

WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

WCM ⁺IMPACT

**"EVERY SINGLE
DAY IS A GOOD
DAY!"**

**Thankful for YOU
at Wayside Cross
Ministries.**



DON'T MISS... **2** A Little Time, a Little Trust, and a Lot of Thanks! **3** Aaron Finds Peace at Wayside **4** A Day of Thanks and Praise

Transforming Lives • Restoring Families • Life-changing Programs

For more information: (630) 892-4239 x 224 waysidecross.org





A Message from **JAMES LUKOSE**

A Little Time, a Little Trust, and a Lot of Thanks!

Dear Friend,

Thankfulness seems to come easily to most of the men and women at Wayside Cross. It's a natural reaction to having food, shelter, and care after being without. Trust, however, can be a little harder to come by. Trust takes time. It's not hard to see why.

Some of our residents were out on the streets before coming to us, always on their guard, fearful of harm. Many suffered abuse at the hands of people who should have offered only love. They feel rejected and betrayed by employers, friends, even by family.

Here, you faithfully provide for their needs. You also give them time to know and trust our God, who loves them and cares for them. They come to know He will walk with them every step of the way — and carry them when the road gets rough. That is truly something to be thankful for!

This Thanksgiving at Wayside, our tables will be laden with food as we look back on our blessings and give thanks to God. It is a beautiful moment when we join with our residents in gratitude for God's great providence.

And when we look back with thanks, we also look ahead with trust. Trust that next year, we will still have much — maybe even more — to give thanks for.

Thank you for giving Aaron and so many others the gifts of time, thankfulness, and trust. I am thankful for you and trust in your continued support in the months and years ahead. May God bless you and yours this Thanksgiving!

In His bond,

James Lukose
Executive Director, Wayside Cross Ministries

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

— Isaiah 26:3

Do generous people live longer?

We've all heard "it's more blessed to give than to receive," but **did you know there's scientific data to back it up?**



Experts have found that giving creates a "warm glow" of dopamine in the body. It may be effective at lowering blood pressure. And there is a positive association between helping others and life expectancy, perhaps because helping others reduces stress.

Here are some unexpected ways you can give (and experience an endorphin boost) this season:

- **Pass along a family heirloom.** Give a family possession this year, when you can surprise the recipient and enjoy their reaction.
- **Teach what you know.** Pass down a skill or a family recipe with the techniques that can't be written down, only demonstrated.
- **Give compassion.** Does your loved one value a specific cause or group? Donate in their honor.
- **Include a personalized note.** Write down how you feel about your loved one. Recall a special memory you share or what they have taught you.
- **Think long-term.** Have you ever thought about leaving a gift in your will to Wayside Cross Ministries? This type of plan-ahead generosity will not only leave an impact for future generations but fill your heart with joy today too.

PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES IN YOUR WILL

Contact Birnie Harper at (630) 723-3427 or bharper@waysidecross.org or Tom Davidson at (630) 723-3428 or tdavidson@waysidecross.org. Visit christianwill.org/waysidecross to bless your family with an up-to-date will.



A meal for \$2.25 is an easy way to
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!



A Day of Thanks and Praise



To read Chris Maher's story of hope, go to <http://www.waysidecross.org/help-for-chris/>

Giving thanks is an important part of everyday life at Wayside. That said, we still go out of our way to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with plenty of food, festivity, and fellowship for those staying with us.

You may not know this, but many of our program residents go home to spend the holiday with their families. We host our Holiday Feast the day before, so they can enjoy the company of their friends at Wayside as well as their families. Of course, those who consider Wayside their family have a wonderful meal and a memorable time.

Thanksgiving at Wayside is also a joyful occasion for the staff and volunteers who make the event so special. Would you consider lending a hand this year? We can always use extra help preparing food, serving, cleaning up afterwards, and a number of other areas. You can also help with a donation of food items to keep our pantry full at this very busy time!

To volunteer, contact Tyler Jones at 630.723.3411 or tjones@waysidecrosss.org.

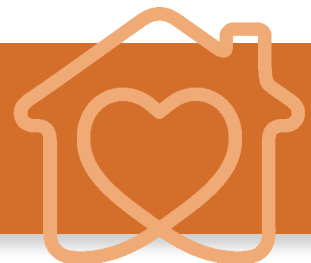
To donate food, drop off your donation at 215 E New York St. Aurora, IL 60505.

Thanksgiving Needs

Turkey	Sweet Potatoes or Yams
Ham	Green Beans
Stuffing	Pies
Salad	Bottled Water

We also accept canned food, dry goods, and cereal all year long. Please drop these donations off at our main campus Monday through Saturday for storage purposes. Ask for Dion Moore, our Kitchen Coordinator, at 630.723.3405 or 630.892.4239 x230. Donations will be utilized at the men's and women's campus as well as our Elgin location. Main campus address: **215 E New York St, Aurora, IL 60505**

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Aaron Finds Peace at Wayside

No 12-year-old should have to support his family. But Aaron's mother was a drug addict, often leaving her children alone for extended periods of time.

As the oldest, he felt responsible for his siblings. He stole groceries and learned how to cook. Later, he joined a gang and sold drugs to bring in much-needed cash. And although he dropped out of school in the 6th grade, he made sure his brothers and sister all made it to their classes on time.

Over the next few years, Aaron served time in jail and in prison. By age 24, he was ready for a change. He left the violent streets of Chicago for a quieter life in Aurora. Here, he worked his way up, becoming a corporate trainer at Ruby Tuesday and then a supervisor at Caterpillar. He married and started a family of his own.

But Aaron's rough childhood had left him with a lot of baggage: anxiety, depression, PTSD, panic attacks, bipolar disorder. He took numerous medications to cope. Eventually, he was unable to work and his wife divorced him. He had no credit and could not find housing on his own. "I didn't know what to do with my life at that point," he says.

A friend told Aaron about Wayside Cross. He came in January ... and almost left right away! "But something in my head told me to stay," he says. "Later, someone told me, 'Don't leave before you get your blessing.' So I stuck around."

Since coming to Wayside, Aaron has been off all his medications and has even stopped smoking. "It's been good for me," he tells us. "I don't have any anxiety. I actually get some sleep now, and I wake up happy." He works in our warehouse and has a pleasant word for everyone he meets.

More than that, Aaron has received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He was recently baptized — in the presence of his ex-wife and daughter, who both had tears in their eyes.

Looking ahead, Aaron plans to become a Resident Assistant and eventually join the Wayside staff. In the meantime, thanks to you, he has definitely gotten the blessing he came for.

"I am a happy person," Aaron says. "Every single day is a good day."

