



Meet Harold

For nearly 40 years, this military soldier faced and fought many obstacles and won. Most recently, he overcame a bout with COVID-19. Now, as one of the longest-

serving employees at Wayside, he says: *"Nothing can stop you with God on your side."* But life wasn't always that way.

Harold's journey began in 1981 when he volunteered for active military duty. In Korea, they prepared him for many things. As a weapons expert, they recruited him as a sniper and trained him as a Medic, his job was patching up and airlifting soldiers to safety. He saw many things there, but nothing could prepare him for life as a civilian.

He found success as a hardware store owner, thanks to a VA loan. But a few sinful habits he picked up in the rice paddies half-a-world away eventually caught up with him. Haunted by what he witnessed in war, he was now on a self-destructing path. He lost his business and everything due to drug and alcohol abuse. Living in isolation, he convinced his parents to give him some money and their old van and set out to rebuild his life!

But he squandered it all away.

Unable to return home, he sought help from the VA Clinic in Hines, Illinois. The doctors convinced him to check himself into Wayside Cross Ministries' Master's Touch residential recovery program.

"They told me if I needed a place to stay, I would find one at Wayside. They put me on a bus. I didn't know where I was going. It dropped me off at Wayside, and I entered their recovery program, but it wasn't easy. I tried to leave a couple of times. I went South, East and

West, but it seemed like something was stopping me. It was funny, you've got to understand, I could find my way anywhere in the world while in the military. But here, I didn't know where I was. Little did I know there was a train station only a few blocks to the North. One day I walked over there by accident, buses, cabs, and right there in the middle was the train station!

I couldn't believe it. It was like God put blinders on me. That's when I decided this is where I need to be. I'd been all around the world, but I couldn't find my way out of this little place? Something must be keeping me here." A new life, a gift from God, and so much more.

These days, he works as the Transportation Manager and Senior Warehouse Manager. Harold has coached and currently umpires games for 125 kids that play on our Wayside Cross Urban Youth baseball league.

On the job, Harold mentors guys in our work program. It's an integral part of the transformational process for our men in recovery. If you ask him what the best part of his job is, he says: *"Getting up in the morning and knowing I have someplace to go. Knowing I have something important to do."*

Last year, Wayside recognized Harold for his leadership. He was honored as one of the longest-serving employees on staff throughout our 92-year history. *"I thank God every day for Wayside, the opportunities He has given me. I know none of it would be possible without the help of donors, volunteers, and supporters who have come alongside this ministry over the many years to support it."*

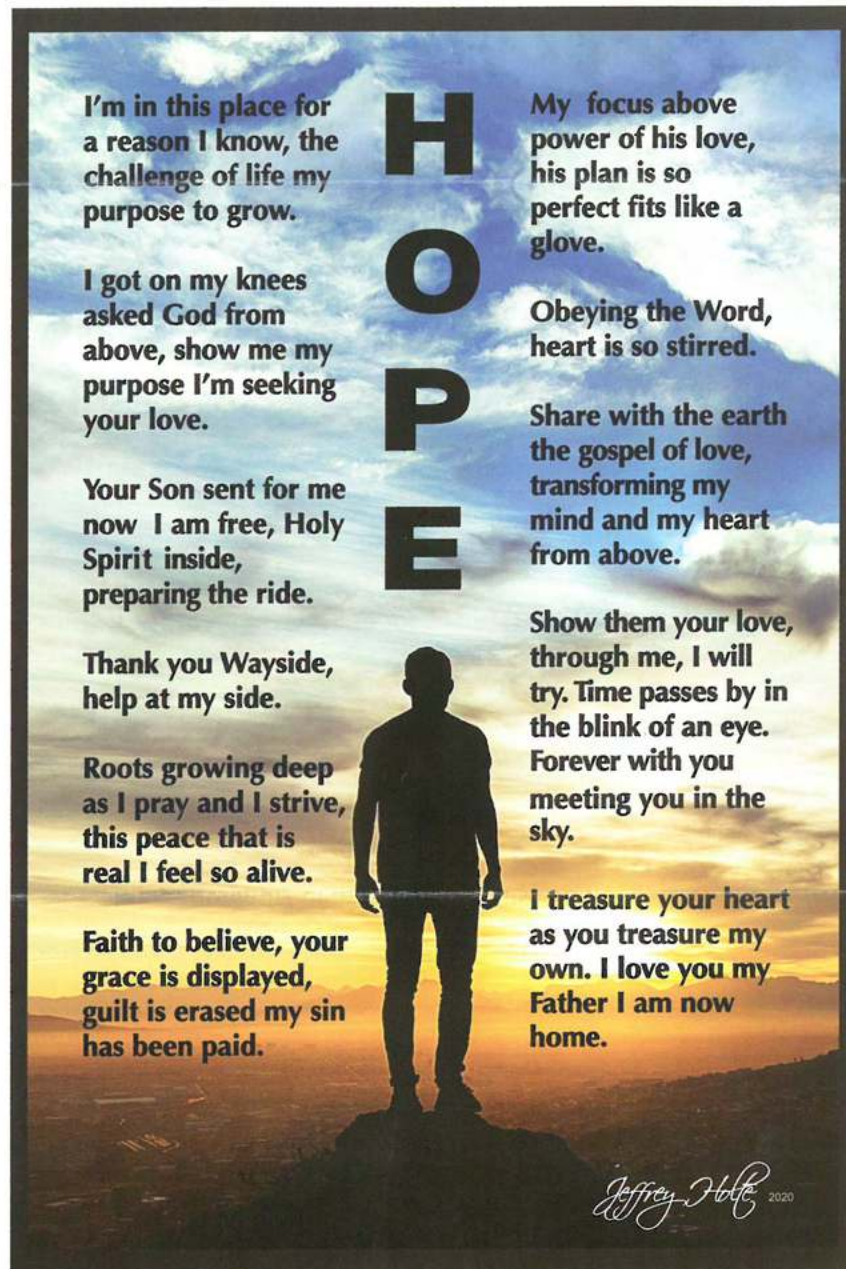
"Today, I have hope. The nightmares left a long time ago, and in its place, I have peace I never knew I could have when I left the military."

"I received it all at Wayside."

To read about Harold's full journey, visit: [WaysideCross.org/ChristmasHopeforHarold](https://www.WaysideCross.org/ChristmasHopeforHarold)

This poem was written by Jeffrey, one of our past residents. He was in the program for seven months, graduated and went to work. While here, Jeffrey was in the Big Brother Program, where he was assigned incoming residents and was able to show them the ropes.

Jeffrey worked in Housekeeping as the lead man of a small crew. Once graduated he moved into Phase 3 of the program and got an outside job. Jeffrey was a finish carpenter by trade. He is now working and still living in the area.



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.

The COVID IMPACT on our Fundraising Events

What a year this has been! As some of you know we had to cancel our yearly fundraising events due to COVID. We took on a new experience and held virtual events this year.

Urban Youth Ministry led the way with a 5B's catered drive-thru meal in August. Once home with their food they could watch the virtual banquet and see how God has been working at Urban Youth Ministry in these difficult times, with interviews of the children in the program. You can still watch the video at www.waysidecross.org/UYMvirtualbanquet. Being the first to have the event was a challenge which Robin Sterkel, Program Manager took on with excitement.



Next up was the Lifespring Ministry Virtual Event. Normally, in its 16th year, this fundraising event is an Auction, with lots of items to bid on, a good meal and lots of fun to be had. This year it was a little different, Shelter in the Storm was held live in September. You could get a peek inside Lifespring and meet some of the ladies whose lives you are helping to change. This event can be viewed at www.waysidecross.org/Lifespring.

Elgin Wayside Center held their virtual fundraiser in October. This was an event that celebrated the success and witnessed some of the heart breaking challenges the most vulnerable in our society have had to overcome. Elgin Center is a day center offering food, counseling, clothing, showers, laundry facilities and daily Bible studies. Please watch this event at <http://bitly/ElginWaysideEvent>.



The final event for 2020 was the New Life Corrections Ministry Virtual Fundraising Event. Held in November. This was going to be an actual live dinner held at Wayside for approximately 50 people but due to new COVID restrictions limiting indoor activities to no more than 10 people, the indoor dinner had to be canceled. It was then turned into a 5B's catered drive-thru meal and a video of the event. You can watch this event at <http://bit.ly/NLCdinner>.

Although we had to change our plans, and go in a completely different direction this year, God has been faithful and saw to all Wayside's needs. If you would like to donate to any of these ministries please go to our website and choose the Donate button.

We are in need of volunteers at all 3 of our store locations

To inquire about volunteering at one of our resale store locations, please contact Rose Sommerville at rsommerville@waysidecross.org

Sweet Charity



3450 Montgomery Road
Aurora, IL 60504
630-820-0447

Hope Chest Elgin



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

Hope Chest Aurora



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

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



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— AUTO DETAILING —

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(BEHIND THE MAIN 215 BUILDING)
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APPOINTMENT NECESSARY - PLEASE CALL AHEAD

630.723.3438

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