

# Wayside Cross Ministries



## Stewardship Report 2021





**James Lukose,**  
Executive Director

## And What Does the Lord Require of You? Micah 6:8

This past year, the world as we knew it went through cataclysmic challenges as each of us worked our way through another season of difficulty. We are still wrestling through these unprecedented trials in schools, churches, hospitals, businesses, and homes.

Today, costs continue to skyrocket as consumer goods collect in shipping yards and employers struggle to fill positions, all against a backdrop of cultural unrest and rising calls for social justice. It creates a pretty bleak picture for believers and non-Christians alike.

It's no wonder the secular world lies in wait for Christians to trade our values under the social pressures of a fallen world, as evidenced in the nightly news. Thankfully, Wayside Cross Ministries did not give in to the pressure. One reason for this is that we have never relied upon government support, but rather, our confidence rests in the providence of God and the generosity of friends like you.

However, we were placed in the unusual position of defending the afflicted while serving them as ministry leaders. Thankfully, we had the mandate of Micah to fall back on.

In verse 6:8, God requires from those who are true Christians - *to act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

When you think about it, this goes against our very nature to plead for justice and mercy for others over ourselves. But this is precisely what Ministry at Wayside is all about.

Thankfully, we experienced an overwhelming outpouring of volunteers and donors who, contrary to the pressures of this social climate, have shown great kindness and generosity to our Ministry during these unprecedented times. You will never know what a great source of encouragement it was to our staff and the people we serve.

God's Word is unfailing.

It allowed us to move through another season of social unrest while never having to choose between seeking justice, loving mercy, or walking humbly with God. Because in truth, this is not an *"either or"* proposition but a *"both and"* necessity, which God requires of us.

Your encouragement is what allowed us to move through extraordinary circumstances with uncommon confidence. Because of your support, lives continued to be transformed through the Gospel as more people answered the call of Christ over their lives.

As you peruse these pages, we trust you will discover in example after example just how your support blessed and encouraged each of our six ministry divisions and brought redemption and hope to countless souls since 1928. May God bless you for your faithful partnership.

On behalf of a very grateful staff, "Thank you" for all you do in Jesus' name.

### Master's Touch Ministry

- 26 men graduated the Master's Touch program
- 11 men promoted to full-time resident assistants
- 3 men promoted to resident staff
- 64 men made professions of faith in Christ
- 165 men met weekly with a mentor
- 32 men found full time jobs

### Lifespring Ministry

- 25 volunteers led weekly Bible-based and life skills classes
- 2 pastoral counselors met with residents on a weekly basis
- 14 mentors met weekly with assigned residents
- 23 women entered the program; 4 completed the entire 1-year program
- 4 women made a profession of faith
- 16 women made significant improvements in their LIFE skills
- 12 mothers attended parenting classes on a consistent basis
- 12 women entered the work force

### Elgin Wayside Center

- 11 guests placed into life change programs
- 120 volunteers
- 5,912+ guest sign-ins
- 3,915 lunches served
- 11,824 cups of coffee served
- 1,264 loads of laundry done
- 244 Bible studies conducted
- 1,180 showers taken

### Hope Outreach

- Provides the men in the program daily, real-life work experience. Enhancing or learning new skills in our warehouse, transportation department, maintenance shop, housekeeping department, Hope

Chest Resale Store, Sweet Charity Resale Shop, Hope Chest Resale Store Elgin and Hope On Wheels

- Maintained 8 ministry vehicles with an average of 6,000 miles per month
- Scheduled, transported, sorted and refurbished over 500,000 donated items including clothing, furniture, household goods and other miscellaneous objects. These items were sold at the Hope Chest Resale Stores, Sweet Charity Resale Shop or distributed to under-resourced men, women and children in the community or within one of Wayside Cross' divisions
- Through our Community Outreach program and World Relief Aurora, we assisted local churches with 19 referrals for clothing and housewares
- 1,162 bales at over 800 lbs. each of clothing and 940 bags of shoes, for a total of 891,261 lbs. were recycled with the majority of those items going to third-world/developing countries
- Partnered with 4 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 Stores as well as other areas of our ministries
- Operated 20 donation bins at partner churches, collecting 8,528 bags of donated clothing, weighing 187,616 lbs.
- Proceeds from our Hope Chest Resale Stores, Sweet Charity Resale Shop, and Hope On Wheels, along with our income from recycling clothing, shoes, and scrap metal totalled \$802,250, all of which went to fund the ministry efforts at Wayside Cross Ministries

### New Life Corrections Ministry

- Went to Stateville Prison 14 times, with over 150 inmates visited
- Handed out 600 Bibles in jails and prisons
- Had over 75 volunteers come to our two training sessions
- Passed out over 5,000 Dads and Freedom From Fear brochures to inmates
- Passed out 200 books and pamphlets to inmates

### Urban Youth Ministry

- 111 kids played in our Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League (59 Little League and 52 T-Ball)
- Each elementary-aged child received 26 hours of academic support through our after school program
- 3,583 free meals were served to UYM kids in 2021
- 60 people attended Cinderella at the Paramount Theater, completely free of charge
- 934 Summer volunteer hours served by over 50 volunteers
- 155 hours of Bible lessons taught in 2021
- 4 boys and 1 girl trained and competed in the sport Hammer Throw free of charge
- Collaborated with 50 churches and organizations
- 67 students received summer camp programming through June and July
- 110 days of transportation provided to UYM kids

## Board of Directors

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- Program Coordinator  
Jimmy Valadez  
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Kang Choi  
Bobbie Jensen  
David Krieger  
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Jeff Robinson  
Nino Tuti

## Hope Outreach Ministry Staff

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

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Linda Kennedy - Chair  
John Long  
Steve Wise

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Jennifer Jankovsky  
- Visual Merchandiser  
Jesse Reeder  
- Team Leader  
Jovita Robles  
- Team Leader  
Rose Sommerville  
- Manager  
Gary Warner  
- Team Leader

## Hope Chest Elgin Resale Store Staff

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

## Sweet Charity Resale Shop Staff

Heidi Brooker  
- Team Member  
Denise Carter  
- Staff Cashier  
Joslyn Imthurn  
- Staff Cashier  
Karen Pieper  
- Staff Cashier  
Lori Renzetti  
- Staff Cashier  
Rose Sommerville  
- Manager  
Roseann Stachura  
- Assistant Manager

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- NLC Senior Chaplain

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Mark Hopkins  
Ed McCabe  
Bob Milliman  
Mike Mueller  
Al Tierney

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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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Deirdre Cooper  
Rem Fairlamb - Chair  
Pastor Joe Kovarik  
Cathy Kovarik  
John Long  
Jill Poel  
Judy Zehr

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Jon Beall - Director  
Michael Cortez  
- Resident Coordinator  
Mark Papierski  
- Chaplain/Program Coordinator  
Ken Parsons  
- Kitchen Coordinator

## Master's Touch Transformation Leadership Committee

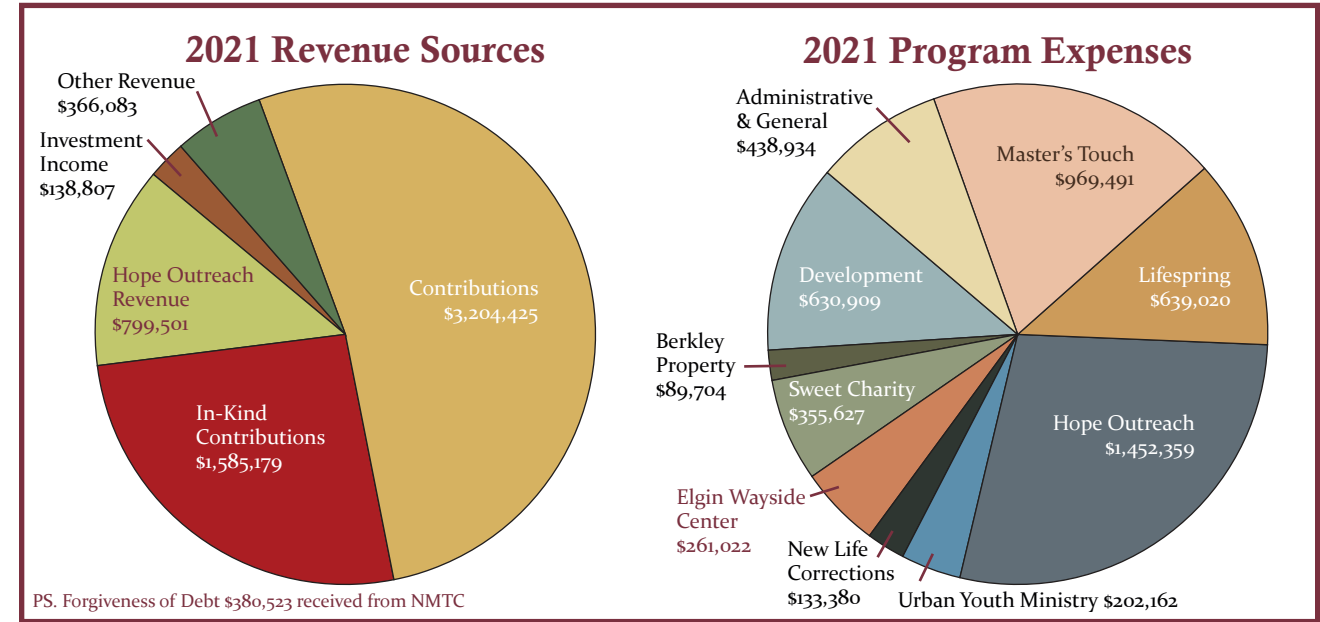
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Kevin Bell  
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John Hurni  
John Konc  
Tyler Turduci  
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## Urban Youth Ministry Staff

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

## UYM Steering Committee

Abby Gonzalez  
Tom Hartman - Chair  
Rachel Ossyra  
Sam Pilkington  
Diane Renner  
Robin Renner  
Robin Sterkel



## Please 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 over 4,000 cards. You probably 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](mailto: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 736 members. Their generosity (a little over 60,000 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.*





## There's Treasure for Everyone at Wayside Resale Stores...Come and Find Yours!

Despite challenging times, all three of our stores have continued to serve our community with the same love and dedication as they always have.

There is not a day that goes by where we don't hear from someone that they dearly loved our stores and employees.

Sweet Charity, our Montgomery store, has a steady stream of customers that travel from surrounding communities just to visit. One specific group has named Sweet Charity their favorite resale boutique!

It is such a joy to be able to provide quality products, and we work hard to ensure our shops go beyond the care of a simple resale store.

God has blessed us with the means to give back to our community, and it is truly an honor to be met with such love in return.

*Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*



## Acting Justly

There are many volunteers at Master's Touch who demonstrate elements of Micah 6:8.

Jayson York began volunteering at Master's Touch through an Elder at his church who was involved as a volunteer at Master's Touch. Jayson began speaking in Chapel and now he speaks at Master's Touch graduations, teaches once a week, and speaks in daytime Chapels.

Many have been impacted by his teaching. He speaks to the men about their sin and their desperate need of Christ. When he speaks, the Gospel is preeminent.

As pastor of West Chicago Bible Church, he acts justly, but loves mercy and has been asked to speak in many capacities because he walks humbly with his God.

The men in Master's Touch know that, and they see the difference.

We are so grateful that he has asked how he can volunteer even more.

**Jon Beall**  
Director, Master's Touch





## God Does Show You What's Good

In December 2020, Veronica Cunalata entered a drug rehabilitation center to end the three-year drug cycle that had caused her life to spin out of control. When she entered rehab, she had lost custody of her two young children, accumulated considerable debt, and her relationship with Jesus was non-existent.

After she completed rehab and regained custody of her daughter, Gabi, her father told her about Lifespring's transitional housing program for women in crisis who need a fresh start. She was hesitant to join a "program," but she quickly adapted to the routine at Lifespring and felt welcomed by the staff and residents.

Contrary to what most residents say about Lifespring's policy of not having a cell phone in the first 30 days, Veronica enjoyed the break. "It gave me time to focus on myself and my daughter," said Veronica. "I also enjoyed learning more about the Lord."

Now that she has been sober for one year and is in a relationship with Christ, she hopes to regain custody of her son soon.

She plans to re-enter the workforce as she approaches the last phase of the program, and has

already secured childcare for Gabi when the time comes. Her goals are to one day be a police officer, be the best mom possible to her children, be a spiritual leader and teach her children about God and how to follow Him.

**Dana Kemp**  
Director, Lifespring Ministry Center



## Loving Mercy

Elgin has many volunteers who exemplify Micah 6:8, serving the powerless and extending a love of mercy to all who come into the Elgin Wayside Center.

One such man, Kang Choi, has volunteered tirelessly doing landscaping and lawn maintenance of all kinds.

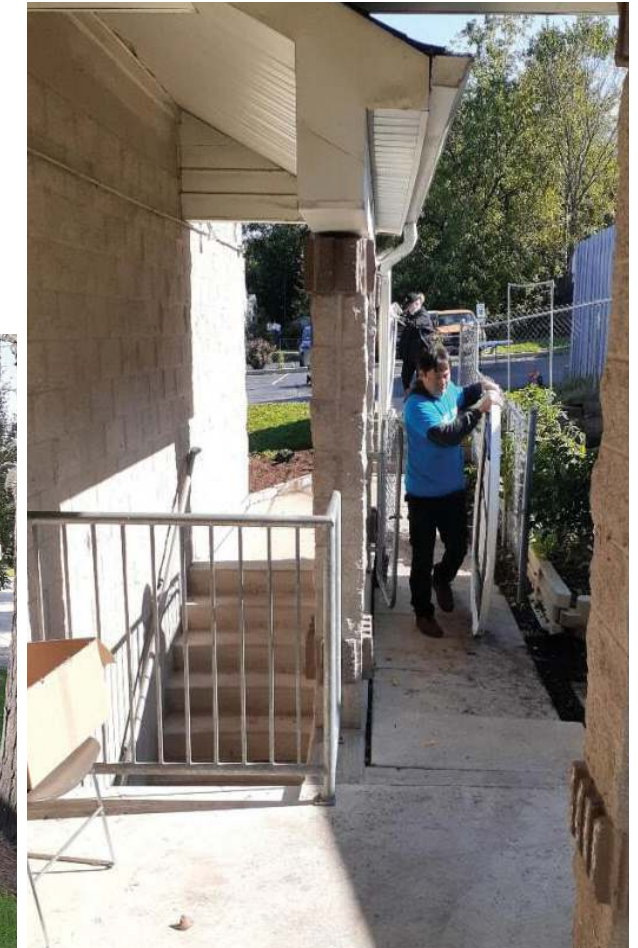
We did not have to ask him to help when COVID cases rose. He came back and continued to do work around the center.

When I asked him if I could write this article about him, he initially hesitated as he truly walks humbly with our God and does not desire glory for himself. He finally agreed as this benefits the ministry.

With his encouragement and many other volunteers, he helped us move through a season of challenges.

The Elgin Wayside Center staff is exceptionally thankful for Kang and others like him.

**Jon Beall**  
Interim Director, Elgin Wayside Center



# LIFE TRANSFORMATION

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## Something to Be Thankful For...



The son of a Vietnam veteran, Kenny grew up in a small community. He started using drugs as a teenager. He married in his twenties and had two sons. His habits ruined his most important relationships. At the height of his addiction, his wife left with their children. Shortly after, Kenny was arrested and sentenced to 16 years in jail.

While in prison he heard his older son had been imprisoned for drug use, Kenny was determined to make a lasting change.

The mother of his cellmate was a dedicated follower of Christ. He heard the gospel from this woman and wondered about Jesus. In a moment of utter brokenness, covered in the prayer of this mother, Kenny accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And the transforming work of the Holy Spirit began making a lasting change a reality. Kenny connected with Wayside and entered the Master's Touch program upon his parole.

He says, "I have to admit, I was a little nervous when I first arrived, but the minute I walked through the door, I felt like I had a home. I felt complete peace. Everyone made me feel welcome. It's almost like I had a hedge of protection around me."

Kenny has been diligently encouraging his son – making regular calls and working with our chaplain to ensure his son's transfer to Master's Touch upon his release.

Today, Kenny is a full-time staff member in the ministry. He works as the Kitchen Coordinator – overseeing the production of 210,000 meals a year. His leadership abilities have become more and more evident as he is being continuously transformed by Christ. His willingness to share his story encouraged many others.

To learn more of Kenny's testimony, visit: [waysidecross.org/Kenny](https://waysidecross.org/Kenny)

*"Coming to Wayside was the best decision I ever made. But I know none of it would be possible without the prayers and support of people like you. I was lost for a time. More than 16 years to be exact. But now today, I'm found. You are helping me find my way back home and helping my kids too! I can't thank you enough."*

## I Have a Plan and it Requires the Empowerment of Jesus



When Billie arrived at Lifespring, in September 2020 she said, "I have a plan. I'm in a tunnel, and the light at the end is far away. But it's lit." After battling alcohol, leaving an abusive relationship, and losing custody of her children, she needed help.

Arriving at Lifespring she remembers her quick temper. She butted heads often with staff. She sees now they were trying to help her see a bigger picture and she learned that takes time and the empowerment of Jesus Christ.

Billie received Jesus as her Savior and Lord and her attitude began to change. She is now learning the great value of patience and stability. She is working full time as a CNA. Providing for her family and finding great joy in building relationships with her patients.

Billie says, "The light at the end of the tunnel is right here." Her two boys were returned to her, Billie's family was complete. The stability of her family and the love she has for her children is now rooted in the only constant in any of our lives – Jesus Christ. She is focused on walking God's way. She has walked the path of destruction and has chosen the path of life – toward the only true Light there is.

To learn more of Billie's testimony, visit: [waysidecross.org/sober-living-for-billie/](https://waysidecross.org/sober-living-for-billie/)

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12b*



## From the Heart Right Behavior Will Ensure

It is always hard to pick whom to feature in the WCM Stewardship Report from the many individuals, churches, and organizations that support Urban Youth Ministry in such encouraging and generous ways.

This year Village Bible Church of Sugar Grove and Aurora seemed to be front and center. The amazing thing is they have collaborated with UYM for more than 20 years. VBC has featured and donated money to UYM through collections taken during Vacation Bible School, enabling us to purchase a much-needed 15 passenger van. Every summer, they send their youth group for one week to assist UYM summer staff in teaching Bible, games, and crafts. They sponsored numerous bowling field trips, paying for everything, including transportation. As a Sunday school teacher at VBC for almost 20 years, I realized during a group picture of the VBC youth group that came to serve this summer that nearly three-quarters of the youth had been in my 2nd grade Sunday school class. I realized this was a great example of the church teaching its youth Micah 6:8. John

MacArthur stated it so well in The MacArthur Bible Commentary, “God wants a spiritual commitment of the heart from which right behavior would ensue.” Seeing teenagers giving up a week of their summer to serve and teach our UYM kids in acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly following Micah 6:8 overwhelmed our UYM staff’s hearts in a way that gave us hope to continue serving our kids during a difficult summer.

This past year, under unprecedented circumstances, VBC not only never missed a beat serving UYM kids but even gave more. They provided free AV equipment that helped publish and produce our UYM Virtual Fundraiser and sponsored the event. Cisco Cotto, the speaker for our event, is a Pastor at VBC. We cannot thank you enough, VBC, for your love, prayer, and support this year and all the past years. The kids and staff at UYM thank our God in all our remembrance of you. Philippians 1:3

**Robin Sterkel,**  
UYM Program Manager



## God Works With the Humble and Merciful

Bradford came into the Master’s Touch men’s program at Wayside in January of 2020. For several months before that, he had been working with the Elgin Day Center’s staff, who had been helping him grow in his faith.



When I met Bradford, he was working with DuPage County Jail on a DUI charge. I began helping him work with his lawyer to get into Drug Court, a year-plus program which allows inmates to get the necessary help never to use drugs again. Through his studies at Wayside he learned that it was Jesus and His Word that gave him the foundation to get free from drug addiction. I mentored him during his time at Wayside, where he became focused on his recovery program, meetings, and being around the right people.

After having lost his father at an early age, Bradford had begun to use and sell drugs in his teen years. After some jail time, he came to know Jesus and had some good years. He got married, but the marriage didn’t work out and led to more drug use and broken family ties. When he came to Chicago to work for his sister, he got into trouble with the law. Here he joined a secular recovery program where he learned about Wayside.

Bradford graduated from Wayside in July of 2021. NICOR selected him to join their training program. He went into Phase 4 and was able to work outside of the program while still living at Wayside for several months, saving money to pay off his court fines. I continue to mentor Bradford as he had the opportunity to leave Wayside and live in a Discipleship home with other Christian men in Bolingbrook.

Bradford has learned to be humble and show mercy through serving those who need a second chance. He attends Highpoint Church in Romeoville and is deeply involved with the Hope Group Recovery program. His faith is solid, and he wants to continue to grow and help other men find freedom from addiction. He’s reconciled with his family and now enjoys spending time with them. He also has opened the door for other men in DuPage County Jail to come to Wayside and work through Drug Court probation and avoid prison. His favorite verse is 2 Cor 5:7.

**Steve Madawick**  
Sr. Chaplain, New Life Corrections



## You Know It When You See It

Micah 6:8 is a familiar verse that many can quote from memory. We cannot miss the resounding *“And what does the Lord require of you?”* as it prods and challenges us toward introspective self-examination. We ask, “Am I acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God?”

Around Wayside, some residents have never read this verse and are unaware that these words even exist. Most enter our doors with little knowledge of the Gospel, the Christian life, or the Bible. For some, though, it is apparent the Lord is at work.

Insert the humorous adage, “If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck!” The implication is that a person can identify an unknown subject by observing that subject’s habitual characteristics. When we apply this observation to our program residents, we see Micah 6:8 being lived out right before our very eyes! Better put, they are producing good “fruit” as they are attached to the vine, Jesus.



Even during their recovery, they live out this challenge daily as they interact with other residents. We observe friendships, men mentoring men, and accountability in action. Knowing where they came from and their weakness and propensity to fall, they implore one another towards clear thinking as they struggle with desires to return to the addictions that brought them here. They truly are “acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly.”

**Steve Wise**  
General Manager, Hope Outreach

## WCM’s 2021 Capital Improvement Projects

With the help of three very generous foundations, we have completed multiple capital improvement projects. The funding included a collaboration between the Dunham Foundation and the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley through a challenge grant, which helped make some significant improvements at Lifespring Center, and a grant from an anonymous donor that also helped make substantial improvements.



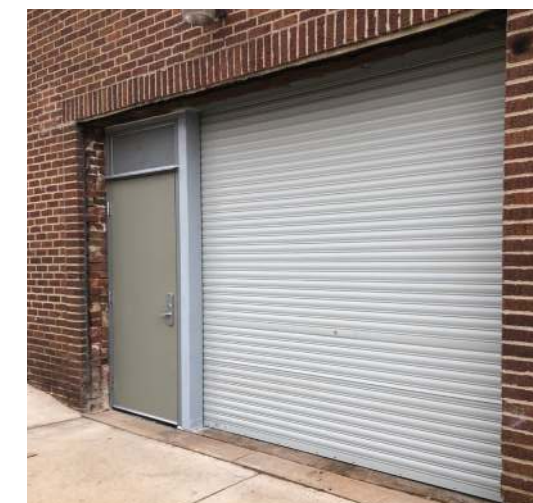
We installed 26 Fan Coil AC/Heat units throughout Lifespring’s building. These units provide cooling and heating year round.



Two new boilers were installed to provide emergency redundancy, which will provide coverage if an outage occurs during sub-zero temperatures. The system alternates between boilers and uses both when temperatures demand.



New piping insulation installed throughout the basement at Lifespring, which remedied the continuing condensation issues.



At our Maintenance Shop a service door and a roll up door were installed, which allows our Maintenance Vehicle and plow to be parked inside.

Also, included in our capital improvements were double doors for our Warehouse and Compactor areas. Tuck-pointing and masonry work on exterior brick, sills, and lintels is complete.



# 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.

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Gladys Abens  
Rob and Jan Abramson  
Accurate Color &  
Compounding Inc  
Mazi E Africa  
Larry and Carol Akers  
Dick and Katie Albaugh  
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Ruby Allen  
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Jack and Ramona  
Augustine  
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Hope On Wheels, the auto-detailing ministry of Wayside Cross, officially started its program in July 2017. Since that time, they have detailed almost 2,500 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.



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Currently, Wayside Cross Ministries has 20 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](http://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.

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Tom Davidson  
630.723.3428  
[tdavidson@waysidecross.org](mailto:tdavidson@waysidecross.org)

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