

Wayside Cross Ministries



Stewardship Report 2020



James Lukose,
Executive Director

What Can The Righteous Do If The Foundations Are Destroyed? Psalm 11:3

There is little room for doubt that this past year has been a season of difficulty for Wayside Cross Ministries, the people we serve, and friends like you whom God has chosen to help support our work. Even the Collins English Dictionary tells us, “lockdown” has become the word of the year in 2020 worldwide.

Throughout human history people lived in uncertain times, and yet, looking back on the year 2020, God was using the year paradoxically for us to see clearly that He was in absolute control. *“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10a)*

Without question, there was uncertainty in the pandemic; riots, looting, job loss, and the confusion over the recent election, but in all that uncertainty we were reminded again and again what is certain: knowing that we can trust God alone all the time.

Psalm 11:3 confronts us with the spiritual dilemma, *“What can the righteous do if the foundations are destroyed?”* When we think about it, even the righteous cannot do anything. One way or the other, we all felt helpless because it seems like the foundation of the moral fabric of our country was being destroyed.

According to Matthew 16:18, we can stand on the assurance that our foundation will not be destroyed. *“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Why? Paul answers that question in Ephesians 2:19-21. *“Because it is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself, being the cornerstone.”* As believers, though we walked through this trying season, His providence, special grace, and the support of loyal friends like you kept the flag of Wayside Cross Ministries flying high.

Today we stand on WCM’s foundation, built over 92 years ago through the inspired word of God, the cornerstone that is Christ Jesus, and the influence of righteous people like you – all these things have prepared and positioned us to overcome a torrent of uncertainty. Through God’s providential grace, WCM continues to be a safe-haven for men, women, and children who otherwise would not have received help from any other place.

You played a significant role in empowering us to continue to stay true to our mission of serving the afflicted by sharing the Gospel of forgiveness and our eternal hope in Jesus Christ.

As you peruse these pages, we trust and pray God will encourage you in your daily walk, in your faith in our ministries and in the confidence of knowing God is always near.

Thank you for being a co-laborer with Christ.

Master's Touch Ministry

- 45 men graduated the Master's Touch program
- Due to COVID "Designed for a Work" was postponed
- 4 men promoted to full-time resident assistants
- 2 men promoted to resident staff

Lifespring Ministry

- 20 volunteers led weekly Bible-based and life skills classes
- 2 pastoral counselors met with residents on a weekly basis
- 10 mentors met weekly with assigned residents
- 18 women entered the program; 2 completed the entire 1-year program
- 6 women made a profession of faith
- 6 women made significant improvements in their overall interpersonal skills
- 7 mothers attended parenting classes on a consistent basis
- 11 women entered the work force

Elgin Wayside Center

- 10 guests placed into life change programs
- 131 volunteers pre-COVID
- 300+ total individuals served
- 8,430 guest sign-ins
- Over 13,000 meals served
- 37 volunteers delivering lunches post-COVID
- 10,400 cups of coffee served
- 2,340 loads of laundry done
- 260 Bible studies conducted
- 4,680 showers taken
- 5,133 clothing items issued to guests

Hope Outreach

- Provided up to 90 men at one time with daily, real-life work experience in our warehouse, transportation department, maintenance shop, housekeeping department, Hope Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Shop and Hope On Wheels
- Maintained 9 ministry vehicles with an average of 6,000 miles per month
- Scheduled, transported, sorted and refurbished over 450,000 donated items including clothing, furniture, household goods and other miscellaneous objects. These items were sold at the Hope Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Shop or distributed to under-resourced men, women and children in the community or within one of Wayside Cross' ministries
- Through our Community Outreach program and World Relief Aurora, we assisted local churches with 35 referrals for clothing and housewares
- 969 bales at 800 lbs. each of clothing and 564 bags of shoes at 50 lbs. each, for a total of 779,450 lbs. were recycled with the majority of those items going to third-world/developing countries
- Partnered with 5 local churches to host Compassion Drives with the purpose of collecting clothes, furniture, and other household items that could be used in our Hope Chest Resale Store as well as other areas of our ministries
- Operated 20 donation bins at partner churches, collecting 24,376 bags of donated clothing, weighing 536,272 lbs.

- Proceeds from our Hope Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Shop, and Hope On Wheels, along with our income from recycling clothing, shoes, and scrap metal totalled \$673,570, all of which went to fund the ministry efforts at Wayside Cross Ministries

New Life Corrections Ministry

- Went to Stateville Prison 4 times, with over 1,000 inmates visited
- Held 6 two-day seminars, 260 inmates graduated
- Handed out over 1,000 Bibles in jails and prisons
- Had over 70 volunteers involved in jails, prisons and office
- Trained over 30 new volunteers
- Passed out over 10,000 Dads and Freedom From Fear brochures to inmates
- Passed out 250 books and pamphlets to inmates

Urban Youth Ministry

- 60 students received summer camp programming during June and July
- 60 Easter Baskets delivered to 41 homes
- 20 \$100 bags of groceries delivered to 20 families
- 52 students attended "Beauty and the Beast" at the Paramount
- 400 5B's meals sold at WCM's first EVER Virtual fundraiser
- 1,958 meals served to UYM kids
- 88 hours of Bible lessons taught to UYM kids
- 0 months of UYM kids not being served by UYM programs

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

** Executive Committee*

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Pamela Keith
- Grant Manager
Gabriel Weckesser
- IT Coordinator

David Hiatt
- Development Assistant

Pamela Keith
- Grant Manager
Gabriel Weckesser
- IT Coordinator

Elgin Wayside Center Staff

Jon Beall
- Interim Director
Gene Heckenberg
- Client Services
Tom Klis
- Program Coordinator
Tim Lindquist
- Client Services

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Ardie Cortez
John Diasio
Bobbie Jensen
Gary Meyer - Chair
Leah Ross
Jon Beall

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- Warehouse Assistant Coordinator
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- H.O.W. Coordinator
Ed Foltz
- Housekeeping Supervisor
Todd Holland
- Maintenance Manager
Harry Lamon
- Scheduling Coordinator
Michael O'Kier
- Warehouse Coordinator
Ron Pieper
- Transitional Services Coordinator
Steve Wise
- General Manager
Hope Outreach
Harold Wright
- Senior Warehouse Manager

Hope Outreach Steering Committee

Linda Kennedy - Chair
John Long
Steve Wise

Hope Chest Resale Store Staff

Alex Madrid
- Assistant Manager
Jesse Reeder
- Team Leader
Jovita Robles
- Team Leader
Rose Sommerville
- Manager

Hope Chest Elgin Resale Store Staff

Anne Marie Anderson
- Manager
Becky Loske
- Team Leader
Rose Sommerville
- Manager

Sweet Charity Resale Shop Staff

Denise Carter
- Staff Cashier
Kelly Conrardy
- Merchandising Assistant
- Staff Cashier
Joslyn Imthurn
- Staff Cashier
Karen Pieper
- Staff Cashier
Lori Renzetti
- Staff Cashier
Rose Sommerville
- Manager
Roseann Stachura
- Assistant Manager

New Life Corrections Staff

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- NLC Senior Chaplain

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Ed McCabe
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Mike Mueller
Jeffrey Roberts
Joe Slawek

Lifespring Ministry Staff

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- Second Shift Supervisor
Marlene Fisher
- Case Manager
Laura Giersz
- Case Manager
Dana Kemp
- Director
Jemima Sen
- Third Shift Supervisor
Frank Yonke
- Pastoral Counselor

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Jody Cantey
Deirdre Cooper
Rem Fairlamb - Chair
Craig Hershey
Janet Hershey
Pastor Joe Kovarik
Cathy Kovarik
Brian Sibert
Sandra Sibert

Master's Touch Ministry Staff

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- Chaplain/Learning Center Coordinator
Jon Beall
- Director
David Bialachowski
- Kitchen Supervisor
Michael Cortez
- Resident Coordinator

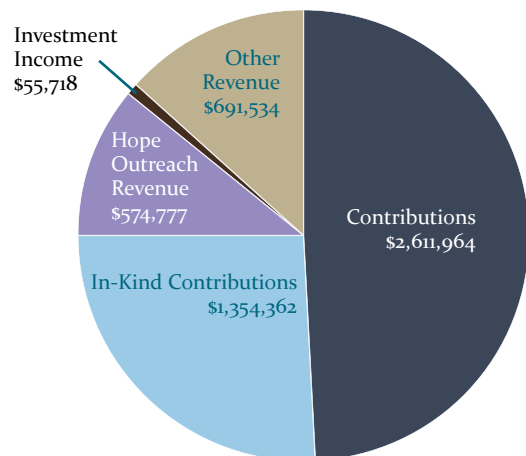
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Joshua Anderson
Kevin Bell
Joe Guavera
Ray Hinsch
John Hurni
John Konc
Tyler Turduci
Steve Van Denand
Brad Van Horn - Chair

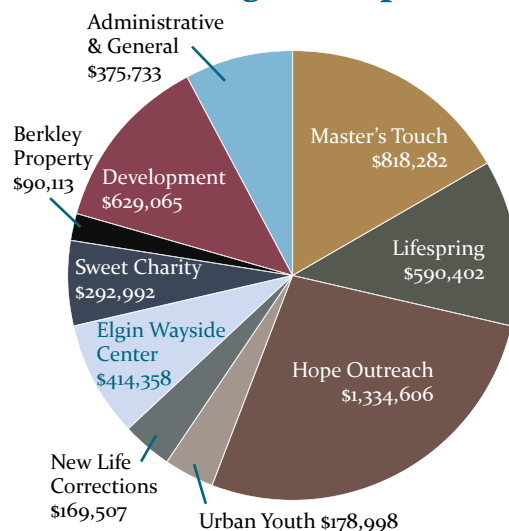
Urban Youth Ministry Staff

Abby Gonzalez
- Program Assistant
Samantha Pilkington
- Program Assistant
Robin Sterkel
- Program Manager

2020 Revenue Sources



2020 Program Expenses



Would You Help the Annual Campaign Mail Some Postcards?

Every year at the start of our Annual Campaign we mail out postcards asking the donors to watch for our Annual Campaign appeal, and we found they really work. Last year we sent out almost 4,000 cards. You probably have received one. This year we would like to send out more and you can help.

We need volunteers to help out in August. You will address the postcard and add a brief message, either your own or one we supply. We need you or

a group from your church to help.

Wayside will provide everything you need, cards and stamps. It only takes a little over an hour of your time. Wayside's growth over the years is due to the generosity of its supporters. A note from you and WCM is a good way to keep this going.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Birnie Harper, Annual Campaign Coordinator, at 630.723.3427 or by email at bharper@waysidecross.org

The Heritage Society – Wayside's Most Loyal Supporters

Wayside Cross Ministries Heritage Society was created to recognize and honor loyal, long-term donors, this wonderful group has grown to almost 700. Their generosity (a little over 56,000 donations) makes transformation a reality at Wayside.

Many Heritage donors are regular monthly contributors. They provide a steady flow of dollars each month, this is a significant blessing in slower months since many donations come in near the end of the year.

Thanks to the member's sacrificial and generous support, Wayside continues to grow and serve the powerless and afflicted.

The criteria for membership includes benefactors who have faithfully and generously made financial contributions to the ministry over the past 15 years with gifts totaling \$3,500 or more. Names are listed at the back of this report.



Amidst Challenges, God Provides

The year 2020 has been a challenge for all our stores, just as it has been for everyone. Despite the difficulties, we've seen God's hand at work.

Due to the virus, the stores had to shut down for approximately two and a half months. While the shut down impaired business, we had an opportunity to update both Sweet Charity and the Hope Chest. During that time, a well-known store went out of business and donated many store fixtures to Wayside, which aided in the update. Dedicated volunteers and employees worked tirelessly during that time.

During this down time, we were able to open a third store in Elgin. God answered prayers for someone to run the store. Hope Chest Elgin, located at 453 Fremont St., is now open for business, run by two women who have a heart for ministry and a passion for Wayside.

Despite the circumstances, our volunteers have continued serving at Sweet Charity and Hope Chest, with new volunteers added to both locations.

God continues to use the stores, especially during this time, to serve and minister to the community faithfully.

Romans 8:28 says: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."



Throughout This Year with All of Its Challenges, Our Foundation Stood Firm

While 2020 brought many challenges to the Master's Touch program, we were reminded of Psalm 11:3 *"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

One challenge our program faced was the lack of food donations the kitchen received from restaurants due to closings during the pandemic. Countless people from the community picked up the slack and provided meals, coffee, desserts, bottle water and paper goods. Approximately 98,500 meals were served to our Master's Touch men during 2020, all because of the generosity of so many people answering God's call to righteousness.

Another challenge was running our volunteered driven programs during a time when volunteers were quarantined at home. Before the pandemic, one of our newer evening speakers during chapel was Shade Reed. Shade has a dynamic teaching style and an impactful testimony. The men in the program were excited to hear and interact with him. Shade had only spoken a few times when shelter-in-place hit, and for three months we were not able to continue in-person chapel. When chapel resumed, Shade volunteered to

hold any sessions that needed a leader, and he ended up speaking two to three times a month.

We will remember the year 2020 as a year that brought many challenges. Throughout those challenges, our foundation as a Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry stood firm. It has been well supported by so many like Shade, who want to do whatever is necessary to support the ministry of Master's Touch and the men God has given us to serve.

Master's Touch foundation stands firm today because of the overwhelming support and encouragement from the surrounding community, donors and volunteers, and most of all, a God that is unshakable!

Jon Beall
Director, Master's Touch



Lifespring Showed Me The Way To A Strong Foundation

Lifespring, wow! This ministry played a considerable role in helping me live a genuinely fruitful life close to Jesus Christ, our precious Lord!

When I arrived at Lifespring, I needed everything – shelter, food, money, and a job. I was a common criminal and a drug addict, asking for help having just been released from a prison work release center in Aurora. Lifespring took me in, counseled me, sheltered me and fed me. They met my every need. They never looked down on me, even knowing my reckless past life. They started teaching me and guiding me as to how to live a productive, drug-free life.

While doing so, they also invited other Christians to come to Lifespring and meet with the women. We played fun games, made crafts and talked. (They even allowed us to win!) We were taken to church as a group, allowing us to get to know and encourage each other. We lived as one big happy family with every need met through Lifespring and its beautiful supporters. They even helped us provide gifts for our children that did not live with us at Lifespring. Volunteers bought Christmas gifts for my daughter, and my daughter was welcomed to have visits with me at the facility.

I eventually found employment and was able to get my driver's license back. After saving \$5,000, I was able to purchase a vehicle. I would never have been able to accomplish this without Lifespring! Thanks to everyone at Lifespring, I was on my way, building a strong foundation and a healthy relationship with my children and family members.

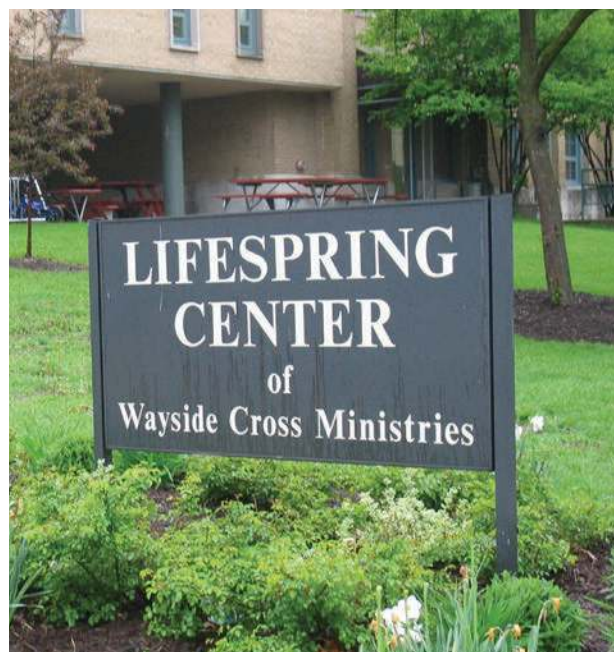
I am over 10 years drug free. I attend church regularly in Joliet at the Church of the Nazarene, and I am very involved in my church. Life is good. I never imagined I would be able to say that. I love the Lord and am grateful for Lifespring and the people the Lord allowed to influence my life to live for Him!

I am truly happy now, and while others may mess up my day or frustrate me, the joy stays with the precious love of Jesus our Lord and the mercy of His Father God!

Thank you, Lifespring, for being willing vessels for God to use!

- A former resident

Dana Kemp
Director, Lifespring Ministry Center



Holding Firm To Our Foundation Improved It

The year 2020 was split between pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 at Elgin Wayside Center.

We operated differently. The wearing of masks became commonplace. We had tape on the floor to indicate that only one person could come to the counter at a time. We split the attendees between two large rooms to spread out with two chairs to a table.

During this time, it was essential to hold firm to our foundation and continue daily Bible study. We had a gradual increase in people seeking the care and support of the dedicated staff at the Wayside Center.

For two weeks, with all team-members testing positive and quarantining, we shut down the

Center for the first time. When we opened again, volunteers, regulars and new guests joined us.

I considered Psalm 11:3, *"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

Our foundation was not destroyed; it was improved.

During that time, Nino Turi ran point on a flooring project at the Center in which volunteers and members of his crew took advantage of the empty building to do most of the flooring removal. The new floor looks fantastic, and upon our reopening, many people commented on it.

Jon Beall
Interim Director, Elgin Wayside Center



Nothing Can Stop God From Sharing Jesus With Our UYM Kids!

Urban Youth Ministry has been sharing Jesus with children in Aurora for 34 years.

UYM provides Bible study, academic enrichment programs, physical activity, social emotional programs, summer and winter camps, after school programs and two co-ed baseball leagues, all free of charge. UYM's goal is to begin serving children in elementary school and continue until they graduate from high school. This goal gives UYM a major role in the Aurora community and to the families it serves.

The foundation UYM stands on is unshakable because of Ephesians 2:20, *"Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself."* This foundation and the generosity and prayers of WCM donors has allowed UYM to serve God's children in Aurora uninterrupted during a global pandemic, social and political unrest, one of the hottest summers on record, transportation breakdowns, riots, and gang violence in our local neighborhoods.

The purpose of UYM has always been to give children hope in their futures through Jesus Christ. In the year 2020, we added another part to our long time purpose that is now our new motto.... Nothing can stop God from sharing Jesus with our UYM kids!

Thank you for being a part of the foundation that Christ Jesus is blessing Urban Youth Ministry with yesterday, today and tomorrow!

Robin Sterkel,
UYM Program Manager



Building A Foundation One Day At A Time

I met Dustin as he was on his second stay at Wayside after having just been released from prison. Dustin was lost because of drugs and poor mentoring as a teenager. He'd burned many bridges due to his serious drug addiction, and his family was no longer speaking to him. His foundation in life had crumbled.

Dustin's first time at Master's Touch was in early 2014. He got his New Life Corrections Aftercare brochure from an inmate at Graham Prison. He came into the Master's Touch program with a young and foolish attitude. He lasted just four weeks before he dropped out and returned home to Centralia IL.

The next few years were more of the same for Dustin; he would drift in and out of jail/prison due to his drug use and choice of friends, get sent home on parole, then relapse all over again. By January of 2020, after his release from Vandalia prison, Dustin was tired of living this way. He contacted his boyhood friend Kyle with one thing in mind: he wanted real change in his life this time.

Kyle, a friend Dustin used to take drugs with, had experienced total life change through Wayside Cross. He encouraged Dustin to give the Master's

Touch program another try. Though wary, Dustin was serious about avoiding a relapse and accepted Kyle's offer.

It has been over a year since Dustin came back to Wayside. During that time, he has committed his life to Christ and has remained completely drug free. The foundation he is now standing on is firm because of the grace that God has shown him despite his past.

"I felt God was saying it was my time to get away from all the madness and to become a successful member of society. I met a lot of great Christian men along my journey to help me learn the Bible and allow Jesus to change my life. My favorite verse is Hebrews 4:12, *'The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to soul and spirit, discerning the thoughts and intentions of my heart.'* I'm very grateful to Wayside's Masters Touch program. I graduated from Wayside in September of 2020 and I'm now in phase 4 of the program, working full time at Jakes Machine and Rebuilding Services Inc. in Aurora. I plan on attending ETI School of Skilled Trades in March. I continue here at Wayside growing in my faith, encouraging other residents to finish the program and restart their lives." -Dustin

Today, Dustin regularly attends Seven Mountain Bible Church in Plano. He loves listening to Pastor Josh as he shares the Word of God. Dustin also attends the Hope Group at my church, helping others recover from their addictions. Dustin is a perfect example of how God is faithful to those who want to be transformed. He is just one of many men who this year stepped out of jail/prison and are allowing this Christ centered, Bible based program to give them the foundation to glorify God.

Steve Madawick
Sr. Chaplain, New Life Corrections



Our Foundations Were Laid 92 Years Ago

For the Hope Outreach division, 2020 has been the most challenging year that we have seen in decades. A hallmark of this division is the resident work program, where work can be a critical part of a person's transformational journey. Our program teaches new skills and instills a Christian worldview of work ethics within a structured work environment. Wayside Cross residents are able to gain confidence to provide for themselves and their families upon graduation from the program.

Every resident in our program has a job to do. Many residents are needed to fill the various positions in our warehouse: transportation, housekeeping, kitchen, maintenance, auto detail shop and resale stores. With COVID-19 arriving on the scene this year and the necessary pre-screening of new incoming residents, our resident population has dropped to half of our normal "workforce." The result is that Wayside staff members are stretched thin to provide for very basic needs to keep our operation afloat. One example is our warehouse (which typically requires 25 men), is now run by just 8 resident workers.

Though our current scenario may appear dismal, we clearly understand two things. 1. It is out of our control. 2. Better yet, we fully know that it is in the control of our Lord! These convictions are born out of the foundations that were laid at the inception of Wayside Cross, where we strive in the great work of the Gospel, and God provides the results.

Furthermore, there is an amazing thing we are witnessing among our residents. They continue to work tirelessly, even when their immediate supervisors have been away on COVID quarantine. When 21 men were quarantined in our dormitory last October, they stepped in to care for those who were experiencing COVID symptoms and cleaned the dormitory bathrooms when the housekeeping team was ill. Why would they do this? Because God is changing them! Their transformation has already begun, as evidenced by their willingness to care for others. In spite of the pandemic, the Lord is clearly at work.

Steve Wise
General Manager, Hope Outreach



H.O.W.

Hope On Wheels, the auto-detailing ministry of Wayside Cross, officially started its program in July 2017. Since that time, they have detailed almost 1,800 vehicles! Hope On Wheels teaches residents work ethic and job-readiness skills for their future. Bring your car in for a wash or detailing in our year-round indoor facility and it will look brand new when you pick it up. Most importantly, you help men learn a new job skill for their future. Call 630-723-3438 to make an appointment.



You Too Can Be A Good Neighbor

Currently, Wayside Cross Ministries has 22 partner churches with bins for clothing and shoes at their locations. For your convenience, you can access your nearest bin location by going to www.waysidecross.org and clicking on "Donate Items".

Clothing donations from these bins support the men, women, and children in our programs, along with the community at large. By donating to WCM, you are being a good neighbor to those in need.

Your church can make a difference! Due to a substantial donation from a partner church, we are able to provide a bin at your church.

If you are interested in discussing the possibility of placing a donation bin at your location, please contact

Tom Davidson
630.723.3428
tdavidson@waysidecross.org

If you have larger items to donate and would like to schedule a pickup, please contact our Scheduling Department by calling 888.723.5730.



Editor
Debbie Butler

Executive Director
James Lukose

DIVISIONS OF WCM

- MASTER'S TOUCH
- LIFESPING MINISTRY
- NEW LIFE CORRECTIONS
- ELGIN WAYSIDE CENTER
- URBAN YOUTH MINISTRY
- HOPE OUTREACH

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.

VISION

To be a Christ-centered ministry pursuing excellence through transformed lives for God's glory.

CORE VALUES

CHRIST-LIKENESS
COMPASSION
COMMITMENT
COLLABORATION
COMMUNITY



WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES
215 E New York Street
Aurora, IL 60505-3491

Phone (630) 892 - 4239
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Email: dbutler@waysidecross.org



Donate on our website
www.waysidecross.org



HOPE ON WHEELS

HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society was created in 1998. Membership includes benefactors who have faithfully and generously made yearly contributions to the ministry. We thank God for you, year after year, and your generous gifts. You've provided a bedrock of support for our ongoing work.

A Mary Abe
Gladys Abens
Rob and Jan Abramson
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Dick and Katie Albaugh
Tom and Ann Alexander
Ruby Allen
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