



# Joseph's Coat

DECEMBER 2019

## Shopping Hours:

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

## 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**WE DO NOT  
PUBLISH, SELL,  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.**

## LIMITED CAPACITY!

Please understand that Joseph's Coat is volunteer based and has limited space. We have no control over the amount of donations received. We have to adhere to the St. Paul Fire Code. When our building is full, we must stop taking donations — even before our 2PM close time. Please call or check our website to find out whether we are full.

## Roger's Story

*None of us plan on illness affecting our ability to work and creating great changes in the way we live our lives. Multiple sclerosis, or MS, is a long-lasting disease that can affect your brain, spinal cord, and the optic nerves in your eyes. It can cause problems with vision, balance, muscle control, and other basic body functions. The effects are often different for everyone who has the disease.*

Roger came through the door to the welcoming sound of volunteers calling his name in greeting. Roger is one of those people you just like. He's a nice man.

He doesn't remember how he heard about Joseph's Coat; he only knows that he's been going there for six years. That's when he moved from Moundsview to St.



Paul. Over that span of time, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) has been taking its toll on Roger. He is 64 years old and moves in very short shuffle steps. It takes a lot of time to get from point A to point B but eventually he gets there.

Joseph's Coat is about 3½ miles from his home — it takes him nearly an hour to get there. It's so important to him to go to Joseph's Coat

that he's willing to miss the lunch that is served at his building. He walks a block from his apartment to the bus stop, takes two buses and walks another block from the bus stop to Joseph's Coat. It is quite a journey when you travel one-half inch at a time. He doesn't have the words to describe why he goes through so much to get to Joseph's Coat --other than to say it makes him feel good to be there.

Roger says he doesn't need a lot of clothes anymore but appreciates the hygiene items. He likes looking at the knick-knacks and men's caps, too. He is an avid sports fan and displays Twins and Saints caps in his apartment during baseball season. He was thrilled to talk about going to a Saints game over the summer. It's football

# Happy Holidays!

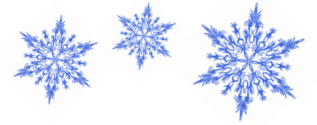
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## A Few Notes...

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Please be sure to check our website for important information about unexpected closed dates/times due to weather or overwhelming amount of donations.
- ◆ We are now accepting Fall and Winter clothing.
- ◆ PLEASE DO NOT PUT DONATIONS IN CARDBOARD. OUR RECYCLING PROCESS HAS CHANGED AND IS NOW LIMITED.



## Roger's Story (cont'd.)



season now so the baseball caps have been put away and replaced with football team caps.

Besides sports, Roger likes to read. He used to go to the St. Paul Public Library downtown to visit a friend who worked there. His friend has moved to another library that is too difficult for Roger to reach. He now relies on the bookmobile to get the autobiographies and novels he likes to read. MS has affected his eyes but glasses help when he reads.

He volunteers his time collecting recycling in his build-

ing and is allowed to take some to exchange for cash at the recycling center. He grimaces as he tells that many people throw garbage in the recycling bins. Occasionally he'll ride the bus downtown to Candyland to get the Chicago Mix popcorn he loves.

Before needing Joseph's Coat, Roger loved to travel. He saved his overtime pay from his work at a grocery store and used it to fund trips. When he was 28, he traveled to Europe. He understands French but doesn't speak the language. He reminisced about traveling in a

Mercedes at 160 miles per hour on the autobahn. A car passed them going so fast he said, "It was like we were standing still." Roger may feel like that sometimes when other people walk quickly around him.

All in all Roger is content and says his life is good. As we were talking at his lunch table, several people stopped and put the orange from their lunch down in front of him. He'd smile and nod as they said, "Here you go, Roger." He looked at me and said, "I like oranges." I think a lot of people like Roger.

## Santa's Workshop

This December 20, Joseph's Coat will host our tenth annual Santa's Workshop event. Last year more than 250 shoppers chose from a vast selection of gifts for adults and children. We have a reputation for having the best gifts for adults at Christmastime. Generous donors contribute such an array of items – from crockpots and rice cookers to dolls and Legos—that Joseph's Coat looks like a warehouse store. Volunteers full of holiday spirit assist shoppers as they select their gifts. It's always a happy and uplifting day, and we are grateful to all of you for your continued support of Joseph's Coat.



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.