

## Jerry's Story

Jerry's adult life started out like a fairy tale, in his words, "it exceeded what I ever thought life would be like for me." He and his family lived in the same town for 26 years, he was married for 24 years and has two grown sons.

His problems started when he began to replace trouble in his marriage with alcohol. The more he drank, the more the problems compounded: he and his wife grew more and more apart which then led to divorce.

As life spiraled downhill for Jerry, he attempted suicide, not once, but twice. The second time he was rescued by a police officer but still, Jerry continued to drink. He had given up.

Jerry moved to Arizona and stayed at a homeless shelter. He met a man there who, to this day, he continues to be friends with. He helped Jerry find work and, in time, helped Jerry return to Illinois so he could be closer to what he knew as home.



Eventually, the drinking started up again. Jerry knew he had to do something. He had heard about Wayside Cross Ministries and knew that's where he needed to be.

Jerry is thankful for the path God laid out for him, even in the difficult times, to get him to where he is today. He speaks very highly of his mentor, Bob Wettermann, and is grateful for all Wayside has done for him but he is particularly grateful for the Christ-centered, Bible-based teachings that the Master's Touch program has given him. His foundation in Christ is

strengthened. His biggest lessons learned: humility and patience. And he knows this could not have been done without God and without people who care and give to WCM.

Life has changed dramatically for Jerry. He has been volunteering at a local recreational sports center and, most recently, was hired to work with special needs children, which is his background, at a local school district. He will remain at Wayside as a resident working outside the facility. He recently contacted his sons and together, they are working on restoring their relationships. He will be graduating from the Master's Touch program this month and is hopeful his two sons will be attending.

Jerry is thankful for the kindness of the donors and those who volunteer at WCM to come alongside the men and help them become stronger in their faith. Jerry says, "my footwork is solid because of how I have been surrounded with the Word, the people, and a great God."

## Naperville Family Celebrates Diwali

As part of their religious celebration, Diwali, which means “Festival of Light,” a family from Naperville came to Wayside and funded and served a meal for the residents.

The family was very touched by Wayside’s values and the accomplishments made in the lives of the residents in the Master’s Touch program.

WCM’s Executive Director, James Lukose, shared a reading of John 8:12 with them. *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* This scripture captures the message of transformation, as the men are taught to walk in and be transformed by the light.



## Grateful for a Child’s Heart



In the summer of 2017, the sleepy Village of Hampshire was overrun with many visitors during the Annual Coon Creek County days. This seemed like an opportune time for the entrepreneurial duo of Gia and Daisy to put their idea to work. With the homeless in mind, in just a few hours the pair raised \$227 at their lemonade stand for the cause of “making Christ known” through the Elgin

Wayside Center. Gia and Daisy were honored at the Center’s Annual Friendship Dinner this past October.



We are grateful to Gia and Daisy for thinking of “the least of these,” and for their gift of the fruits of their labor.

**Mission: To honor God by loving and serving the afflicted and powerless through sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and hope in Jesus Christ by empowering them to be disciples of Christ.**

## God Loves a Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says, *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

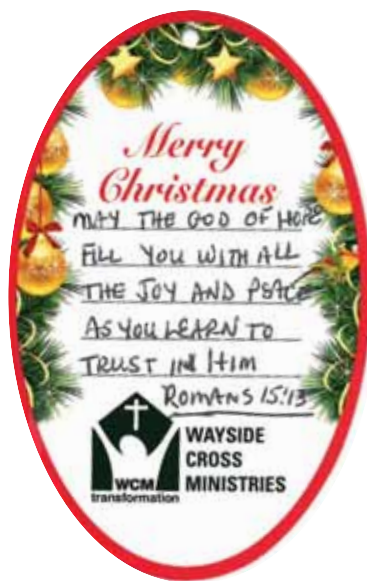
This month's WCM Impact focuses on gratitude. In today's world, there is so much need. People are hungry, people are cold, people are homeless, and people appear to be hopeless. Television ads promote giving to veterans, children with life-threatening illnesses, and animals who have been mistreated or are in need of a home, and there is so much more.

The people we serve at WCM are often hungry, cold, hurting and appear hopeless. But because you give from your heart, they are able to be served 3 meals a day and have safe housing, and find a new sense of hope.

Thank you notes go out in the mail on a daily basis. Although the two words "thank you" aren't enough to express our message of gratitude, it is such a privilege to send the notes and pray for each donor.

We give thanks with a grateful heart, grateful for a God who provides, grateful for His gifts, and grateful for you, our donor. Together, we honor God as He uses the gifts He's given His people to move WCM's mission forward: to love and serve the afflicted and powerless through sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and hope in Jesus Christ by empowering them to be disciples of Christ.

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful, kind and caring people who responded to our Thanksgiving and Christmas appeals. So many took the time to write messages to the men and color placemats to put on the tables. Many sent the Christmas "ornaments" back with uplifting messages on them. As we give tours, you will see many of the ornaments on the men's lockers long after Christmas. It means so much to them that you took the time to share a message of hope. Thank you for caring, not only with your donation but with your encouraging words.





## Aurora & Elgin Walk a Mile in My Shoes Saturday, February 10th, 2018

Walk a Mile in My Shoes 2018 is fast approaching. Will you be one of the walkers who fundraises and braves the cold to walk a mile, or will you choose to fundraise and dream about walking a mile in the dead of winter? Either option works for this significant fundraiser for Lifespring, Urban Youth Ministry (UYM), and the Elgin Wayside Center. You can register at [www.crowdrise.com/walk-a-mile-in-my-shoes-2018-elgin](http://www.crowdrise.com/walk-a-mile-in-my-shoes-2018-elgin) or [www.crowdrise.com/walk-a-mile-in-my-shoes-2018](http://www.crowdrise.com/walk-a-mile-in-my-shoes-2018) (for Aurora). Sign up as a team member, or start your own team. Make it fun! Have brunch at home with your team on walk day, if you choose not to physically walk or join those who brave the frigid temps outdoors. In any case, the funds you raise will help Lifespring, UYM and the Elgin Wayside Center continue to offer **free** services and programs to those who are lacking. For more information, contact Rebecca Monrean at 630.723.3421 or [rmonrean@waysidecross.org](mailto:rmonrean@waysidecross.org). **SIGN UP TODAY!**

P.S. There will still be a pancake breakfast (in Aurora) for those who brave the frigid temperatures. Come join the Aurora University Baseball and Softball teams!



Aurora University at Walk a Mile in My Shoes 2017

### SERVICES WE OFFER:

- **EXTERIOR QUICK WASH - \$10**  
Includes hand wash, tire shine, interior vacuum, and exterior windows.
- **EXTERIOR WASH & WAX - \$20**  
Includes hand wash, tire shine, spray wax, interior vacuum, interior/exterior windows & tire pressure check.

### ▪ INTERIOR ONLY - \$40

Includes complete interior detailing, interior windows, vacuum, shampoo carpet and upholstery, vinyl & leather conditioner.

### ▪ FULL SERVICE DETAIL - \$75

Includes hand wash, hand wax, wipe down engine compartment, check fluids, tire pressure check, complete interior detailing, vacuum, shampoo carpet, vinyl & leather conditioning.  
-- Heavy duty cleaning add \$15

### YEAR-ROUND INDOOR FACILITY



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APPOINTMENT NECESSARY - PLEASE CALL AHEAD

**630.723.3438**

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