

WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

WCM ⁺IMPACT

2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Traci Starts Over with Your Help



DON'T MISS... **2** Spring Heralds
New Life

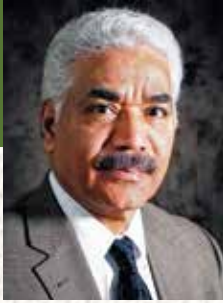
3 A Safe Place
for Traci

4 Have Fun and
Help Kids

Transforming Lives • Restoring Families • Life-changing Programs

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





A Message from **JAMES LUKOSE**



Spring Heralds New Life

Dear Friend,

Spring comes slowly here in Aurora. In God's perfect time, the days get longer and the sun warmer. Soon, I spot the first signs of new life around Wayside Cross Ministries: patches of grass, even crocuses poking through the last of the snow. I know brighter, warmer days are ahead. Spring brings new life.

I think our residents feel something similar when they turn their lives over to the Lord Jesus Christ. They've made it through a long, tough winter of hardship, looking toward a season of hope. And when it finally comes, it's well worth the wait. They are ready to embrace the new life, the eternal life, God has freely given them.

Your support for Wayside makes that possible. Residents here rely on your gifts and prayers as they work toward becoming the men and women God created them to be. It's really a joy to celebrate their transformation.

I hope you enjoy the beauty of the new life all around you. Thank you for your part in bringing new life to our residents. Our Father in heaven will reward you as surely as spring follows winter!

In His bond,

James Lukose
Executive Director
Wayside Cross Ministries

“Let us acknowledge the LORD ... He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

– Hosea 6:3 NIV

Save the Date

Wayside Cross Ministries Master's Touch Friendship Dinner

Date: Thursday, May 16th 2024

Time: Doors open at 6PM

Location: Calvary Church Naperville

9s200 Route 59, Naperville, IL 60564

Special Guest: Pastor and Comedian, Al Fike

Contact Tyler Jones, Assistant Director of Master's Touch, to RSVP: tjones@waysidecross.org

Please join us in celebrating the transformational journey from brokenness to restoration taking place with graduates of the Master's Touch Ministry. All proceeds support the men's recovery program at Wayside Cross Ministries.

You Gave Traci a Place to Be Safe and Start Over

Growing up in a household she describes as “volatile,” it’s not surprising Traci entered into a relationship marked by domestic violence herself. She raised two daughters, staying with them in a shelter for a time to escape the abuse at home.

Traci managed to get through tough years until her daughters were grown. Then she hit rock bottom. Suffering from a gambling addiction, she was unable to pay her rent — and fell into another destructive relationship. “I packed a couple things in a small bag, took a flight to Illinois, and left some very difficult things behind me,” she says.

However, there was still more difficulty ahead. Traci was staying in a hotel, living off her savings. She found work, but when her savings ran out, her paychecks didn’t go far enough to cover her expenses. Then, her ex found out where she was staying.

Traci went to a domestic violence shelter, where she learned about Wayside’s Lifespring Ministry for women. “This was a place where I could get my addiction under control, figure out what kept fueling my negative relationships, find a job, and get back on my feet. The program has been tremendously helpful,” she says.

Traci tells us Lifespring taught her the importance of community. “It’s okay sometimes to not be strong and to lean on your sisters in Christ. Lifespring gives us an environment where we can do that safely,” she says.

Today, Traci is a Lifespring graduate, lives in a Lifespring apartment, and has joined the Lifespring staff as a part-time resident coordinator. She also works at a day care facility as a teacher’s aide. She has found a nearby church home where she is a member of the choir and teaches Vacation Bible School.

“I’m thankful to Lifespring for giving me a place to be safe and to rebuild healthy ways of living,” Traci says. “I hope people will continue to support Wayside Cross Ministries and Lifespring because they invest in the women in the program, building us up into good community citizens.”



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Summer is On the Way ... and our Resale Stores are Full of Hot Buys!

A new season means lots of new goods at Wayside's Resale Stores. You'll find summer (and back-to-school) clothes for the family, outdoor furniture, household items, electronics, and more, all at great prices. Best of all, the proceeds from your purchase support men, women, and children in need right here in our community.

Sweet Charity Resale Store

Address: 3450 Montgomery Rd. #11,
Aurora, IL 60504

Open: Mon, Tues 10-6 | Wed 10-5
Thurs, Fri 10-6 | Sat 10-5 | Sun Closed

Phone: (630) 820-0447

Hope Chest Resale Store

Address: 36 N. Lincoln Ave.,
Aurora, IL 60505

Open: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm | Sat 9am-5pm
Phone: (630) 723-3436

Do you love baseball — and kids?

The Aurora Neighborhood Baseball League needs coaches for our teams and umpires for this season's games.

Our league runs from May through July, with practices and games included within that time frame. Our program serves children in three co-ed leagues, which include boys and girls exclusively from East Aurora. Our first league is T-ball for kids 5 to 6 years old; our next is the Minor League, serving ages 7 to 9; and our Major League is for ages 10 to 12.

Each child in the Major and Minor Leagues receives an MLB jersey, pants, socks, and a hat. Children in our T-ball League receive a jersey and a hat. All players get to keep their uniforms at the end of the season. The league and donors provide the equipment the players use such as bats, gloves, helmets, catcher's gear, etc.

Registration for the ANBL is open to East Aurora boys and girls ages 5 to 12.

Please contact **Hanna Wentzlaff** by email at hwentzlaff@waysidecross.org or by phone, 630.723.3421 to register your child or to sign up as a coach or umpire.

