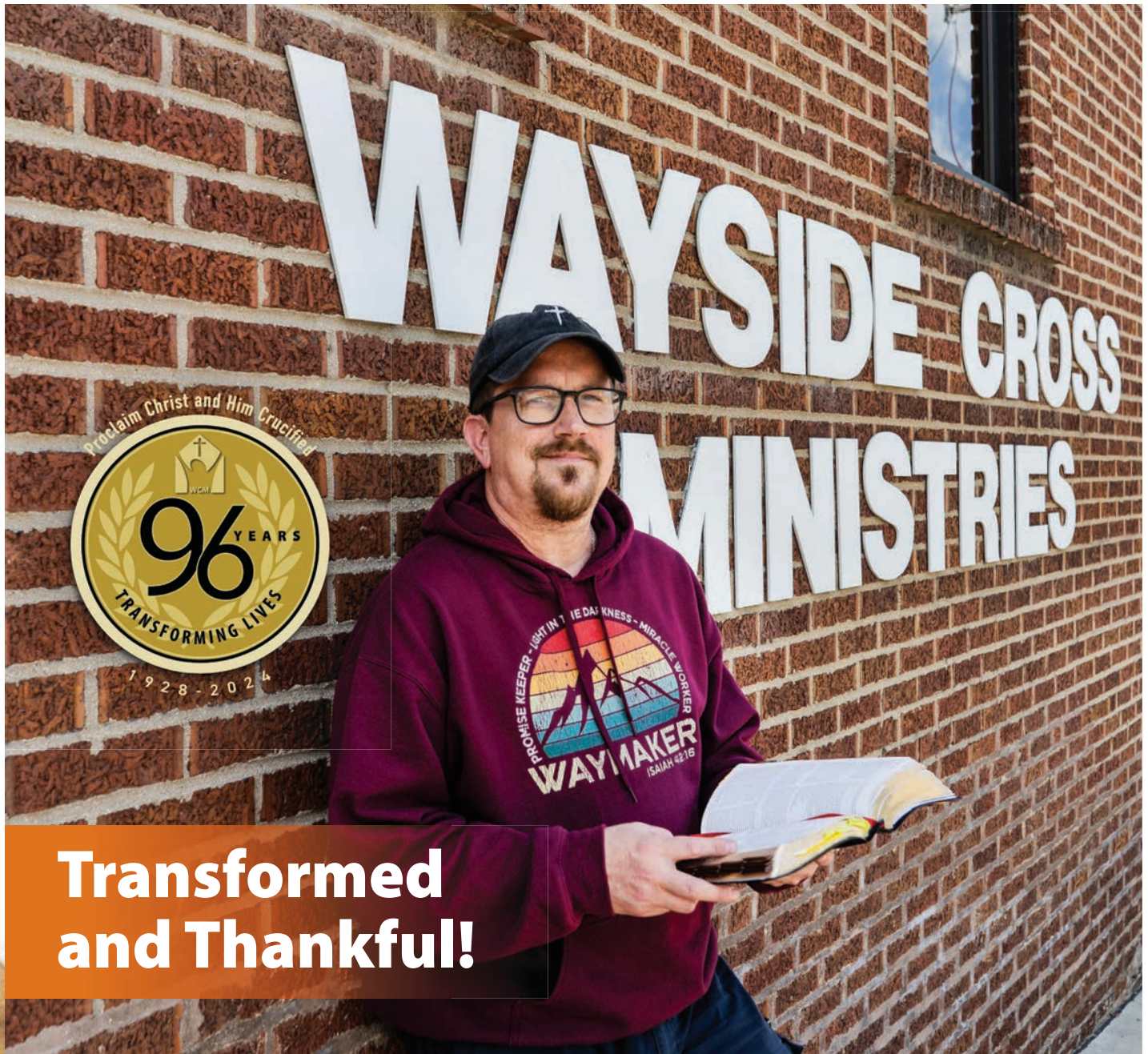


WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES

# WCM <sup>+</sup>IMPACT

2024 FALL NEWSLETTER



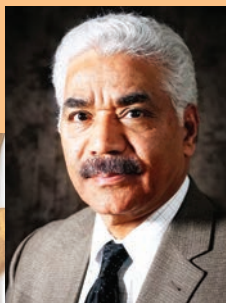
**Transformed  
and Thankful!**

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**Transforming Lives • Restoring Families • Life-changing Programs**

For more information: (630) 892-4239 x 224 [waysidecross.org](http://waysidecross.org)





## A Message from **JAMES LUKOSE**

# Filling Hearts for the Holiday

Dear Friend,

Thanksgiving is coming! It's a joyful time, kicking off the holiday season that brings our year to a close.

At Wayside Cross Ministries, from October through December, we serve a total of 6,290 meals, including the special Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone gets a warm welcome and a place at the table. We go all out to make the food as tasty as we can with plenty for all. It's a great time.

Sometimes we wonder where we will find the means to do that. People need food and shelter. They need help through hard times they cannot deal with alone ... struggles with addiction, abuse, homelessness. These can be overwhelming problems that only God can help them overcome. And He does, in ways that are better than we imagine.

He takes the little we have and multiplies it. The love, the energy, and the dollars go further. God always provides to get the job done with our limited resources. He answers every prayer, understands what every person needs, and provides the means to bless people accordingly.

Without God, Wayside Cross would be a hopeless place. Our staff would be exhausted. The residents would be disappointed. We would be broke and the doors would close.

But instead there is a modern-day miracle going on here. You give — and God provides. He brings people who teach, counsel, and encourage. They do what they can and God makes it work. It's like the boy giving his few fish to Jesus and watching Him feed a multitude.

Thank you for your partnership in this heavenly work, filling plates with food ... and hearts with hope.

In His bond,

James Lukose  
Executive Director, Wayside Cross Ministries

***“And God is able to make all grace abound to you,  
so that in all things, at all times, having all that  
you need, you will abound in every good work.”***

— 2 Corinthians 9:8

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



# Jeremy Hits Restart After a Lifetime of Addiction



Like most youngsters, Jeremy looked up to his older brother and wanted nothing more than to follow in his footsteps. "If he'd played football, I would have been a football player," he says. However, Jeremy's brother drank. Consequently, by the time Jeremy finished high school, he was drinking and using marijuana every day.

For the next few decades, Jeremy lost every job he had because of his addiction. He went through at least 30 rehabs, treatment programs, and other facilities. He overdosed multiple times. Last year, after Jeremy was kicked out of a sober house, a friend told him, "I found a place for you. It's not the Taj Mahal, but it will change your life." That was Wayside Cross Ministries.

When Jeremy started the Master's Touch program, he sat in the back row, gradually moving up as other residents graduated and left. Soon, he found himself sitting in the front row, absorbing everything he heard. Although he had never attended church growing up, he read his Bible constantly, going deep into the Word.

Jeremy helped out in the warehouse, then at the front security desk. After a few months, he was hired as a Resident Coordinator, screening new residents, helping them with their applications, and making them feel welcome. "By the time they go up to bed for the first time, they feel like they've already got a friend," he says.

Now sober for more than a year, Jeremy says, "It's a miracle. I've been offered this chance to hit restart on my life the way God wants me to live it, and I feel a divine obligation to be more like Jesus."

After burning countless bridges in his life, Jeremy has restored his relationship with his family — including his older brother. "He's doing okay now," Jeremy tells us. "He's blown away by how good God has been to me. He tells me, 'I'm proud of you.' But I say, 'Don't be proud of me. Give the glory to God.'"

While giving glory to God, Jeremy gives thanks to you. "Without you, there would be 88 homeless men on the street right now. **Your donations definitely transform lives, and we love you.**"

# Thanksgiving is Coming — Help us Prepare!



***It may seem early, but with more and more people looking to Wayside Cross Ministries for a hot Thanksgiving meal, we need to begin preparing now.***

Last year, your gifts provided a wonderful day for men, women, and children in need — thank you! We look forward to another Holiday Feast filled with delicious food and grateful praise.

We look forward to opening our doors and arms to all in need of a meal this Thanksgiving, but our

pantry is low after a busy summer. With your help, we can provide a full dinner of turkey, dressing, gravy, and all the trimmings, followed by pumpkin pie and coffee.

Please help us stock the pantry today. Or consider coming to Wayside to lend a hand with cooking, serving, cleaning up, or just making our guests feel welcome!

**Tom Davidson**, Development Director

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

We accept donations of canned foods, dry goods, and cereal all year round. Please drop these donations at our main campus, **215 E. New York St. in Aurora**, Monday through Friday. Ask for Dion Moore, our Kitchen Coordinator, at 630.723.3405. Donations will be used at our men's and women's campus, as well as our Elgin location. **Thank you!**



*Thanksgiving Needs*

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

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

