

# 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."*



## JOPPA STORIES

### Freezing to Death

It's a frigid Saturday afternoon in February with two inches of fresh snow on the ground. Joppa winter heat team volunteers stand by their pickup truck, near a homeless camp, trying to stomp feeling into their feet. Their fingers are stiffening in their ski gloves, so they stuff their hands in their pockets or tuck them high under their armpits. A gust of wind, sharp and cutting, makes them hunch their shoulders and duck deeper into their coat collars.

"I can't imagine living outside," says Joppa volunteer and videographer, Adam Beecher. "Sometimes I think it's cold in my home, but then I think how tough the homeless have it. It boggles my mind."

Around the Metro, more than 100 homeless people are living in tents, shacks, and vehicles every day during this brutal winter.

"If it wasn't for these guys bringing me a heater and fuel, I would have been dead somewhere, frozen to death," says Ken, a homeless man. "I don't like shelters. I'm a vet (with) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—don't like to be around people." Ken lives in a structure that's little more than a windbreak and sometimes jogs just to raise his body temperature.

*CONTINUED...*

#### OUR MISSION

*To create a community of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless, and to help people get off the streets*



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### QUARTERLY VOLUNTEER MEETING

March 12, 2014

##### HOMELESS CAMP CLEAN-UPS

April 5, 2014

April 12, 2014

##### DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 15, 2014

##### IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2014

## Freezing to Death, *CONTINUED*

At another camp Eric ran out of fuel the night before. "It ain't very comfortable when you can see your breath inside the tent. Without Joppa's heaters there would be a lot of sick people," he says. "To stay warm, you have to go downtown, hang out in the library or something, but that's quite a ways from here."

"I don't know what else these people could do if it wasn't for the heaters," says volunteer, Frank Green. "We deliver 40 or 50 tanks a week, but it's expensive, \$400 to \$500 a week." Since then, propane prices have more than doubled!

*"If it wasn't for these guys bringing me a heater and fuel, I would have been dead somewhere, frozen to death."*

—Bill

On this trip the team found four new campers, people who had timed out of shelters or fallen on hard times. On most trips, throughout the winter, volunteers find new homeless people.

Frank finds bringing heat to people very rewarding. "We go into a camp and call, 'Joppa's here with propane,' and you'll hear them cheering inside the tent."

"They're really decent people who have just fallen on hard times or made bad decisions. We come out to give them a hug, pray with them and show them God's love. If you want to get plugged in and do something to serve people and to serve God, try Joppa. There are lots of ways to volunteer; to help."

The sun is getting low as team members skid down the hill to Don's camp. They'll have to use the rope to climb back up to the pickup. Roy, who's living under a nearby bridge, hails the camp and comes in to ask for a heater.

"You know, they found Bill dead today," he tells them. "Over there, under the bridge. Bill had a room at the shelter, but came here to drink beer and ended up freezing to death." Roy pauses, "You can't help but think about dying like that, living outside. And the hardest part: a lot of people just don't care." 🍷



## I Work at Joppa

**Volunteer:** Barry Green

**Employer:** I'm a mortgage lender with First Bank.

**Involvement:** I volunteer 8 to 12 hours a week taking propane fuel and heating systems to homeless people as part of the Joppa Winter Survival Heat program.

**Driving passion:** I connected with Joppa through my church, Lutheran Church of Hope. Everyone deserves to be loved, and the homeless have no support group, no one to help them up when they get knocked down. I feel I'm called by God and paid with smiles.

**On my own:** I like to spend time with my wife Margaret, bike, golf and play volleyball.

## YOUR DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING SAVE LIVES

Kristen Petty and members of the Prairie Ridge Church youth group volunteer one Sunday a month, and Van's apartment is one of their stops.

They knock on his window of his secure building and he lets them in. But, that Sunday, when Elijah Petty, Libby Bulver and Mason Van De Pol were on outreach, he didn't answer. "I was

about to leave when one of the kids heard someone say, "I can't get up." When another resident let them in, they found Van with a gangrene-infected leg. It was amputated a few hours later after he was admitted to the hospital. "They said he wouldn't have made it through another night," Kristen says. 🍷



Elijah, Kristen, Libby, and Mason

## 2013 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 SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.



HOUSED IN POLK COUNTY



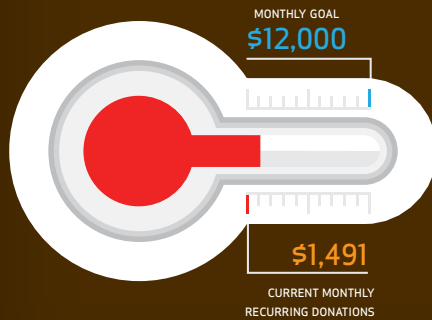
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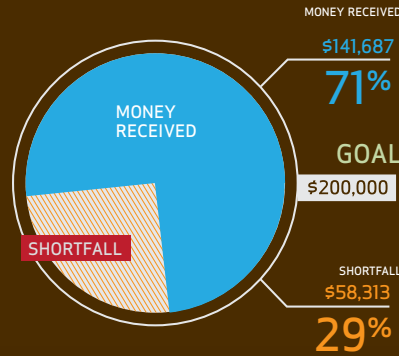
TOTAL HELPED OFF STREETS SINCE 2008

91 % REMAIN OFF STREETS

## DONATIONS



RECURRING DONATIONS FROM MONTHLY GIVING PARTNERS



TOTAL GIVING 2013

	4 <sup>TH</sup> QTR	2013
<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>		
PEOPLE	525	1,973
HOURS	6,134	24,741
<b>DELIVERIES</b>		
MEALS	1,295	4,799
GROCERIES	293	1,185
SUPPLIES	705	2,268
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>		
ASSESSMENTS	105	394
REFERRALS	139	472

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. 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 BY WEB OR MAIL CHECKS TO:

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

[www.joppaoutreach.org](http://www.joppaoutreach.org)

### VOLUNTEER:

Volunteer opportunities are available from the front lines to behind the scenes for small groups, families and individuals.

- Join Outreach or Aftercare Teams
- Deliver Propane Heater Fuel
- Do a Fundraiser or Supply
- Coordinate Volunteers
- Help Plan Events
- Write Stories, Post News, Educate

#### VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

We depend on volunteers like you! Join us and make a difference in the lives of homeless people and our community. Call (515) 288-5699 to learn more.

### SUPPLY:

- 20 lb. BBQ Grill Propane Tanks
- Tents & Green or Brown Tarps
- Blankets & Sleeping Bags
- Wool Socks & Long Underwear
- Headlamps & Candles
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies
- Laundry Detergent & Dish Soap
- Canned Goods & Nonperishables
- Pots & Pans

#### BRING SUPPLIES TO THE JOPPA CENTER:

Monday–Thursday between 12 & 4PM at 118 SE 4th Street, Suite 120, in East Village. Or call (515) 288-5699.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



“Dying homeless frequently means dying alone and forgotten.”

—Joe Stevens  
JOPPA CO-FOUNDER

## Dying Homeless...Alone & Forgotten

Dying homeless frequently means dying alone and forgotten. Having lost touch with relatives, family members often never know what fate became of those they once loved.

The names of people who died homeless in Iowa were read December 21st at a somber candlelight vigil. Gathered at the foot of the Capitol in the shivering cold on the first day of winter—the longest night of the year—the crowd paid tribute to those that died and listened to Mayor Cownie pledging to work to end the causes of homelessness.

Joppa also received proclamations from Governor Branstad and Mayor Cownie declaring it National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in the State of Iowa and City of Des Moines.

Since there is no formal registry of homeless deaths in Iowa, Joppa compiles the list each year from homeless people, shelters and other sources. Several of those remembered had no known last name. We know that many others have died unnoticed.

### FRIENDS WE'VE LOST IN THE PAST FEW YEARS INCLUDE:

- Merle Amodeo, 55, died 9/8/11
- Joe Balaski, 45, died unexpectedly 3/7/11\*
- Robert "Rob" Bennett, 50, found dead in 2012
- Michelle "Little Bit" Breeding, 42, died in camp 11/6/09
- Christine Carter; died 9/6/10
- Constance "Connie" Celia, 57, died summer, 2013
- Bob Cohee, 56, died of congestive heart failure 7/7/12\*

- David "Michael" Duran, 55, drowned in river 11/29/12
- Stanley Golinsky, 56, murdered under a bridge 10/12/12
- Donroy Glenn, 66, died under a bridge and found 10/14/12
- Pamela "Pam" Gross, 44, died 6/17/12
- Jeffrey Heaton, 51, died in a homeless camp in July 2013
- Anthony "Andy" Hudak, 64, a veteran, killed by a car 10/4/12
- Patrick Kennedy, 54, fell from bridge while sleeping 9/21/11
- Richard "Rick" McGarry, was in his 40s when he died in 2012\*
- Brian McKee, a veteran, died 12/17/13
- Shirley Meeowson, 50ish, died 12/12/11
- John Messing, 38, died 4/10/13\*
- Paul Meyers, 56, died of a terminal illness on 7/7/12
- Mary Moreno, R.N., 57, choked while eating dinner on 1/9/12\*
- Jonathan "Bear" Nichols, was 36 when he died
- Lance Oppenheim, 50, died of liver disease on 2/29/11\*
- Rock Persinger, 53, died 5/23/13
- Donald Leon Roberts, was 53 when he died
- Michael "Big Mike" Stein, died 12/9/11
- Bernard Taylor; died in 2012
- Kimber Rubendall, died homeless in 2012
- Anthony Strausbaugh, died at CISS in March of 2011
- Alan, 51, died 6/11/12
- John, 63, found dead in an abandoned home 4/4/12
- Robby, 41, found in a farm field 12/12/12
- Thomas, 50, died 6/12/12

\*Got back into housing shortly before death

EDUCATION

STUDENTS EDUCATED

4Q 262

YTD 576

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

4Q 9

YTD 44

PEOPLE ON FIRST HOMELESS CAMP EXPERIENCE

4Q 122

YTD 449

Help Homeless People Survive



WINTER SURVIVAL

## Heater Fuel Costs Skyrocket

Tonight, more than 100 people will sleep outside in the cold, sheltered only by tents, lean-tos, and shacks. Although Joppa has helped 158 homeless people get off the streets since 2008, those outside tonight have no immediate options for housing, so they will shiver and struggle to stay dry and warm.

Two Joppa volunteers, Frank Green and Barry Green (no relation), have led the winter heat teams that deliver Mr. Heater "Portable Buddy" heaters to homeless campers, then supply one or two 20-pound tanks of propane each week as needed.

The heaters are specifically designed to use in tents, shacks and other temporary structures. They're rated safe for indoor use and have many safety features including automatic shut off if the heater encounters low oxygen or tips over. Then, with propane deliveries each week, the team brings unconditional love and friendship, and ensures heaters are working properly.

The problem is this winter started much earlier than usual and has been colder than normal. Propane prices have skyrocketed because of demand. As of this writing, costs have tripled and are expected to continue climbing until demand subsides. Watch Joppa news story on ABCTV-5 here:

<http://bit.ly/1hpRdQ8>

## Here's what your donation dollars can do.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO PURCHASE HEATER FUEL AND OTHER SUPPLIES PEOPLE NEED TO SURVIVE.

**Your donation can provide heater fuel for:**

- 20 dwellings for one week..... \$500
- 10 dwellings for one week..... \$250
- 5 dwellings for one week..... \$125
- 3 dwellings for one week..... \$75
- 1 dwelling for one week..... \$25

**Provide winter heater systems: heater, filter and 12' hose:**

- 20 heating systems..... \$2,000
- 10 heating systems..... \$1,000
- 5 heating systems..... \$500
- 3 heating systems..... \$300
- 1 heating system..... \$100

**Provide a temporary shelter package, which includes a tent, rain fly, sleeping bag, pillow, two tarps and 50' of rope:**

- 20 survival packages..... \$2,000
- 10 survival packages..... \$1,000
- 5 survival packages..... \$500
- 3 survival packages..... \$300
- 1 survival package..... \$100

When you're homeless, you **must** walk to get food, go to work, see a doctor or gather your essentials. Wearing wet tennis shoes can cause trench foot, frostbite or other problems that immobilize you.

**Provide waterproof insulated boots, which are lifesavers:**

- 20 pairs of boots..... \$1,800
- 10 pairs of boots..... \$900
- 5 pairs of boots..... \$450
- 3 pairs of boots..... \$270
- 1 pair of boots..... \$90

Please help. Go to [JoppaOutreach.Org](http://JoppaOutreach.Org) or return the enclosed response card to make a donation right now. Thank you! 🍎

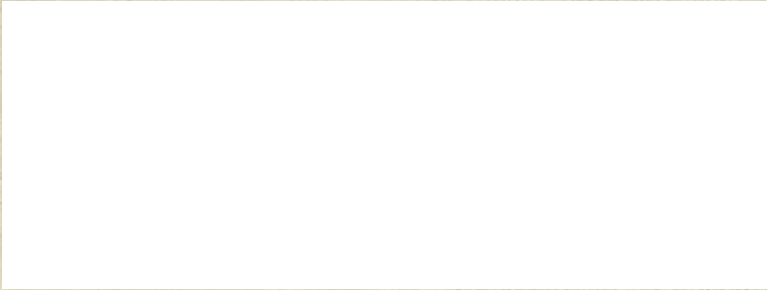
HOW WE DO IT

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



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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Des Moines IA  
Permit No. 1025



[www.joppaoutreach.org](http://www.joppaoutreach.org)

(515) 288-5699 LOCAL

(866) 288-5699 TOLL FREE

## FOUNDERS' VISION

Each winter about 700 homeless people freeze to death, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. Many of those die here in the Midwest.

During the winter of 2008, Matt Clark froze to death behind the Colonial Bakery in Des Moines. In his mid forties, Matt was too young to die.

Jack Stone froze to death while sleeping in a dumpster behind the library and was crushed the next morning. Dave Sheldon was found frozen to death in a parking garage. Carl Jefferson and Jack Wagner also died


of hypothermia here in Des Moines.

This is why the Joppa winter survival heat program is so critical...it helps the homeless people in our community survive until they can get back into housing.

With God's blessing and your financial support we are committed to providing safe heaters and weekly deliveries of heater fuel to everyone experiencing homelessness in Polk County, regardless of rising propane costs.



Jacki, Caleb and Joe

If you haven't already, please consider making a donation today. 

**JOE, JACKI & CALEB STEVENS**

**JOPPA FOUNDERS**

**CAN YOU HELP?**

VISIT [JOPPAOUTREACH.ORG](http://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!