



Joseph's Coat

NOVEMBER 2025

Thank You for Supporting Joseph's Coat!

During this time of giving thanks, I want to take a minute to thank you, our generous supporters, for all the gifts you share with us at Joseph's Coat. Your gifts of time through volunteerism, your donated items, and your financial support have helped to make Joseph's Coat what it is today—a free store where all are welcome to shop in an environment of dignity and respect.

Earlier this year, feedback was collected from shoppers, case managers, donors, staff, volunteers and board members about their experiences at Joseph's Coat. In total, 750 people responded to our survey, including 523 shoppers. I am thrilled with all the feedback we received and the overwhelmingly positive results. For example, **when asked how well Joseph's Coat is fulfilling it's mission (to run a free store where all are welcome to shop in an environment of dignity and respect), our average score (from 750 people) was 4.8 out of 5!**

Here are some responses from shoppers when asked what are we doing well:

"You are helping out the community. People need this kind of stuff. Some people are less fortunate than others. You are giving your hearts to the community, and I appreciate it."

"You supply all the main essentials for clothing and household items including blankets to keep us warm and help keep us alive."

"Keep up the good work. Keep on spreading love and understanding."

"I feel grateful, "...hopeful", "...respected when shopping at Joseph's Coat."

I am in awe of the environment and community we have built together, here at Joseph's Coat. It takes a community of our volunteers, people who donate their items and make financial donations to fulfill our mission. We could not do this important work without you. **During this time of thanksgiving, please know that all the gifts you have shared with us are greatly appreciated and help to ensure we can continue to serve those most in need in our community, and to do it with dignity and respect.**



With Warmth and Gratitude,

Rebecca Bedner, Executive Director

Needed Now, More than Ever Fundraising Event a Success!



Last month, Joseph's Coat held a successful fundraiser to celebrate our work and raise funds to support our mission. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible—staff, volunteers, donors, and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation for matching the first \$30,000 in donations. **Together, we raised \$89,263 (after expenses) to support our mission.** A special thanks to the Church of the Assumption for their warm hospitality and to our amazing guest speakers, Htay and Ranjana, pictured here. They shared how shopping at Joseph's Coat made a difference in their lives and helped them as they started a cleaning business and then opened Minnesota's first Karenni Grocery store.

Thank you to the generous individuals and businesses listed below that supported our silent auction:

- 7th Street Barber
- Ann Barry
- At Your Service
- Aveda
- Bill Skon Chiropractic
- Bonfe's Auto Service & Body Repair
- Circus Juventas
- Dave Andrews
- Day by Day Café
- Deb and Mark Finnegan
- Dermatology Consultants
- Ergodyne
- Head to Toe Salon
- Heath Stanton
- Inver Wood Golf Course
- Iron Ranger
- Jay Ankeny
- Keller Golf Course
- Kevin Lovegreen
- Leitner's Garden Center and Landscape Product Center
- Mancini's
- More Joy by Peggy Polacek
- Oak Marsh Golf Course and Event Center
- Park + Coop
- Parkway Barber Stylist
- Purpose Restaurants
- Shamrocks
- Skinner's Pub
- Soapy Joes
- Swor and Gatto Attorneys
- T.C. Running Company
- Tommy Chicago's Pizzeria
- Zamboni's on 7th



Event Planning Committee from left to right: Devin McKinley, Linda Mischke, Rebecca Bedner, Mary Conlin-Warner, Dave Andrews and Connie Schlundt.



Morgon Mae Schultz, Joseph's Coat Board Chair on 10/1/25