

A close-up, profile view of an older man's face, looking slightly to the right. He has a thoughtful or reflective expression. The lighting is dramatic, with one side of his face in shadow. He is wearing a blue textured sweater.

“

I felt I was
important
to people.

”



Meet Jim. He's smart, well-spoken and always the one to start up a conversation.



“
When I was down,
not only did I not
care if I lived
or died, no one
else did.”

By looking at Jim, you wouldn't believe that just over a year ago he was living in his car in Bondi. Back then he had no hope of turning his life around. He lost everything – his job, his house, his family and his self-worth. At his lowest, he convinced himself that nobody would care if he lived or died.

Jim's transformation after coming to Wayside is a testament to the power of our community - one that can only exist because of supporters like you.

Homelessness can happen to anyone

Jim was an educated and ambitious family man when he became homeless. His primary goal in life was to provide for his family, so when he lost access to his children after his marriage broke down, his sense of purpose was gone too.

Jim was brought up believing that asking for help was a weakness. He tried his best to get back on his feet and started studying law. But the stress of his circumstances and lack of support made it impossible and he was forced to drop out.

The Wayside community empowers people like Jim to transform their lives and go from asking for help to asking how they can help others.



Jim met a Wayside visitor at Bondi who invited him to come along. At first he was reluctant, but eventually he realised that showing vulnerability was a strength, not a weakness.

Jim received more than practical support at Wayside. He found a strong sense of community and acceptance, and for the first time in years he felt respected. He found people who cared about what happened to him and wanted him to do well.

Wayside Community Support Workers helped him apply for housing and find a place to live in the Inner West. When he was finally able to move his feet, he shifted his focus to helping others by volunteering in the cafe.

“It’s more important to have friendly faces than a bed.”

Finding strength in community



When life knocks you down, the biggest motivator to get back up is knowing that people still care about you. That’s what you find at Wayside.

Wayside is different. We provide much more than showers, food, emergency clothing and referral services. Our biggest ongoing achievement is fostering a strong community to help restore people’s dignity and sense of self-worth.

The helpers

Every single day, Wayside staff and volunteers meet people like Jim without judgement. Our Community Support Workers sit down with each person to find out exactly what their needs are, whether it’s help finding a job, housing, health support, legal services or counselling.



The visitors

People from all walks of life gather at Wayside. On any given day, you’ll see visitors from the local community sharing a meal with recovering addicts. It’s a place where people can feel respected, no matter what they’ve been through. From the moment someone walks through our doors, the transformation begins.

The supporters

That’s people like you. Without the generosity of our donors, people like Jim would easily fall through the cracks. Your support enables our work at Wayside to continue and our community to thrive, so that those who hit rock bottom can feel empowered to rebuild their lives.

As our community continues to grow, so does our need for vital resources that keep our doors open for those who desperately need our help.



Your gift will help people like Jim to find strength in our community and change their lives forever.

Thank you for your support.

To donate, please complete the enclosed form and return in the prepaid envelope provided, call us on **(02) 9581 9101** or donate online at **www.waysidechapel.org.au**



**WAYSIDE
CHAPEL**