

JOSEPH'S COAT

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## 2011 in Review

### A Note from Kathy Brechbill Joseph's Coat Director

Looking back at 2011, I'm amazed at all that has been accomplished. The Washington County Food Pantry provided 65,184 meals to Washington County residents through the traditional pantry service. In addition, the Mobile Pantry gained momentum in 2011, assisting an additional 3,818 individuals in need.

With the flood waters in June came an outpouring of support from the community. Joseph's Coat collected donations to assist flood victims who were displaced in Holling Hall. I continue to marvel at the generosity of so many.

A high-traffic, busy summer brought a much needed renovation to the thrift store this fall. Energy efficient lighting, new carpet and updated shopper-friendly racks have transformed Joseph's Coat into a clean and modern store. Monthly sales remain strong, allowing us to continue to feed the hungry in Washington County. The holiday season introduced the first ever, Christmas for the Coat fundraising breakfast. I was astonished by the turnout and support from this community

None of this could have been possible without the tireless dedication of the staff, board, volunteers and donors. While, there are too many to name in this note; I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Whether you donated your time by sorting clothes, painting bookshelves or assisting with the mobile pantry; whether you donated your money or household items; or whether you put on a red apron and santa hat to serve coffee at 6:30 a.m., you were vital to the success of this organization. God bless you!



## JOSEPH'S COAT

*The mission of Joseph's Coat, Inc. is to share the  
love of Jesus Christ by providing food to families in need across  
Washington County and to engage the  
community in supporting their neighbors by  
providing access to quality merchandise.*

Because of you, we are able to fulfill our mission of feeding the hungry in Washington County. Thank you for your generosity and support in 2011.

**Merry Christmas and a blessed 2012  
from the staff and board of Joseph's Coat.**

## Mobile Pantry Grows in 2011

Over the past eight years, the Washington County community has come to know the mission of Joseph's Coat and have supported it with open arms. The thrift store is overflowing with quality donated merchandise. Volunteers tirelessly offer their time and services. Generous gifts of food and money are plentiful. All of this is to support the mission of sharing the love of Jesus Christ by providing food to families in Washington County who are in need.

And now, yet again, the community has stepped up to help those in need by embracing the Mobile Pantry. The program is a traveling "farmers market" style, one-day distribution in counties where there is a need for additional pantry service. Joseph's Coat has collaborated with the Food Bank for the Heartland by purchasing pallets of food and household items at an extremely reduced rate. The Food Bank delivers the goods, which consist of products with an emphasis on perishable items such as fresh produce, meats and bakery items. Volunteers distribute the food free of charge to those who come to the Mobile Pantry seeking assistance.

The Mobile Pantry is unique in that, unlike the traditional pantry, there are no qualifications—if you are in need; you may access the Mobile Pantry, no questions asked. For many, this bi-monthly pantry eases the burden of making the choice between purchasing food or paying the electric bill. For others, it is an opportunity to have the benefit of perishable items, a luxury that for many is not affordable or normally available through the traditional pantry. "We are proud to be able to provide additional assistance to those experiencing hard times," explains Kathy Brechbill, Director of Joseph's Coat. "If you are in need, then we are here to help."

The first Mobile Pantry was held in Blair on October 2, 2010 in the parking lot at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church. 3,200 lbs. of food was distributed to 155 individuals with 28 volunteers in assistance. The second pantry, which grew by leaps and bounds, was held at the Blair North Fire Station on December 4, 2010, where 42 volunteers assisted 512 individuals in receiving 10,000 lbs. of food.



Joseph's Coat Board President, Chuck Anderson, distributes food at the February 12, 2011 held at the Blair North Fire Station.

# Christmas for the Coat: A Fun and Festive Event



Joseph's Coat board members, Joe Lager and Blake Dillon take a break from their "Celebrity Server" duties to pose with Santa.



Harriet Waite sells raffle tickets to hungry patrons.

The generosity of Fernando's Café and Sid Dillon made the first ever Christmas for the Coat a huge success. The holiday themed breakfast held on Wednesday, December 7th from 6:30-9:00 a.m. raised nearly \$17,000 for Joseph's Coat, Inc. With more than 400 attendees, all sponsorship, ticket and raffle proceeds will benefit the Washington County Food Pantry. "We were looking for a unique idea that could expose our mission to the entire community. The casual breakfast was a great value and gave patrons the option of coming and going at their leisure; on their way to work or after dropping the kids at school. It wasn't your typical plated dinner, auction or black tie event," Joseph's Coat Director, Kathy Brechbill said.

The gourmet breakfast buffet was donated and prepared by one of Blair's most popular restaurants, Fernando's. And no, it wasn't a Mexican fare; it included a variety of wonderful breakfast selections. A fun, holiday atmosphere with celebrity servers including Blake Dillon (Sid Dillon), Terry Dutton (President, Washington County Bank), Pastor John Emslie (Trinity Lutheran Church), Phil Green (Assistant City Administrator), Joe Lager (Chief of Police), Mike Mahlendorf (Former President, Washington County Bank), Rhonda Matthews (RSM Designs), Pastor Gregg Miller (Ft. Calhoun Presbyterian), Jim Realph (Mayor of Blair), Harriet Waite (Blair Area Chamber of Commerce) and Santa added to the fun. Raffle baskets with donations from area businesses and auction items including a River Wilds 2012 Family Membership and Bright Ideas holiday lighting package from Jensen Lawn Solutions ensured the event's success.

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated items and attended this fun-filled event!

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Six bi-monthly pantries were held in 2011, each averaging a 15,000 lb. distribution where more than 50 volunteers provided food and goods to over 600 individuals within a four-hour time frame. The majority of the Mobile Pantries this past year were held at the Blair North Fire Station. "The dedication from the community is overwhelming," says Brechbill. "The Fire Department has been so gracious in offering the warm, indoor space free of charge. We are thankful to everyone who donates their time and energy to this project."

The cost to hold each Mobile Panty is roughly \$1,600 (which includes food, advertising and refreshments for volunteers). Joseph's Coat received grants from Big Red Keno to fund two of the six pantries in 2011 and is working to secure grant funding to hold Mobile Pantries on a regular basis and extend them to communities throughout the area. For more information about volunteering or making a donation to the Mobile Pantry project, contact Joseph's Coat at 426.0440.

## As the Water Rose; So Did the Generosity of the Community

As the Missouri River reached its banks and beyond, it quickly became apparent that many Washington County families would need assistance. As usual, the community stepped up to the plate with donations; and Joseph's Coat stepped in as the 501(c)3 organization to accept and channel the funds during this time of crisis.

Throughout the summer, more than 50 individuals took up temporary residence in Holling Hall on the former Dana College campus. Donations collected by Joseph's Coat were used to fund this emergency shelter project. Remaining funds will be transferred to the long-term disaster relief organization once it is established.



During the Gateway to the West parade on Saturday, June 11, First Lutheran Church collected more than \$1,200 for this effort.

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