



Joseph's Coat

SPRING 2018

Janiyah Steals the Show and our Hearts

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WE DO NOT
PUBLISH, SELL,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.

"Here you go, you're all set to shop," the volunteer says as she hands a bag to a customer. It's Wednesday afternoon and Joseph Coat's youngest volunteer, age five, is helping the regular crew welcome guests.



Five-year-old Janiyah hands bags to customers, sometimes treating them to a "bag dance."

Janiyah is both one of a kind, and yet typical, of the people who come through the doors at Joseph's Coat. She and her grandmother, Pam, come

in once a week to shop.

Pam says she started coming to Joseph's Coat "lots and lots of years ago," remembering our downtown location on St. Peter Street, which closed in 2003.

"I was referred by a friend of mine when Joseph's Coat was in downtown Saint Paul, across from the old Greyhound Station," Pam says, adding praise for the charity. "It helps people out. "

Those nice things, donations from friends of Joseph's Coat, mean Janiyah gets to wear clothes that are current styles in good condition. She doesn't need to worry about being judged because of how she's dressed.

Pam also finds things for her extended family, "You find a lot of nice things here." Her

picks are always practical – a book to read to her grandkids, a blanket for a baby, clothes.



Pam hugs her granddaughter.

Whenever they are at "The Coat," a nickname our customers and some volunteers use, the preschooler helps the team.

In addition to handing out bags, Janiyah, holds the door for exiting customers who need a hand. She also helps one of the volunteers, Stacey, check customers in

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To All of You Who Gave

Our Spring 2018 newsletter is the first opportunity of the new year to say [thank you](#) for all that you contributed to the success of Joseph's Coat in 2017. You are the reason that this September begins our 29th year of serving those in need within an environment of dignity and respect.



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.
- ◆ PLEASE DO NOT PUT DONATIONS IN CARDBOARD. OUR RECYCLING PROCESS HAS CHANGED AND IS NOW LIMITED.

Janiyah (cont'd.)

using the computer. Stacey uses the keyboard, while Janiyah works the mouse.

Janiyah has also made friends with Saint Paul police officer John Corcoran who works security at the charity. In fact, when she witnessed a friend being bullied in her neighborhood, she told the aggressors they should stop, or she'd tell "my friend Officer Johnny."

"I like Johnny and Stacey," she says. "I love them. I love Joseph's Coat."



Janiyah with "Officer Johnny" (left) and Stacey (right).

While it is sometimes easy to think of Joseph's Coat as a place that merely gives things to people, the lesson

from this five-year-old is that we also deliver dignity and pride and friendship.

By John & Nancy Vincent, Volunteers

Fresh Look for Joseph's Coat Logo & Website



You may have noticed our new logo, with the words Dignity, Respect, Volunteer, Give—we wanted people to know what we are about. Now, watch for an updated look at www.josephscoatmn.org. We're excited to announce that Joseph's Coat is launching a new and refreshed website in the near future. The structure of our content is improved to make it easier for you to access information. All of these changes are made to give you a better website experience.

Big Ink Donates Impressive Signage

Look at the efficient, professional look Big Ink gave to our store. Mary Conlin-Warner, a volunteer, asked Big Ink to support Joseph's Coat by donating signage. You can see the impressive results in the picture. Thank you, Tom Trutna for exceeding our expectations.



Please consider making a tax deductible financial contribution to help sustain our work.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please put your mailing address label in the enclosed self-addressed envelope and mail it back to us. Thank you.