



# Joseph's Coat

DECEMBER 2020

**BY  
APPOINTMENT  
ONLY:**

**Shopping Hours:**

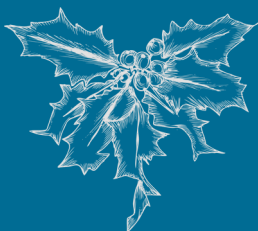
Monday and  
Wednesday 9:00 -  
12:00 and 1:00-  
4:00

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**WE DO NOT  
PUBLISH, SELL,  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



## Stories of the Season

*The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our thinking and creativity. The virus did not change the mission of Joseph's Coat. It only changed the way we fulfill our mission of being a free store providing goods and service to those in need within an environment of dignity and respect. We all had to think outside of the box and create something new. Joseph's Coat is open serving those in need once again. We have changed our processes and focus on helping as many people as we can despite restrictions.*

*The darkness of 2020 brought great opportunity to spread the light of love, empathy, and compassion. As a supporter of Joseph's Coat, you are part of a team that brightened up a homeless man's life and touched a mother's heart.*



## Jason's Story

Jason is staying at Higher Ground, a shelter in St. Paul. Ken, Program Manager of the St. Paul Opportunity Center, told me that Jason was in desperate need of clothing. He was wearing the only clothing that he had — a pair of sweatpants with a "hole in them big enough to walk through" and a filthy T-shirt. He was being harassed by people at the shelter, told

he was disgusting and smelled. Ken was determined to find clothing for Jason and called Joseph's Coat for help. The problem was that Jason wears a size 10X pants and 6X shirt. These sizes are nearly impossible to find — even new. Ken explained that Higher Ground thought they would be able to buy some clothes for Jason but quickly realized how

expensive they were. Your financial support afforded us the funds to purchase three pair of sweatpants, three T-shirts, and 4 pair of underwear for Jason. Together we brought a little spark of light into a seemingly hopeless situation. Amazing how bright one small spark shines when it is in the darkness.

*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.
- ◆ 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.



## Season (cont'd.) Anne's Story



Sometimes just having the intent of bringing goodness to others touches someone very deeply. Many times, we aren't aware of the magic we are a part of creating. Mary Pat called to make an appointment to donate items that were precious to her. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, she had difficulty donating to Joseph's Coat. She said it seemed that every time she thought about bringing the donations in, something got in the way. Then COVID-19 hit, and she waited longer —

determined to bring these items to Joseph's Coat.

Mary Pat called to make an appointment on December 3. I started telling her that we were booked for donations through December 17 but then realized that one spot had opened up later in the day on December 3. She took that appointment and brought in stuffed animals and Groovy Dolls that belonged to her daughter, Anne. They looked new.

Mary Pat explained that Anne had Leukemia and

loved stuffed animals. Every time Anne had to go to the hospital for treatment, she got to pick out a stuffed toy from the hospital gift shop. Mary Pat went on to say that Anne loved the Groovy Dolls, too. Sadly, Anne died at 12 years old. With tears in her eyes, Mary Pat said, "After all the times I tried to get here, I can't believe there was an unexpected opening for me today. Do you know what today is? It's Anne's birthday." She would have loved this place.



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

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