



Joseph's Coat



DECEMBER 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WE DO NOT
PUBLISH, SELL,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.



A Medal With A Message

It is the "Silly Season" at Joseph's Coat. That stretch of time from September through December. Donations flow through our doors faster than volunteers can sort. Every open spot is quickly filled up with bags and boxes. When we run out of space in one room, we start filling another.

The number of people needing help and the number of donations necessary to serve their needs are overwhelming. Stress fills the air. Things feel out of control. And that is when it happens. Synchronicity, or a meaningful coincidence—an event on the outside that speaks to something on the inside—instead of just a random occurrence.

Like too many others, Judith came to Joseph's Coat to donate her husband's clothing after his death. People broken-

hearted at the loss of a loved one are sadly familiar visitors to Joseph's Coat. Donating to help others brings some solace to their grief. There was nothing unusual about Judith, and I cannot explain why, but something about her touched me.

A few days after I met Judith, Tom, a volunteer who just happened to



be a retired architect, came to me with a silver medal he found in a donation bag filled with clothing. It was a Fellow Award, the American

Institute of Architects' highest honor for exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society. Unlike most of us, Tom recognized the esteem associated with this prestigious award. He said he was sure that the donation of this medal was a mistake. In instances like this, I put the item in a secure drawer and hope someone calls to see if we found it.

This medal was different. I felt compelled to identify its owner. There was a name engraved on the back of the medal, but the last name did not match any of the more than 150 people who had recently dropped off donations. For some reason, I thought of Judith. I looked for an obituary using the name on the medal and was stunned to see the name "Judith" listed as the

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 accepting Winter clothing only.
- ◆ PLEASE DO NOT PUT DONATIONS IN CARDBOARD. OUR RECYCLING PROCESS HAS CHANGED AND IS NOW LIMITED.



A Medal With A Message (cont'd.)



surviving spouse. Because we operate by appointment, I had Judith's phone number. She was elated when I told her that her husband's medal was at Joseph's Coat. She told me she had been tearing her house apart, looking everywhere for the family keepsake, and was just sick

that she could not find it.

At the busiest time of year, this medal came with an important message to pause, step out of the usual routine, and recognize that there is far more that connects us as human beings than the logic of the physical world.

"There are two ways to live your life — one is as though nothing is a miracle, the other is as though everything is a miracle."

Albert Einstein

Winter Weather Closings



When we experience inclement weather conditions, the safety of our volunteer staff, donors and clients is the most important consideration. In the event of severe winter weather, Joseph's Coat will close when the Saint Paul School District announces school closures.



Please check local media for current updates. Shopping and donor ap-

pointments will need to be rescheduled at a later date.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

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

Our newsletter is available online at www.josephscoatmn.org. Click the "Newsletter" tab in the upper right corner of our site. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to jc.info@josephscoatmn.org requesting that your name be removed from our mailing list or put your mailing address in the enclosed self addressed envelope and mail it back to us. Thank you.