

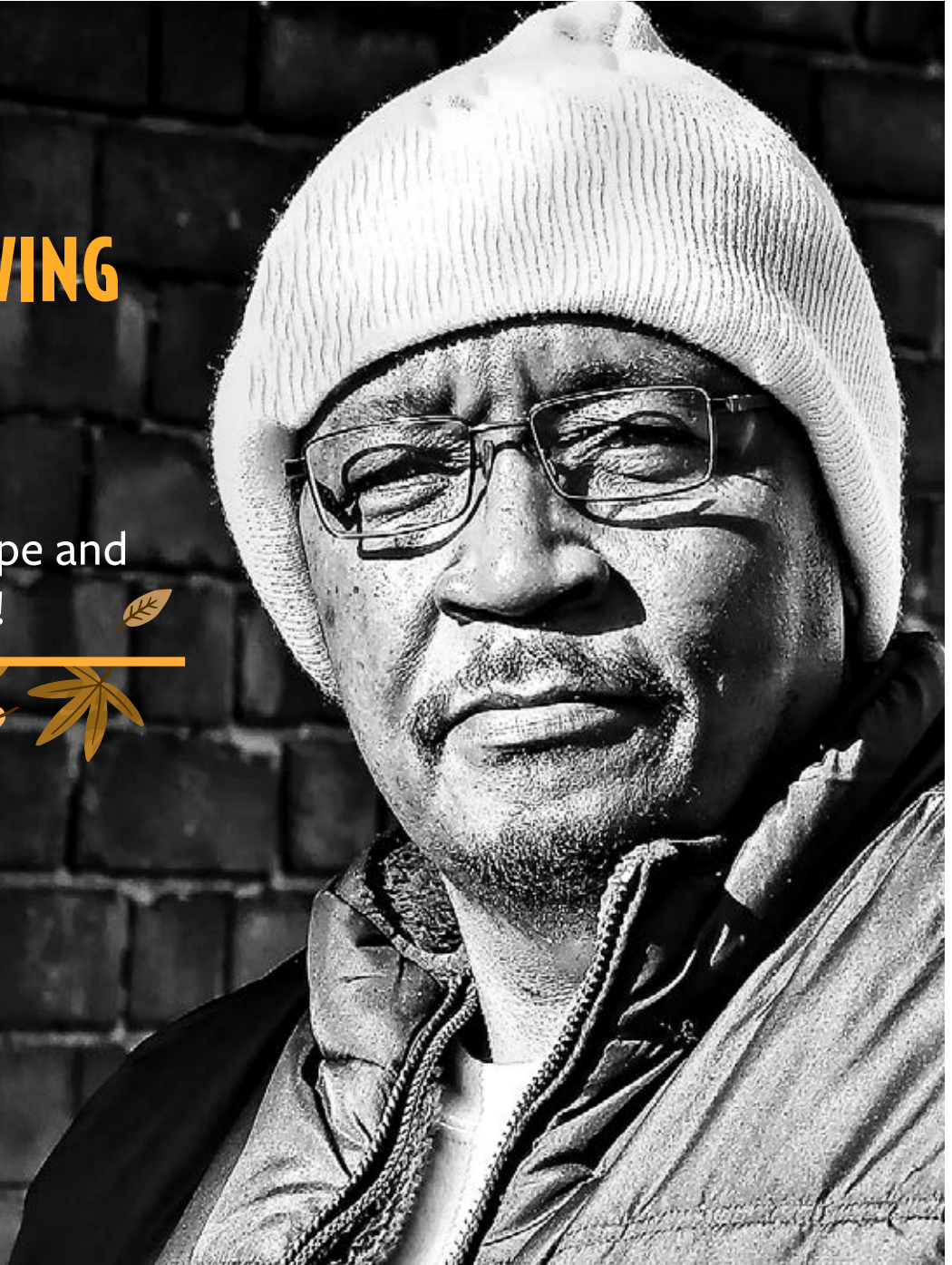
WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

# WCM <sup>+</sup>IMPACT

FALL 2022

## MY THANKSGIVING PRAYER: DION'S STORY

You've given him hope and  
new life this holiday!



**DON'T MISS...**

**2** Our Thanksgiving  
Campaign has begun!

**3** "I needed  
God..."

**4** Spend a little...  
Change a lot!

Transforming Lives • Restoring Families • Life-changing Programs

For more information: (630) 892-4239 x 219 [waysidecross.org](http://waysidecross.org)





**“I needed  
God...  
I DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
DIE.”**



**W**hile Dion had a large family, he describes his childhood as living with strangers. “We didn’t sit down and have a meal or conversations,” he says, recalling instead constant violence and abuse. “I grew up thinking that’s how life was supposed to be.”

Yet it left a void in his heart that he longed to fill, so as a young adult he began using drugs... never imagining the consequences. Addiction. Gangs. Crime. Self-loathing. “I lived that life for over 30 years. I was like a walking dead man.”

Finally, while incarcerated, he was introduced to Jesus. “A preacher came and spoke from the Book of Psalms: *He will direct your path. He will teach you how to live. He will show you the way.* That’s when I turned my life over to Christ.”

Still new in his faith, Dion feared that once he left jail he’d rekindle his destructive lifestyle and prayed for support to grow in his walk with the Lord. When a fellow inmate told him about Wayside Cross, he felt God calling him to our doors.

In our Master’s Touch recovery program, we’re helping Dion break cycles of addiction and chains of self-destruction that prevented him from leading a

fulfilling life. “I’m going to learn all that I can while I’m here and keep learning afterwards.” Through church activities and fellowship with our staff, other students and volunteers, he’s also embracing personal relationships he never had with his family.



**I’ve got to take the initiative to follow Jesus... and to do it sincerely and with truth.**



Most importantly, he’s recognizing his past as God’s preparation for his future: sharing his testimony, teaching the Word and being a role model for others. “With His help and His power, I can keep someone else from experiencing what I’ve been through.”

**Dion’s heart is overflowing with gratitude this Thanksgiving because YOUR loving support has given him a new beginning.** “*This is God answering my prayer. I never wanted anything more in my life.*”



# Celebrating Thanksgiving Every Day of the Year



## A Message from JAMES LUKOSE

Here's a wonderful Bible verse for this season of Thanksgiving: *"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24) During

Thanksgiving, we gather to thank the Lord for blessings of family, food and health.

*But what if we kept that same, abundant spirit of the holiday in giving thanks every day of the year?*

Each day at Wayside Cross, I see people who are thankful for the gift of new life that YOU helped make possible! You wrap them in God's loving embrace. Teach them skills to build brighter futures. Lift up our ministry and guests in prayer. And rejoice over every heart restored and life rebuilt!

Life is challenging right now. With continuing inflation, costs for necessities like housing, gas and groceries

are higher than ever. It's even harder for those who are struggling to make ends meet... and for our ministry to meet their pressing needs.

Through it all, I remain faithful to God's calling and grateful that I can rely on friends like you. My prayer this Thanksgiving is that you will do the same.

I hope you will take comfort in the love of friends and family, and the joy of knowing hearts are changed thanks to you. God bless you!

In His bond,

  
James Lukose  
Executive Director

## 2022 ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CAMPAIGN

YOU can give those in need a reason to celebrate!

# 46,620

### Meals Needed this Thanksgiving Season

Thanksgiving can be another difficult day for those who are struggling to overcome poverty... addiction. But you can change that!

**Just \$2.25 provides a hot, nourishing meal.** Your gift welcomes someone to our table and leads to a better life through:



Safe, welcoming  
housing



Warm clothing,  
coats & shoes



Classes & job  
training



God's life-  
changing love



We need your help to serve thousands of meals this holiday season! **Please rush your 2022 Annual Thanksgiving Campaign gift today using the enclosed reply card and envelope OR online at [waysidecross.org](https://waysidecross.org).**

*Read Dion's story – a life you  
helped change!*

# Volunteers Needed

Do you have a heart to serve men, women and children here at Wayside? **We would love for you to join us as a volunteer!**



*Contact us today to see how you can help...*

Call: **Tom Davidson at (630) 723-3428**

Email: **tdavidson@waysidecross.org**

Or visit **waysidecross.org** to find out more or sign up now!

# Spend a little... Change a lot!



When you make a donation or shop at one of our three Resale Store locations, you're blessing others in so many ways!

Each location offers a variety of clothing, household items, collectibles and more at affordable prices... and every dollar you spend helps sustain life-changing programs at Wayside Cross.

Our Sweet Charity and Hope Chest Resale Stores also provide job training opportunities for Wayside's residents in recovery. With the help and generous support of volunteers and life-coach mentors, residents receive hands-on service and retail skills experience.

To learn more about our three locations, hours of operation or drop off donations, visit

[waysidecross.org/thrift-stores/](http://waysidecross.org/thrift-stores/).



## Are you connected yet? Be the first to know what's going on!

Want the inside scoop on what's happening at Wayside Cross? It's easy...

**Follow us on social media!** Every post shows you how your partnership is transforming lives.

**Sign up for our emails!** You'll hear about urgent needs, special events and more.

And when you tell your friends about us, they can join the celebration this Thanksgiving, too!

[waysidecross.org](http://waysidecross.org)

