

Three Men and a Truck! You help our residents keep truckin'!

While carrying the treasures of others, God showed them their self-worth.

Mike, Matt, and Rodney had three things in common. Each had experienced brokenness, addiction, and despair. It's what led them to Wayside. It's what your prayers and support help people overcome.

One of the critical aspects of real and lasting recovery is the ability of each person to confront and face the dark places in their lives. That's not always easy to do. But just as iron sharpens iron, overcoming our sinful behavior happens when God intervenes, and we share our brokenness with a trusted friend.

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. ~ James 5:16 NIV

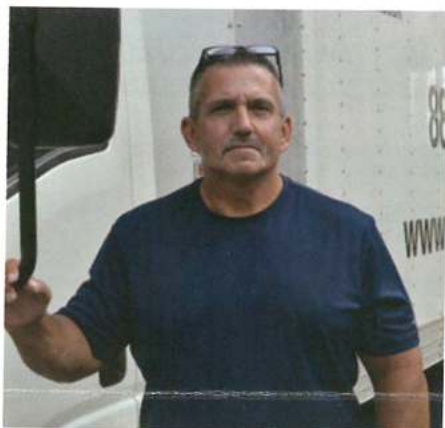
While riding together on the truck, making donation pickups and thrift store deliveries, Mike, Matt, and Rodney discovered that addiction, despair, and jail time were not the only things they had in common. As God helped them overcome these things, they began to witness to and encourage each other.

They were touched as they made their donation pickups, by others' generosity, they discovered how donated items found a new purpose with value. They began to see how God uses everything for our good. They now believe God has a similar plan for their lives.

Today, Mike, Matt, and Rodney are graduates and are in Phase Three and Four of our Master's Touch Program. Two are working full time and saving for the future, and one is a Resident Assistant while continuing to finish his program at Wayside. All three find time to encourage new residents in recovery and each other.



Wrong place. Right Time. Meet Rodney



Growing up in Glen Ellyn, Rodney had a great dad, who taught him how to work with his hands. As they worked on cars together, Rodney learned to weld and to work with electronics. When Rodney's Dad passed, he was devastated. Five months later, he learned he would be burying his mother. Thinking he had all the tools needed in life, he realized he didn't have the one thing that was needed most.

Rodney began using drugs to cope with life. It affected his job, a 20-year career as an industrial refrigeration technician. One night he lost it all. A combination of drugs caused a blackout, and he wandered into a house he thought was his. That mistake led to prison and eventually to Wayside, a place he couldn't even imagine. Wayside is a Bible-based, long-term recovery program, and because of the length of the stay at Wayside, he had time to make great friends, Mike and Matt.

Mike and Matt were overcoming similar obstacles. They ended up on the same work team at the warehouse and the delivery truck. Their encouragement helped Rodney through the darkness.

That, and the programs and training Wayside Cross residents receive is life-changing. Today, Rodney is five years sober and working full time. It was here that Rodney found the one tool he needed to fix his life, Jesus. Rodney learned to put Him in charge of everything and to trust only in Him. Because of this place, he has new opportunities, he has *Hope*, and he has his life back.

Lost and Found. Meet Mike



Mike allowed depression and the traumatic experiences of a broken past to get the better of him. He needed a way to drown out a chorus of negativity that surrounded his life. Drinking became his drug of choice. It destroyed his life and every relationship, including the one with his wife and two children. It sent him packing into the streets where he wandered, homeless for several years.

One day he found his way to Elgin Wayside Center to our day program. With help from Pastor Phil Wood, our center's director, Mike began receiving the support and encouragement he desperately needed. It led him to our Master's Touch residential recovery program in Aurora. Mike knew it was time to address the root of his problems. He began sharing his darkest moments.

For many people, that's the turning point in moving past the hurt—past the painful memories. The hours he spent in class, chapel, fellowship with his mentor, and close friendships he made gave Mike a deeper understanding of his real character and nature.

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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.

These days, Mike is at peace. He lives one day at a time, in Christ. He has a great job working for a well-known international technology company. And he finally found the peace that surpasses all understanding in Galatians 2:20:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 NIV

That's life-transforming! It's what Wayside Cross Ministries is all about.

Arise and walk. Meet Matt



Years after a series of workplace related accidents left Matt crushed, with only one leg, he suffers with PTS, Post Thrombotic Syndrome. Together, these handicaps limited his ability to work. Eventually, his 15-year marriage and relationship with his children collapsed. Separated from the life he knew and the people he loved, he did what many people in his situation might do. He turned to alcohol.

Before the accidents and alcohol, he was a trusted and well-thought-of crew leader for a large moving firm. Known as a hard worker with natural leadership abilities, some of Matt's clientele included Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Faith was the furthest thing from his mind. Yet somehow, a small voice began to speak saying it was time for a change. He checked himself into a

30-day recovery program. But eventually, he found himself back in the same spot with a choice — jail or back in rehab. For the first time, he prayed for a change.

That's when he heard about Wayside Cross Ministries and our Master's Touch program. He tried everything else; he had nothing to lose. Here, he found a safe place to recover and heal. Our seven-month recovery program led to Phase-Three and an additional 18 month extension.

As a Resident Assistant, Matt guides and encourages others to experience the kind of peace that surpasses all understanding that he found. He does it by merely encouraging our residents to grant themselves time to heal.

He also gives back in our Hope Outreach work program. As lead man in the warehouse Matt coordinates incoming donations. Having ridden on the trucks he teaches men the proper way to move and transport furniture. He has found a good use for his work skills as God continues to pour into his life.

For a man who has faced death three times, he still struggles to understand *Hope*. But he has discovered a new-found trust in God. His favorite Bible verse may help you understand why.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ~ Psalm 23:4 NIV

Thank you for giving people like Mike, Matt and Rodney another shot in life.

Get their full stories at WaysideCross.org/Stories-Of-Hope.

Core Values: Christ-likeness • Compassion • Commitment • Collaboration • Community

Second Chances, It's What We're All About

Your donations will get a second chance to become someone's treasure when we put them in our Thrift Stores.

Come visit one of our three stores or all of them.

Hope Chest, 36 N. Lincoln Avenue, Aurora, IL 60505 630-723-3436

Sweet Charity Resale Store, 3450 Montgomery Road, Aurora, IL 60504 630-820-0447

Hope Chest Elgin, 453 Fremont Street, Elgin, IL 60120 630-723-3403

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed in all three stores. If you would like to volunteer, contact Steve Wise at 630-723-3434, or at swise@waysidecross.org.



Hope On Wheels Auto Detailing is Open for Business. Call ahead for an appointment (630) 723-3438. Michael Douglas and the men remain compliant with breathing masks and social distancing guidelines. Thank you for continuing to support our ministries and this training program.

SERVICES WE OFFER

- **EXTERIOR QUICK WASH - \$10**
Includes hand wash, tire shine, interior vacuum, and exterior windows.
- **INTERIOR ONLY - \$45**
Includes complete interior detailing, interior windows, vacuum, shampoo carpet and upholstery, vinyl & leather conditioner.
- **EXTERIOR WASH & WAX - \$25**
Includes hand wash, tire shine, spray wax, interior vacuum, interior/exterior windows & tire pressure check.
- **FULL SERVICE DETAILS - \$85**
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



HOPE ON WHEELS
AUTO DETAILING

211 E. NEW YORK ST.
(BEHIND THE MAIN 215 BUILDING)
WWW.WAYSIDECROSS.ORG

APPOINTMENT NECESSARY - PLEASE CALL AHEAD
630.723.3438

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