



# Joseph's Coat

SPRING 2024

## You Make a Difference for the People We Serve! By Rebecca Bedner

CALL  
651.291.2472 TO  
MAKE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
TO SHOP OR  
DONATE

### Shopping Hours:

Monday and  
Wednesday  
9:00 - 3:00

### Donation Hours:

Tuesday and  
Thursday  
9:00 - 2:30

PLEASE CONSIDER  
DONATING  
TODAY! YOUR  
FINANCIAL GIFTS  
ARE FULLY TAX  
DEDUCTIBLE.

WE DO NOT  
PUBLISH, SELL,  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

**We are grateful for our community of supporters who donate their new and gently used items so that we can provide them free of charge, to those who need them most.** The staff and volunteers at Joseph's Coat see first-hand how important your donations are, and the impact they have on the people we serve. We are lucky to receive feedback from our shoppers that we can share with you, our community of supporters.

Back in January, a shopper left us a phone message sharing her appreciation for the new underwear she received during her first shopping visit with us.

"It was my first time going (to Joseph's Coat) and I have to say that everyone was so nice and it's an amazing place. I hope to come back next month, and maybe there will be a pair of boots for me... I am just calling to say thank you so much. And not only to say that but you gave me a brand-new pair of underwear and I didn't even know what size I wear for underwear because it's been so long since that has been on my list of things to buy...there is no money left for it. I have been going without it... So, thank you for that and have a blessed day."

I called this shopper back in January and left her a message thanking her for her message. Her words fill the hearts of our staff and volunteers. Hopefully they fill your hearts too.

I called this shopper again in late March, and I was able to reach her and learn more about her journey. At one time, she owned her own cleaning business and was able to support herself well. Unfortunately, she became sick and was no longer able to work. Over the years, she has had to obtain assistance with housing and to make ends meet. She told me that she tries to look for the best in everything, and her shopping appointments at Joseph's Coat give her something to look forward to. She also shared, again, her excitement about new underwear. She has now been to the Coat 3 times (once per month) and is able to get new underwear at every visit. She told me that soon she will have enough for every day of the week. I was thrilled to hear that she did in fact find some boots and a long coat during her last visit with us. She said they keep her warm during the cold months and on her bus rides.

**Your donations make a difference in the lives of the people we serve at Joseph's Coat!** Your donated items find a new life with someone who needs them, and your financial gifts are used to purchase items that aren't often donated, like new underwear. Thank you for your support of our mission, and the people who need these items to meet their basic needs. Please consider making a gift today to help us continue this important work.

## A Few Notes...

- ◆ **We are now accepting Spring and Summer clothing only.**
- ◆ Current Needs: new underwear for men and women; new hygiene products including women's feminine products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash and deodorant.
- ◆ We cannot accept: TV sets, inoperable small appliances, telephones or electronics, hangers (plastic or wire), sharp knives, adult diapers (such as Depends), medical equipment, or used cosmetics and hygiene items.
- ◆ Please bring your donations in smaller garbage bags or paper bags. PLEASE DO NOT PUT DONATIONS IN CARDBOARD BOXES OR XL BLACK BAGS. The XL black bags are too heavy for us to carry and our recycling is limited.

**Thank you for your support!**

## We are now taking Spring and Summer Donations

Spring and Summer are on the way! We are closed the first full week of April and will be turning the store over from Winter to Spring clothing. As you clean out your closet, please set aside your new or gently used items for Joseph's Coat. Call us at (651) 291-2472 to schedule a donation appointment today!

## Volunteering at Joseph's Coat

We have an amazing group of 75+ volunteers that keep things running smoothly at the Coat. In addition to our individual volunteers, we also host groups. Recently, groups from the Open Door Community Theatre, Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota and Marsden Services volunteered with us. If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, contact us at [info@josephscoatmn.org](mailto:info@josephscoatmn.org) or (651) 377-8791.



## Joseph's Coat Celebrates 35 years of service!

Joseph's Coat was founded in 1989 in response to the need for no-cost clothing, personal goods, and household items by those living below the poverty line in St. Paul's inner city. Joseph's Coat was conceived as a place where volunteers would donate their time and resources to provide the needed items and would join with the poor to create a storefront community that extended welcome, acceptance and respect for all. Thank you to all the donors, volunteers, shoppers and staff who have been a part of Joseph's Coat for the last 35 years!

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

If you do not want to receive this newsletter or prefer to receive our E-Newsletter instead, please send an email to [info@josephscoatmn.org](mailto:info@josephscoatmn.org) with your request or put your mailing address in the enclosed self addressed envelope and mail it back to us. Thank you!