

# Foundation

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looked through stacks of donated, second-hand clothing arranged on a tarp in the middle of the lot.

The clothing — shirts, pants, shoes, sweaters and even some jackets — were there for anyone in need, at no cost, and without question or judgment, said Kevin Joslyn, president of the For the Love of Good Foundation.

“We don’t turn anyone away,” he said. “We don’t care who you worship or who you love. If you’re cold and hungry we want to help you. Simple as that.”

Joslyn, a retired correctional officer with the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, founded the organization two years ago to help the homeless, and people he calls “struggling neighbors” — those on the margins who have a place to stay but not much else.

In the two years since the Foundation has been conducting the clothing giveaways, it has helped an estimated 3,700 people.

For the Love of Good partners with Kate’s Kitchen once a month.

Kate’s Kitchen provides food to people who need it. For the Love of Good spreads out its tarp in the parking lot to provide clothing to those who need that.

Often, there’s an overlap.

“They average 100 to 150 people a day, so that means we can potentially get 150 people coming over here,” Joslyn said yesterday.

It’s common to see people go to the kitchen for food and then cross the parking lot to look through the clothing. Or vice versa.

The wiser members of the clientele check through the clothing first and then get food, he said, “Because if you wait until after the food, all the good stuff (in the foundation’s pile) may be gone.”

While talking with a reporter, a young man comes up to say he heard they have a pair of overalls. He says he needs a pair for his job but can’t afford them. Joslyn leads him over to his trailer to show him



The For the Love of Good Foundation was in the parking lot of Kate’s Kitchen in Holyoke to help people in need yesterday morning. At left, a woman sorts through clothing. For more photos, visit [MassLive.com](http://MassLive.com). (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

the overalls, a brand-new donated pair.

But they are the wrong size. Joslyn shows him some work pants — but they do not fit either, and the man leaves empty handed.

Asked how he thinks the man heard about the overalls, Joslyn said word tends to spread through the neighborhood pretty quickly that the foundation is there and what sort of things are available.

By the trailer are a handful of brand-new sleeping bags, boxes of gloves and hats.

“If we see someone who says ‘Hey, I’m living on the riverbank,’ we’ll give them (a sleeping bag),” he said.

In addition to monthly stops at Kate’s Kitchen, the foundation also goes out three times a month to the area of Appleton and Chestnut streets, a high poverty, high drug-use section of Holyoke that Joslyn calls “heroin heaven.”

He said most of the homeless people he sees there are not drug users, but suffer from mental illness. Or they have jobs but are unable to find a place to stay because

they don’t have enough saved up for first and last month’s rent and a security deposit.

“It’s just the reality of the street. These are not bad people,” he said.

Prior to creating the foundation, Joslyn had 16 years experience as a lay missionary in Haiti, doing charitable work in the densely packed slums of Cité Soleil. The area is described by the United Nations as one of the most densely populated and most dangerous places on earth.

Joslyn said that for years, he and his children would go out twice a year, on Easter and Thanksgiving, and hand out coffee and donuts to the less fortunate.

After he retired, there was a need for him locally. He liked helping people and wanted to do more.

“After I retired, I said, you know, I really know how to help people,” he said. “But I didn’t have any money to do it, and that was my impetus to start this.”

From that, For the Love of Good was formed.

Though its webpage, its Facebook page, and its PayPal account, the foundation collects good used clothing or cash. The cash is used to buy clothing to distribute to those who need it.

“You give me your money and I’ll put it to good use.” he

said. “That’s what I’ve been doing for two years.”

Much of the clothing is donated. People will log onto the foundation’s Facebook page to say they have extra clothing they no longer need, and Joslyn will pick it up.

Sometimes it’s outdated fashion. Other times it’s family cleaning out personal effects after a death.

“There’s this guy who passed away and his uncle gave us 75 sweaters and 25 jackets,” he said.

He holds out new pairs of gloves that he purchased at a dollar store. He said he scours dollar stores for necessary items such as socks, gloves or hats that are always in need.

Yesterday’s weather was warm. But usually, he said, “they’re coming up to us like this.” He curled his fingers into a tight ball and continued, “And we’re trying to pry their hands apart so we can put a cup of coffee in them.”

With COVID-19 surging in Massachusetts, a lot of charitable organizations are scaling back. Joslyn said that is why the foundation needs to do more.

“They need us more now, not less,” he said.

Quinones had filled her bag and was ready to head home. “It is good that they help people like this, with the things that they need.” she said.