

ARISE

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO RECOVERY IN POLK COUNTY



"In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha, who was always doing good and helping the poor."



Tommy and Susan after the wedding

JOPPA STORIES

Woods to a Wedding

It wasn't the fact that he was living in the woods that got Tommy Hayton down. "I worked concrete paving jobs for years, but once I got over 50, it was time to get out of concrete. I did odd jobs, but I hated the fact that financially I had to live out there..." he recalls.

Tommy had been living in the woods for about a year when he met the volunteers from Joppa. They brought him food, supplies, a propane heater and fuel each week, but, most important, that first winter, they brought him friendship.

"When you've been living out there and your clothes are all frozen from frost every morning, that heater becomes the most valuable thing you've ever had," he says. "You wake up in the morning and look at that heater and you just want to go over and hug it!"

"Joppa would come out every Sunday, bringing food, supplies and help, and after a while, I started to help them reach some of the more elusive guys out here. I knew how to talk to those guys, how to get them to open up and trust Joppa. I was sort of a Joppa ambassador in a ponytail," he jokes. *CONTINUED...*

OUR MISSION

To create a community of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless and to help end homelessness in Polk County.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2012

JOPPA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR THE HOMELESS

December 21, 2012

VOLUNTEER POTLUCK

January 25, 2013

HOMELESS CAMP CLEANUPS

April 6, 2013

April 13, 2013

Woods to a Wedding, *CONTINUED*

A couple years later, Joppa was able to help Tommy move into a low-income apartment. "That first night, of course, it was an environmental shock—sleeping inside—a nice shock. I'll admit, though, I left the windows open for the first month or so," he chuckles.

"It may sound a little strange, but of all the things Joppa has done for me—in the woods, with housing and aftercare—the fact that they let me come out with them and help really does mean a lot to me."

Many Joppa volunteers report growing to love the remarkable people they meet and the experiences they have at Joppa, but Susan Cooper fell in love with Tommy Hayton.

"When you've been living out there and your clothes are all frozen from frost every morning, that heater becomes the most valuable thing you've ever had!"
—Tommy

"It began when I started volunteering on a route with Tommy, doing outreach and talking with folks," Susan says.

The route took about three hours to complete, and each week Susan and Tommy shared their

life stories and hopes for the future. Susan talked about her faith and plans to be a missionary in China. The friendship grew and love bloomed.

On July 19, his 53rd birthday, Tommy gave his life to Christ, and he proposed to Susan soon after. They had a wedding with friends and family at the Joppa Center on August 18.

Tommy works as an independent painting and maintenance contractor, and the couple has a house in Windsor Heights.

Susan now knows her calling was always in Des Moines, not in China. "I volunteer with Joppa to bring blessings to others," she says, "but I received a huge blessing in return when God brought Tommy into my life." 🍷



I Work at Joppa

Volunteer: Rick Lowe

Title: Client Services Director

Duties: Oversees Outreach & Aftercare Field Services

Background: Volunteered for several nonprofit organizations and began serving the homeless 20+ years ago.

Driving passion: To love and serve people, meeting them right in the middle of the muck and mire of life. Serving others helps keep my life in perspective.

Employer: Casey's General Stores

On my own: Training for three triathlons in 2013. In between, I read, do wood turnings and fly radio control airplanes.

JOPPA AND RED CROSS HELP THE UNSHELTERED STAY SAFE

Joppa and the American Red Cross are creating safety pamphlets to help unsheltered homeless people live safely and avoid common mistakes that can lead to tragedies.

"There are always new people experiencing homelessness for the first time each month," says Joppa Program Director, Dr. Greta Degen, R.N. "Quite often, while

dealing with the trauma of losing their homes, they're suddenly faced with the stark realities of living outdoors."

"The Red Cross wants to help people be safe wherever they are, and this is our way of helping in a very nontraditional setting," says Leslie Schaffer, Regional Executive Director and CEO for the American Red Cross.



These educational handouts, with easy-to-read instructions, include Propane and Heater Safety, Candle Safety and Fire and Smoke Safety.

Brandi (on right) with Joanna and a Mercy College student



“I did a project for my Community Health class—assessing the dental needs of homeless people—and found my calling.”

—Brandi Tomlinson
MERCY COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

Collaboration for Changing Lives

“I was a nursing student at Mercy College of Health Sciences and feeling a little burned out with hospital nursing but not sure what kind of nursing I wanted to do instead,” Brandi Tomlinson remembers. “I did a project for my Community Health class—assessing the dental needs of homeless people—and found my calling.” Now Brandi is an adjunct clinical instructor at Mercy College and she continues to work on the dental project. She also takes nursing students to homeless camps, hoping to instill in them the same passion that motivated her to appreciate this role in nursing.

Brandi’s student project, which began two years ago with Joppa, included developing trusting relationships with homeless people, assessing their dental health needs and filming a video describing how dental care and services would impact their lives. Brandi presented the video to local dentists and dental service providers and asked for help providing free care.

“I was so excited when Dr. Keith Colwell at Southside Dental Clinic agreed to provide a free set of dentures to one homeless patient each year,” Brandi recalls. Because of the commitment by Dr. Colwell, lives are being changed. The first recipient was a woman who as a result has reconnected with a daughter after a 10-year estrangement, found a job and can eat salad again for the first time in decades. The second was a homeless man who,

with newfound self-esteem, is planning to apply for a commercial driver’s license to find work.

Assistant Professor of Nursing Dawn Bowker says, “Joppa touches the lives of our students, changing the perspective they have on the challenges of vulnerable populations and what it means to be homeless. Working with partners and building community support of inclusive health services is an important part of our work. This is where change begins.”

Dawn is also a regular Joppa volunteer and added, “Not only does Joppa change the lives of the vulnerable populations we engage, it changes the lives of those who give their time to serve them. It brings to light the real question, ‘What does it mean to serve?’”



DR. GRETA SAYS:

Dr. Greta Degen, R.N.
JOPPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

“An apple a day **really** does keep the doctor away.”



Dr. Moravec following Al's lead

EDUCATION

Changing Perspectives

Described as “eye-opening,” “sobering,” “life changing,” “extraordinary,” the experience of meeting and getting to know homeless people has drastically changed the hearts and opened the minds of hundreds of students at Mercy College of Health Sciences.

As part of the Caring in a Diverse Healthcare Environment course taught by Professor of Theology and Philosophy Dr. Joe Moravec and former Associate Professor of Nursing Dr. Margaret Richey, each semester Mercy students have partnered with Joppa to learn about homelessness and visit homeless camps. All Mercy students in degree programs are required to take the caring course that combines classroom instruction in the philosophy, theology and caregiving theory with six hours of face-to-face service learning.

“We want our students to be exposed to the most needy and vulnerable in our society,” Dr. Moravec says, “to learn to empathize with those they may see as scary or undeserving. If we can learn to unconditionally love, serve and care for them, then we’ll be ready to care for the rest of humanity.”

Dr. Richey says caring for and ministering to the homeless requires a lot of patience. “People who are homeless or

formerly homeless have had many wounds to their spirits. To care for their medical needs, we need to walk beside them and personalize our support in nonjudgmental ways like Jesus did. There’s a lot of pressure on the homeless to overcome their obstacles to suit society’s standards, but low wages, fewer unskilled job opportunities, lack of insurance, and convoluted government support systems, in addition to mental and physical health issues, can make ‘working their way out of it’ nearly impossible for them.”

“Ignorance is the biggest breeder of fear,” says Dr. Moravec, “and when you meet those different from you, human to human, you lose your prejudices.” During the trips to camps, the homeless often give the students tours of their dwellings and share their stories and concerns. The powerful nature of these encounters comes through in the reflection papers the students write.

“...when you meet those different from you, human to human, you lose your prejudices.”

—Dr. Joe Moravec

MERCY COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

“I had assumed all of the homeless lived in canvas tents with piles of wood stacked around. . . but the people who constructed the shacks and buildings had obviously put skill and pride into what they did. They put more effort into their dwellings than I have into anything in my life,” one student wrote.

Another said, “I was blown away by their ability to find the basic necessities and make do with the little amount of possessions they had. This experience allowed me to open my eyes and heart, and showed me how to be compassionate!”

HOW WE DO IT

EXPRESS CHRIST’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE + BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & VISIT OFTEN + HELP PEOPLE STAY WARM, DRY & HEALTHY
 + PROVIDE FOOD, SUPPLIES & CARE + RESPOND TO NEEDS & EMERGENCIES + BE A VOICE, ADVOCATE & LINK TO RESOURCES +
 ENCOURAGE POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD + HELP OFF STREETS & PROVIDE AFTERCARE UNTIL FULLY RECOVERED

METRICS

JOPPA IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND HELPING PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS. WITH GOD'S BLESSING AND THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPLIERS AND PARTNERS, JOPPA IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.



HOUSED IN POLK COUNTY



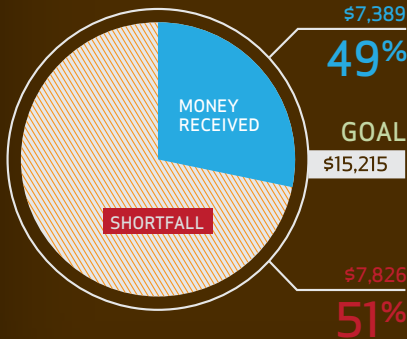
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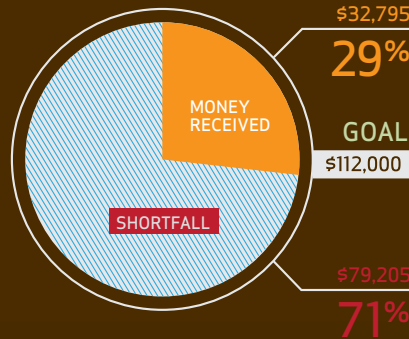
TOTAL HELPED OFF STREETS

93% REMAIN OFF STREETS

DONATIONS



3RD QUARTER



2012 YEAR TO DATE
(AS OF SEPTEMBER 30)

	3 RD QTR	YTD
VOLUNTEERS		
PEOPLE	322	944
HOURS	6,269	18,010
DELIVERIES		
MEALS	1,019	2,914
GROCERIES	310	781
SUPPLIES	749	2,183
HEALTHCARE		
ASSESSMENTS	190	565
REFERRALS	80	302

THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO OFFER THEIR SERVICES AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MAKE THIS WORK POSSIBLE!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE:

BECOME A JOPPA SUPPORT PARTNER!
Join us and make a difference with your donations and ongoing support.

We are a volunteer-based organization with no paid staff. Your contributions directly help people who are unsheltered or recently housed in Polk County.

Joppa is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

DONATE AT JOPPAOUTREACH.ORG OR TO:
Joppa Outreach, Inc.
c/o Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
1915 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

VOLUNTEER:

- Homeless Outreach & Aftercare
- Event Planning & Coordination
- Meal Preparation
- Food Pick Up & Sorting
- Propane Deliveries to Camps
- Fundraising & Presentations
- Volunteer Coordination
- Transportation Assistance
- Social Media & Story Writing

VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE:
We have many volunteer opportunities available. Visit joppaoutreach.org or call (515) 288-5699 today to learn more.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

SUPPLY:

- Tents & Tarps
- Sleeping Bags & Pillows
- Blankets
- Toilet Paper
- Batteries & Head Lamps
- Bottled Drinking Water (Gallons or 24 oz)
- Canned Goods & Nonperishables
- Laundry Detergent & Dish Soap
- Cleaning Supplies

BRING SUPPLIES TO THE JOPPA CENTER:
Thursdays between 11 AM & 1 PM
at 118 SE 4th Street in East Village.
Or call (515) 288-5699.

AFTERCARE

APARTMENT VISITS

3Q 267

YTD 847



(515) 288-5699 LOCAL

(866) 288-5699 TOLL FREE

IN MEMORIUM

Every year an estimated 37,000 homeless people die, many alone and outside. We've recently lost Bob Cohee, 56, and Donroy Glenn, 66.

Originally from South Dakota, Donroy was passing through Des Moines and died under a bridge. His body was discovered some time later in a sleeping bag on October 14. Unfortunately, we may never know more about him.

Bob Cohee died July 10. Joppa served Bob for nearly four years in outreach and aftercare, and we stood as witnesses the day he married Shelley. Bob in turn served as an adviser and homeless representative on the Joppa board. "He had taken such good care of Shelley and was broken-hearted after her death," said Joe Stevens of Joppa. Bob's letter (at right) captured his grief and hope. 🍷



Shelley and Bob Cohee

Shelley,

I miss you. I think of you all the time.

You were my best friend.

...Should I join you? I am a coward.

...Watch over me until I get there.

Love, Bob



IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

Joppa will celebrate the lives of all the homeless people we've lost this past year at the Iowa Homeless Memorial, December 21, from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM at the State Capitol. Please dress warmly and join us for 30 minutes out in the cold, on the longest night of the year, to remember our homeless friends and other souls who have lived among us.

NEWSLETTER DESIGN: **PUSH**
BRANDING * DESIGN



118 S.E. 4th Street, Suite 120
Des Moines, IA 50309

CAN YOU HELP?

VISIT JOPPAOUTREACH.ORG OR CALL (515) 288-5699 TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER OR PROVIDE SUPPLIES.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU MAKE JOPPA POSSIBLE—WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US. THANK YOU!