteers, my dearest friends, extraordinary people. You are the heart of this ministry. Our doors would never open without you.

To my husband Larry, for his constant help, support and encouragement.

For these and for all our blessings, we are truly grateful.



Jerrod loves coming to Joseph's Coat



Comfort is filled with joy

NEEDS LIST FOR JOSEPH'S COAT

Clean **seasonal** clothing for men, women and children

T-shirts, socks and underwear, new or gently used

Outerwear appropriate for the season

Adult backpacks, sleeping bags, duffle bags

Shoes and boots, especially for our men

Books for adults (novels, mysteries)

Children's games, toys and books

Candles

Hygiene products: soap, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, shaving soap, razors, foot powder, etc.

Household items: pots and pans, glassware, dishes and silverware, small electric items, sheets, blankets, towels, bedspreads, rugs for the bathroom and kitchen, etc.

Brown paper grocery bags

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS FULLY TAX DEDUCTABLE. YOUR CONTRIBUTION MAY BE DESIGNATED TOWARD PURCHASING ITEMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WE ARE SERVING.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

SHOPPING HOURS: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 9:00 - 4:30 & THE 2ND SATURDAY OF MOST MONTHS (**NOT JULY OR SEPTEMBER**) FROM 9:00 - 1:00

DONATION HOURS: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 9:00 - 2:00 & THE 2ND SATURDAY OF MOST MONTHS (**NOT JULY OR SEPTEMBER**) FROM 9:00 - 1:00
OR BY APPOINTMENT.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR LARGE DONATIONS.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Joseph's Coat
P.O. Box 2202
St. Paul, MN 55102

CLOSING DATES FOR HOLIDAY TIMES:

May 31st - June 4th for Memorial Day
July 5th - 10th for Independence Day (not open Saturday)
September 6th - 11th for Labor Day (not open Saturday)

STREET ADDRESS: 1107 West 7th Street - On West 7th Street, 1 block West of Randolph, 1 mile East of 35E

PHONE #: 651-291-2472 **WEB:** josephscoatmn.org

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