



# Joseph's Coat

S U M M E R 2 0 2 5

## Joseph's Coat Free Store is Needed Now, More than Ever!

Joseph's Coat has been serving our community by welcoming all to shop in our store, in an environment of dignity and respect for 36 years! Last year alone, there were **10,320 shopping visits** to our free store where shoppers were able to access our services, and carefully chose much-needed clothes, linens, household items and hygiene products!

Our clients often struggle with job loss, language barriers, health issues, homelessness and more. Now more than ever, we are seeing the impact of daily expenses rising and people working hard to make ends meet. Our shoppers say things like:

"Shopping at Joseph's Coat helps a lot. It makes me feel good because I can't afford much."

"I feel so happy because I don't have to use my money here and I have a tight budget. Clothes for my kids are expensive but free here and it makes them happy to get the clothes."

"I feel happy shopping at Joseph's Coat. Free is the price I can afford. Some of the best stuff came from here."

We can provide these clothing, linens, housewares and hygiene products **for free** to our shoppers because of our generous product donors, and our financial donors. **Thank you for being one of our generous supporters and part of our community!**

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Joseph's Coat "Needed Now More Than Ever" Celebration and Fundraiser!

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 starting at 5:30 PM

Church of the Assumption, 51 7th St W, St. Paul, MN 55102

Tickets: \$75.00



The purpose of this event is to celebrate our work together and to raise funds to support our mission. Join us for an evening of fellowship and inspiration! You will hear stories from some of the shoppers who have been greatly impacted by the help they've received. And we'll have delicious food, cash bar, fun games, and a variety of ways to support Joseph's Coat.

Invitations to follow in August. If you have questions about the event, or are interested in volunteering or donating a silent auction item, please contact Rebecca Bedner at [rbedner@josephscoatmn.org](mailto:rbedner@josephscoatmn.org) or 651.377.8792.

## Strategic Planning for Joseph's Coat-The Survey Results Are Here!

Throughout the month of May, we collected surveys from shoppers, case managers, donors, staff, volunteers and board members about their experiences at Joseph's Coat. We collected 750 responses total, including 523 from our shoppers. Here are some of the highlights from our shopper surveys:

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 was **4.8 out of 5!** Here are some comments about how shopping at our store made people feel...

- "It makes me feel welcome and it's hard when you don't have money and I feel welcome here."
- "I feel hopefully someday I can work on the other end and volunteer. It makes me feel good that there is a place like this. It floored me when I first found out about it."
- "I can hold my head high coming in here. I like the experience here. "
- "The kids were so excited for our appointment today. This has been the highlight of our week!"
- "I feel like I got to go to the Mall of America!"
- "I feel grateful, "...hopeful", "...respected."
- "I am really happy to have something to wear that I feel good in, something nicer than this sweatshirt I'm wearing..."
- "Even though I was homeless, I felt like they helped me. I felt regular still. I also found things for all seasons. "

Stay tuned for more updates about the feedback we received from our key stakeholders, including donors! Thank you to every one who shared their feedback with us!

## Thank You for your Donations!

Last month alone, we had an average of 138 shoppers a day! We are able to meet the needs of our shoppers thanks to people like you, who donate their goods, dollars, and/or time to keep our store running smoothly. Thank you for your support of our mission!

Volunteers in June 2025, pictured here with donated hygiene kits from Securian Financial Services.



**P.S. Our annual Matching Campaign will be taking place in the Fall again this year.** This is our campaign that matches your donations dollar for dollar. Be on the lookout for our letter in **September!**