

ARISE

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO RECOVERY IN POLK COUNTY

Joppa

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2 | FALL 2013



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



Crystal & Todd Parsons

JOPPA STORIES

Couple Housed But Still In Crisis

"Sometimes I'd just like a glimpse at God's playbook. I probably couldn't see it, my eyes are so bad, but I'd like to know what all this was supposed to mean," says Todd Parsons, 49. He's tilted back in a dark-colored recliner in the north-side apartment he shares with his wife, Crystal, 37. "I've tried to commit suicide three times by jumping, but God didn't want me yet. Now I'm losing my independence one inch at a time."

Today Todd is showing off his new "clown shoes," as he calls them. His DHS caseworker took him on a weekly outing and then to buy the clumsy-looking, white orthopedic tennis shoes. "'Cause I'm diabetic," Todd explains, "my feet are numb, so I didn't know my old shoes were two sizes too small."

"We've known Joppa people since before there was a Joppa," Crystal says. They met the Joppa founders in 2008 when they were helping homeless people as a family. Joppa helped both of them when they were living individually in tents in a homeless camp. Two years later, after Todd's health forced him onto disability, they were able to marry and move into an apartment. *CONTINUED...*

OUR MISSION

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2013

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2013

HOMELESS CAMP CLEANUPS

April 5, 2014

April 12, 2014

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 15, 2014

Couple Housed But Still In Crisis, *CONTINUED*

“But moving someone who’s been homeless into an apartment doesn’t mean the struggle is over and it’s smooth sailing,” says Dr. Greta Degan, RN, Joppa program director. “Many of our clients ended up homeless because they lack the life skills to take care of themselves in that environment. They may be very resilient and resourceful in a camp, but untrained to do housekeeping, money management, and a dozen other things they need to do to keep the housing.”

Joppa’s Aftercare Program is critically important to the couple. Since his stroke last April Todd has some paralysis on his left side, slurred speech, numbness in his hands and feet, and increasingly poor vision. His physical limitations mean Crystal is the caregiver; but she has been diagnosed with ADHD, bipolar disorder and a mental disability.

“I’ve tried to commit suicide three times by jumping, but God didn’t want me yet. Now I’m losing my independence one inch at a time.”

—Todd Parsons

“I’ve lived with people my whole life,” she says, “Sometimes not very good people. But I can’t live alone. I don’t know how to do the responsible things.”

“Joe and Jacki make us feel comfortable. They’re

friends,” Crystal says, “not like professionals who like you ‘til the contract is up. When Todd was in the hospital with the stroke, Joppa volunteers cared enough to visit him. Agency people don’t do that.”

She doesn’t want to think about what she’ll do if something happens to Todd. “People are trying to talk to me about it, but there’s no place for people like me. Todd believes in God and in a playbook, but I don’t think so. Not for me.”

Joppa has recently helped Crystal engage an attorney to help her through the disability process in hopes of acquiring an income of her own. We don’t know what’s in God’s plan for the couple either; but Joppa will continue to walk with them, loving them, serving them, teaching and supporting them. 🏠

BECAUSE JOPPA CARED

After six years living in homeless camps in different Metro locations, Matt and Bobbie Jo Noble will be moving into housing. A year ago, the couple was featured in ARISE.

“Joppa helped us go through the process to get Matt signed up for disability, then helped us apply so we can get an apartment,” Bobbie Jo

enthusiastically explains. “They found us a lawyer when we went to the disability hearing, and he had the judge crying when he told Matt’s story. No one seemed to care before. Without Joppa, we would still be out there, just getting by, with no one to care.” 🏠



I Work at Joppa

Volunteer: Scott Beattie

Employer: Peddicord Wharton law firm, West Des Moines

Involvement: My family and I do outreach one Sunday each month. I serve on the Joppa board and offer Joppa clients legal advice on housing issues.

Driving passion: My wife and I were looking for a way to get involved in relief work locally. Some people at our church had worked with Joppa, and I’d known Jacki Stevens since we were kids. It’s a great fit for us.

On my own: I’m Dad to three boys, and I like to ride my bike.



Bobbi Jo & Matt Noble

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 A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.



HOUSED IN POLK COUNTY



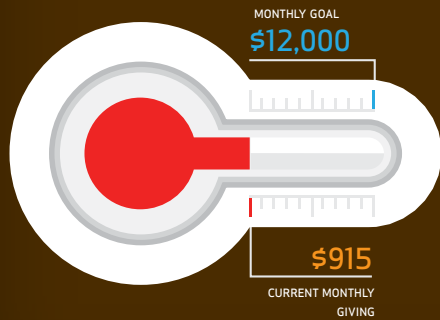
RELOCATED ELSEWHERE



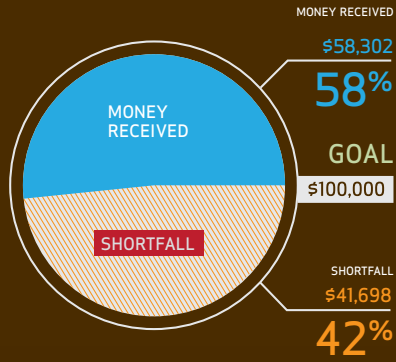
TOTAL HELPED OFF STREETS

90% REMAIN OFF STREETS

DONATIONS



MONTHLY GIVING



TOTAL GIVING YEAR TO DATE
(AS OF SEPT 30)

	3 RD QTR	YTD
VOLUNTEERS		
PEOPLE	458	1,451
HOURS	5,764	18,763
DELIVERIES		
MEALS	4,179	8,882
GROCERIES	302	862
SUPPLIES	450	1,563
HEALTHCARE		
ASSESSMENTS	60	244
REFERRALS	119	334

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.
c/o Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
1915 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

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 one Sunday afternoon a month, prepare meals or help coordinate a supply drive.

- Outreach & Aftercare
- Meal Preparation
- Transportation Assistance

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:

- Tents & Green or Brown Tarps
- Sleeping Bags & Blankets
- Coats & Long Underwear
- Headlamps & Candles
- Backpacks
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent & Dish Soap
- Cleaning Supplies
- 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!

AFTERCARE

APARTMENT VISITS

3Q 210

YTD 601



Iowa Homeless Memorial held annually on December 21st

EVENTS

“Many of our homeless friends look forward to this night all year long...”

—Joe Stevens
JOPPA FOUNDER



Mayor Cownie at last year's homeless memorial



A guest and his best friend at the Homeless Christmas Celebration

Annual December 21 Events Offer Dignity and Affirmation

On December 21, the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, you are invited to join Joppa and other homeless advocates to remember the men and women who have died homeless in Iowa. The fifth annual Iowa Homeless Memorial, a candlelight vigil, will be held from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on the West Capitol Terrace at the State Capitol.

Governor Terry Branstad, Mayor Frank Cownie, City Councilman Chris Coleman and others are expected to speak about homelessness. During the ceremony, which includes music, poetry and prayer, we will read the names of those we've lost this past year. Please show your support by attending this event—bring your family and friends!

Following the vigil, join us for the fifth annual Homeless Christmas Celebration. Enjoy food, live music, a photo booth

and other festivities at this celebration at the Joppa Center:

“The holidays can be a depressing time for those less fortunate and homeless people don't often get invited to Christmas parties or have wrapped gifts waiting for them under a tree. Many of our homeless friends look forward to this night all year long as one of the highlights of their year,” said Joe Stevens, Joppa founder and CEO.

Come out to meet, affirm and uplift people in our community who are experiencing homelessness by sharing the spirit of Christmas with them.

The moments you experience at these events, held each year on December 21st, will likely become some of your favorite holiday memories. 🍷

ADVOCACY + EDUCATION

STUDENTS EDUCATED

3Q 129

YTD 392

PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

3Q 10

YTD 32

FIRST HOMELESS EDUCATION EXPERIENCES

3Q 76

YTD 317

Flooding Can Pose Significant Threats



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A River Ran Through It

Al K fled his camp with two bikes. That's all. The river took the rest: his clothes, tent, food and water—all of it. When the Raccoon River floodwaters first rose, Al grabbed his most irreplaceable possessions, two bikes, and waded to Steve W's camp a short distance away on higher ground.

"Then we woke up one morning and Steve's camp was surrounded too," Al says. "It rose really fast in the night and was knee high all around us with a current that could sweep you off your feet and into the river." So they hunkered down to wait it out. But after about two days, they ran out of food and were low on water.

That's when they phoned Joppa. Rick Lowe, Joppa client services director, who had been worried and trying to reach them, called another Joppa volunteer and boater, Dave Foster. He quickly drove to where he could see the camp and assess the situation: about 100 yards from shore, the two men were surrounded by swift, rising water. "You

"It rose really fast in the night and was knee high all around us with a current that could sweep you off your feet and into the river."

Meet The Homeless



Check out our new "Faces of Homelessness" video interviews at JOPPAOUTREACH.ORG/VIDEO.

could easily cross it in a boat, but it was pretty dangerous to try to walk through," Dave says.

"I was just figuring out who I knew that had the closest boat when I noticed a flat-bottom boat on a trailer at Valley Stables nearby. I talked to the boat owner and we used it to row out to get Al and Steve," he said. "When we took them off the high ground, all they had was a small grocery bag apiece."

Once on dry land, Dave drove Al and Steve to a nearby grocery store. "They were hungry and, right then, a lift to the store was all the help they wanted," Dave says.

At the time of this story, Steve hadn't returned to his camp and Al had pitched his newly donated tent in another spot "away from the river this time," he says. Al hadn't been back to see if his bikes were swept away.

During the summer, about 200 homeless people live in tents, under bridges and in vehicles in the Metro. Joppa cares for them and responds to emergencies of all kinds. "It's the nature of what Joppa does, and an example of how much everyone cares, that we take these calls in stride and drop everything to respond," says Dave. 🍷

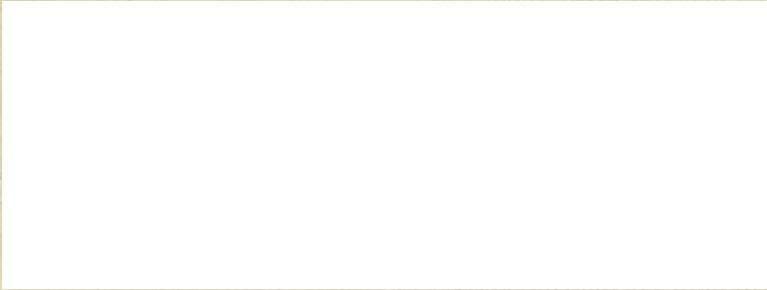
HOW WE DO IT

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. 4271



www.joppaoutreach.org

(515) 288-5699 LOCAL

(866) 288-5699 TOLL FREE

FOUNDERS' VISION

What started as a small family endeavor to help the unsheltered homeless five years ago has quickly grown into an exciting movement involving hundreds of volunteers and an array of programs that meet unmet needs and reach people who have fallen through the cracks of society.

As Joppa founders, we want to thank all of our donors, volunteers, suppliers and partners who have made Joppa what it is today.

The vision we've been given is a big one. And while we have come a long


way in a short time, accomplishing much with relatively little (see metrics inside), there is still much work to be done right here at home. We aim to fully accomplish our mission in Polk County and take our model and unique programs to other cities with unmet needs.

We praise God for what He is doing through each of you as you graciously donate your time, talent and treasures.

For readers who are considering helping in some way—this life-changing



Jacki, Caleb and Joe

work is the most rewarding thing we have ever done. And we invite you to join us! 

JOE, JACKI & CALEB STEVENS

JOPPA FOUNDERS

NEWSLETTER DESIGN: 
BRANDING * DESIGN

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!