



# Joseph's Coat

SPRING 2022

BY  
APPOINTMENT  
ONLY

## Shopping Hours:

Monday and  
Wednesday  
9:00 - 3:00

## Donation Hours:

Tuesday and  
Thursday  
9:00 - 2:30

FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT IS FULLY  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

WE DO NOT  
PUBLISH, SELL,  
TRADE OR RENT  
DONOR  
INFORMATION.

## You Made a Difference for a Young Family

*Do you know what it feels like to have to give up your home? I do. So do Joanna, Rick and their three children. It's not the structure you mourn as much as the future, the hopes and dreams people naturally invest when purchasing a house. Too many times in life, it seems, we have to accept circumstances out of our control and move on.*

I have known Joanna for several years. She and her husband work very hard for little money. They were elated when their budget allowed them to buy a small home in which to raise their children.

I think most of you would agree that focusing on all of the negative things that life may hold is a sure way to be miserable. Thus, most people don't look to the future and plan on losing a job or having to cut back on the hours they work. It didn't happen all at once, but changing family circumstances required that Joanna work fewer and fewer hours. Despite their deter-

mination to make it, this young family lost their house. They found a place to stay and started packing.

Moving day came, and Rick went into the house for one

the vehicle was destroyed or gone. Think about this. This family not only lost their home, thieves took a good portion of their belongings. Five year old Sammy kept



last box of belongings before their older SUV would be full for another trip to the new place. In the time it took for him to go into the house and come back out, their vehicle was stolen right out of the driveway. I think all of us can stir up the shocked and sinking feeling this couple had when they realized what had happened. The police eventually recovered the car. The body was damaged, windows were broken, and the interior was spray painted. Of course, every single item packed in

asking his Mommy why someone wanted his pants and shirts. He couldn't comprehend it. Neither can I.

The family came to Joseph's Coat for help. You have all been very generous, and we currently have a lot of inventory. We were able to give this family many items to replace their losses but were unable to provide the correct sizes of shoes for the children. Fortunately, because we receive financial donations from you, we were able to give Joanna and Rick a

*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 Spring and Summer clothing.
- ◆ PLEASE DO NOT PUT DONATIONS IN CARDBOARD. OUR RECYCLING PROCESS HAS CHANGED AND IS NOW LIMITED.

## You Made a Difference (cont'd.)



small amount of money to buy their children shoes. We rely on your monetary donations to pay rent, heat and other expenses to keep Joseph's Coat in operation, but doesn't it feel good to know that your donations are also used in emergency situations to make the difference between despair and hope?

All of you are a part of Joseph's Coat. Together we let this family (and many more like them) know that there

are people who choose to help rather than hurt and bring comfort to those who suffer loss.

### A Rule of Nature

Rivers do not drink their own water,  
 Trees do not eat their own fruit,  
 The sun does not shine on itself; and  
 Flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.  
 Living for others is a rule of nature.  
 We are all born to help each other.  
 No matter how difficult it is...  
 Life is good when you are happy;  
 But much better when others are happy because of you.

- Sanskrit Proverb

## It Can Happen to Anyone

Our volunteers are not naïve, but they are tender hearted. When a volunteer (this time, two volunteers) come to me saying that have a "feeling" that a certain shopper may need extra help, I listen.

I went over and said hello to Jon. He told me that this was only his second time at Joseph's Coat. The first time he was so ashamed to be going to a free store that he just came in, grabbed items, and left. Jon believes that you work to take care of your

family. If you are short of money, you must work harder. This was how he lived for years. Then his job as an executive chef ended. In time, he lost his house, and his marriage was failing. He was now living in his truck.

I told him that at Joseph's Coat we know that there are a multitude of reasons that hardworking people need help occasionally, and that he was not going to find judgment here. He said, "I

know. Why do you think I came back?"

He was thrilled to get a sleeping bag and pillow. Because gas prices are so high and the weather is unseasonably cold, I gave Jon a gas card to help him heat his truck at night. He hung his head and started to weep. He gave me a big hug and said, "I have a job interview on Monday, and I'll probably get it because you guys believe in me more than I believe in myself." Thank you.

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

Receive our newsletter online. Visit [www.josephscoatmn.org](http://www.josephscoatmn.org). Scroll to the bottom of page for email signup form. 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.