

WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

# WCM **IMPACT**

FEBRUARY 2020

## **CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS**

**Counting our blessings!** Day in and day out, spring, summer, fall, and winter, churches and hundreds of individuals like you help to provide the loving care and support that broken and hurting people count on in each of WCM's six ministries.

To say we couldn't do it without our volunteers would be an understatement. Those who serve every day and throughout the year at Wayside are the life-blood of our ministries.

Our mentors in the Master's Touch program and at Lifespring, and those who serve in the prison ministry, with the homeless in Elgin, or with the youth at UYM, each commit a tremendous amount of time to serving and will tell you it is a life-changing experience. Those experiences are what drives our volunteers to keep coming back, and our gratitude is immeasurable.



Transforming Lives • Restoring Families • Renewing Communities



Because “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few,” (Matthew 9:37), we are more than grateful for God’s faithfulness as He continues to send people who have a heart to serve, always in His perfect timing. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and all ages, rooted in faith and a belief in the redemptive power of Jesus Christ; some have even traveled over 1,083 miles to serve at WCM...

For example, we recently had 60 pre-college students come from as far as Nebraska and Texas, as their church mission trip, to spend a week serving at Wayside. And it seems that, no matter who they are or where they came from, each volunteer is surprised to learn how much your financial support allows us to do with the money we receive, and how many people it enables us to reach.







It's a partnership. Volunteers keep our overhead low and allow us to be good stewards of the resources God blesses us with and ensures that your financial support is used for the basic needs of those who come to WCM for help: meals, clothing, shelter, and the programs that teach God's word and the importance of having a relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a big reason why our stewardship rated so highly among other nonprofits in the area.

Whether you help us prepare meals, paint a room, plant a garden, work in our thrift shops, sort in the warehouse, or mentor in one of our ministries, your service makes a difference. You touch lives. You help share the gospel that opens doors and hearts so that each person can experience the grace, mercy, and transformational love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and receive the help they so desperately need.

And what a difference a volunteer can make! One of our volunteers was so impressed by what she saw while serving, she suggested to her husband, the CEO of a major manufacturing company, that he visit WCM for a tour. That tour led to a partnership with Micron Industries. Working with them teaches production and assembly skills to our men who are graduates of the Master's Touch program. The Micron relationship brings greater opportunity for full-time employment and benefits for its participants.



Still, it's the local churches who encourage their congregation to serve that make up the lion-share of our ministerial muscle. It is our volunteers that touch the lives of each person living at the ministry; they help them earn their GEDs, they teach in the learning labs, they teach life skills. They lead worship in our chapel and help us reach out to nearly every jail and prison throughout the state of Illinois. Most importantly, they share the love of Jesus Christ with the least of these. We know that the volunteers at WCM are "created in Christ Jesus for good works." (Ephesians 2:10)

Thanks to all our volunteers for making our mission, yours! We simply couldn't do all this without you.



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