



**Joseph's  
Coat**

# Joseph's Coat

SPRING 2015

## Joseph's Coat - A Shopper's Perspective

### Shopping Hours:

Monday and  
Wednesday 9:00 -  
12:00 and 1:00-  
4:30

### Donation Hours:

Tuesday and  
Thursday 9:00 -  
2:00

**FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT IS FULLY  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**WE DO NOT  
PUBLISH, SELL,  
TRADE OR RENT  
DONOR  
INFORMATION.**

**No one can tell you what your support means better than a recipient of your generosity. Ranettia was kind enough to write about the impact Joseph's Coat has had in her life.**

I was first introduced to Joseph's Coat through a friend. She was referred through an agency. I had given her a ride so she could gather what she needed for her household and children. She was a single mom. Throughout the years, between jobs and caring for others, I have come to Joseph's Coat to shop. And, I have watched, listened and spoken to others who wait until we can go in the store.

I have met people who need Joseph's Coat for different reasons, from those who lost their jobs and were barely making ends meet to those who just needed a little extra help for awhile. There was a time I could not understand those who had a job or income taking advantage of these services – taking away from others who really needed it. Now I understand.



There was a time in my life when, as a married woman trying to make ends meet myself, I began taking care of the elderly in my family who were out of town. Traveling from one state to the other, as well as being jobless, was a heavy burden on my family income. I needed help to get by. As time went by I continued to be relied upon by close family members (parents and others) for assistance in their daily living. Sometimes people don't understand the sacrifices you make for them. So it can be a thankless job doing what you feel is right.

The only pay volunteers at Joseph's Coat get is knowing

that they helped somebody. No bonus checks, no award



ceremony on TV. Their only viewers are the children looking up at them and the parents who say thank you sometimes (and some don't). At times I hear of someone else being in need, and I shop for them. I come to Joseph's Coat and gather items -- a hat and gloves, or a pot or blanket, etc. It's always a good feeling knowing you

*Cont'd on back*

## A Few Notes...

- ◆ We cannot accept: TV sets, hangers (plastic or wire), sharp knives, adult diapers (such as Depends), medical equipment, inoperable small appliances, telephones or electronics and used cosmetics
- ◆ We need women's feminine products (tampons and sanitary pads), toothbrushes, travel size shampoo, conditioner, body wash and toothpaste, full size shampoo, lotion, conditioner and body wash.
- ◆ We are now accepting Spring and Summer clothing

## Perspective (cont'd.)

helped prevent someone from going without. It is because of Joseph's Coat that doing this is possible.

While it is good to know there are places to go for help, sometimes going leaves you feeling helpless, as though you are not doing enough for your own self. Judgmental looks from onlookers and passersby, who don't even know individual personal story, make it more difficult. This made me wonder if there was a time in my past that I had given those same looks to others. Hopefully, knowing what I know now, that answer would be no.

You never know what life has in store for you. I have met the people in line who are homeless, hungry, jobless, and even those who come

because this is the only social circle they have. I have heard many comments from them, like: "They do a good job here;" or "They try to meet my needs;" or "If I didn't come here I would not have pots, pans, blankets because I was burned out of my home;" or "I have a job that pays minimum wage and my children grow out of the clothes faster than I can keep up with them."

Others have told me they like speaking to the people inside. They go on and on about something nice someone did for them at Joseph's Coat and how they enjoy coming and seeing them again. They needed that smile that day. Sometimes I get the impression they only come because they needed to be around someone.

The people who volunteer at

Joseph's Coat may not know that their smiling face, their warm "hellos," their constant "I care" looks, their helping hands, and sometimes even a patient ear for hearing other's troubles, does more than the free items that are given. The volunteers try to make sure that as many people are taken care of in the two days a week as possible so they do have rules. Some respect those rules and some don't, but it's not often I hear unkind words.

I (and many others) can come to Joseph's Coat in despair or in need but leave smiling; hopeful and satisfied that if need be, next week our friends at Joseph's Coat will still be there passing on donations they received from a caring community.

## FACES OF JOSEPH'S COAT



*Robin took a break from fighting crime to check out the toys at Joseph's Coat.*



*Ruth Ann greets Cheryl with a big hug every time she comes to shop.*

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