

March 27, 2023



Dear Chuck and our friends at ReStored Thrift Store,

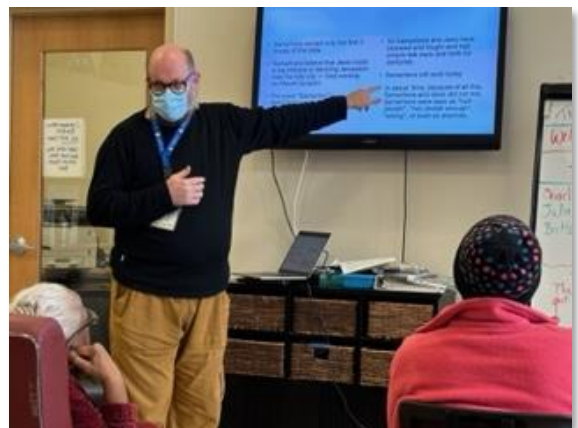
“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

This is the heart of our “Chaplain-To-Go” Program at Cassia. Chaplain Erik Doughty brings this heart with him as he travels around serving some of our most vulnerable residents. He goes to the places many others find hard to enter. “These places are full of Jesus,” he says.

Chaplain Erik is able to meet and serve these people because of **you**. Thank you for making the Chaplain-To-Go Program possible for through your generosity.

Chaplain Erik serves several of our Cassia communities who would not otherwise have access to the care of a chaplain.

He listens, builds trust, and walks with people who have experienced some of the hardest things this life has to offer. On top of profound trauma, many live with severe mental illnesses like schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.



He approaches all people as if he were meeting Jesus.

Recent stories made possible by your generosity

Due to a mental illness, Mary* rarely experiences peace and quiet—she will often yell for hours at a time. Yet when she sees Chaplain Erik, she stops and says, “Chaplain Erik, do you believe in Jesus?” And he always responds, “Yes, Mary, I do. Do you?” She always replies, “Yes.” Every time Chaplain Erik preaches and leads worship services, Mary is there, quietly listening. She hasn’t yet been baptized. She hasn’t yet received Holy Communion. She may never do either of these things. But she is in worship all the time, hearing the Word of God. Her faith in Jesus is affirmed because Chaplain Erik is there, proclaiming that God’s love through Jesus is for her.

Another resident, Jane* also lives with severe mental illness, spiraling into states of significant torment. Chaplain Erik began to give her copies of hymns, the Psalms, and even the church bulletin—all in print large enough for her to see with failing eyesight. Providing these things and reading God’s Word has brought Jane comfort and given her calm in her storm of mental illness. Now, other staff members have picked up on this and are able to calm her, even when Chaplain Erik isn’t around. *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you,”* (John 14:27).

Stories like these happen more frequently than you might think. Charmaine* was greatly distressed by visions and persistent thoughts of loved ones and family suffering in agony. In an earnest attempt to ease her fears, some staff tried to tell her these visions weren’t true. Chaplain Erik took her concern seriously, sensing her distress. He sat and talked with her, gently helping her unpack her understanding of God. She came to a place of remembering that God is loving and kind and that Jesus is for her and her family. This helped her to see that these visions were actually hallucinations related to her diagnosis.

“These places are full of Jesus.”

Mary, Jane, Charmaine and many others are experiencing the love, peace and dignity of Jesus through the ministry of Chaplain Erik. Chaplain Erik’s salary is provided through a small group of incredibly generous donors – and you are one! Thank you for making stories like these possible. Thank you for fostering fullness of life in the spirit of Christ’s love for some of our most vulnerable Cassia residents.

Sincerely,

Bob Dahl
President/CEO

Matt Crawford
VP of Philanthropy

**Names have been changed to protect the identities of these three residents.*

cassia
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