

# ARISE

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, GET HOUSING AND THRIVE



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2 | SPRING/SUMMER 2017

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



Ora & Lucky

## JOPPA STORIES

### A Second Chance at Life

For fourteen years, Ora Tigner, 55, had an abusive, on-off relationship with a boyfriend. "He told me he loved me," she explains. "Love is a very strong word."

Ora has been looking for love since her mother died suddenly leaving Ora and her two sisters to be raised in tough foster homes. She survived, earned two degrees at DMACC and worked to support herself for decades. Then, in 2010 she told her unemployed boyfriend to move out of her house. For the next 16 hours, he beat her with a baseball bat, breaking both her arms, blackening her eyes, and inflicting severe head injuries that required dozens of staples and stitches.

As the sun began to rise the next day, Ora thinks he saw the extent of what he'd done. He called 911 to help her, then hung himself in the garage.

She was beginning to recover when her next boyfriend threatened to hit her and steal her van. "I thought it would happen again," she recalls. Ironically, she used a baseball bat as her weapon, and broke all the windows out of his house.

CONTINUED...

## OUR MISSION

*To create a community of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless, as we work together to end homelessness.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TAKE A SLICE OUT OF HUNGER

June 4 & 5, 2017

### JOPPA VOLUNTEER BBQ

July 21, 2017

### DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 11, 2017

### IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL & RALLY

December 21, 2017

### HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2017

### PJ DAY IOWA

January 26, 2018

## A Second Chance at Life, CONTINUED

Ora was arrested and lost her public housing. "I spent a year living in my van with my dog Lucky," she says. She spent her nights in a Walmart parking lot. "You don't really sleep," she says. "You might rest, but you don't sleep because you have to always be on your guard. Everything you own is in the van and it could be stolen. I never really felt secure," she remembers. "As a homeless woman, you have to be careful where you park. Be aware of your surroundings and don't be stupid. I found a great park out in the country, but it only had one way in and out. I could get trapped. I didn't park there to sleep."

**HOMELESSNESS IS HARD ANYWAY AND, WITHOUT JOPPA, I COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT.**  
— ORA TIGNER, 55


She heard about Joppa from other homeless people. "I went in to get some blankets and stuff and met Marianne. She's such a sweetie," Ora says. "I don't know what I would have done without Joppa. They're a God-send. Homelessness is hard anyway and, without Joppa, I couldn't have made it. Life can be so sucky. Sometimes you just need someone to listen and understand."

Initially, Joppa supported Ora with blankets, warm clothes, food, and pet food for Lucky. Now that Ora is in housing, Joppa aftercare volunteers stop in each Sunday with supplies, groceries and friendship.

"I'm a happy girl," she says when she describes apartment life. It's the simple pleasures: taking a shower, cooking real food and wearing pajamas. "When you're staying at someone else's house, you just don't wear pajamas."

Ora now spends her time talking to people at shelters. She starts to cry as she remembers, "In the hospital, I went through the tunnel they talk about. I saw the burning light at the end. I got a second chance at life. Now, if there is any way I can talk to you and prevent you from being homeless, that's what I need to do. I want to give back."

Ora thinks Joppa was there to love her and guide her back from despair. "I wouldn't have gotten here without Joppa. Thank you guys for that. It really means a lot to me."

Visit [joppa.org](http://joppa.org) to give the gift of housing and recovery to others living homeless. 

Watch Ora's story at [bit.ly/JoppaVideos](https://bit.ly/JoppaVideos).



## I Serve at Joppa

**VOLUNTEER:** Lorie Williamson

**INVOLVEMENT:** I work on the Joppa KIDS Team and currently serve as the Event Chair for PJ Day Iowa.

**BACKGROUND:** I discovered Joppa through my church website when searching for a local mission to serve.

**DRIVING PASSION:** To follow God's calling to serve and share the love of Christ. I find the more I engage, the more I want to serve and the more I am blessed by the people God puts in my path.


**ON MY OWN:** My husband and I have five children and three grand-children. We enjoy volunteering in our community, traveling and hanging out with family and friends.

## BECOME AN "EVERYDAY ANGEL"

Everyday Angels are the faithful givers who support Joppa each and every day by giving automatically from their credit cards or checking accounts once each month.

### Sign up to become an Everyday Angel

- Support Joppa with a monthly gift
- Help homeless people survive, get housing and rebuild their lives

Go to [joppa.org/donate](http://joppa.org/donate) to sign up. 

## JOPPA EVERYDAY ANGELS



I NEVER REALIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF HOMELESSNESS. I LEARNED HOW GRATEFUL THESE PEOPLE ARE...  
I LOVED HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SCARVES KNOWING I AM HELPING THOSE IN NEED.  
—SPENCER, JUNIOR AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

DOWN&OUT  
HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

### BE A TABLE HOST AT THE 2017 DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

#### WHEN

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**

5:00 PM Appetizers, Silent Auction & Cash Bar

6:30 PM Dinner & Program

#### WHERE

**Top of The Tower Ballroom**

Holiday Inn Downtown

#### DRESS

**Casual attire**

Yes, jeans are ok!

#### TICKETS

**\$150/person**

\$125 per ticket is a tax-deductible donation

**\$1,000/table of eight**

\$800 per table is a tax-deductible donation

**Buy Tickets/Tables here:** [bit.ly/DOFundraiser2017](http://bit.ly/DOFundraiser2017)

#### FEATURES

**Stunning Views of Des Moines**

**Joppa Tiny Home Tours**

**Personal Stories of Homelessness**

**Dinner & Cash Bar**

**Silent Auction**

#### When should I begin inviting my guests?

Limited seating this year. Purchase your table now!

#### Who should I invite?

Consider inviting anyone who has a desire to help those in need.

#### What if I have more guests than will fit at my table?

GREAT! We will do our best to seat your additional guests at a table near you. Fill as many tables as you like!

#### Do I need to buy an entire table, or can my guests purchase their own seats?

You can either purchase a table yourself or gather friends to purchase one together.

## JOIN!

Join the Down & Out Homeless Fundraiser Event Team.

**Email:** [volunteer@joppa.org](mailto:volunteer@joppa.org)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### GIVE:

#### BECOME A JOPPA SUPPORT PARTNER!

*Join us and make a difference with your donations and ongoing support.*

95% of each gift goes towards our mission and benefits the people most in need right here in our community, as Joppa is volunteer-driven and has less than 5% administrative costs.

*Joppa is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. All gifts are tax-deductible.*

#### GIVE ONLINE OR MAIL TO:

Joppa  
118 SE 4th Street, Suite 120  
Des Moines, IA 50309

[joppa.org](http://joppa.org)

### VOLUNTEER:

Volunteer opportunities are available for groups, families and individuals:

- Join an Event Planning Team
- Hold a Fundraiser for Joppa
- Help Expand Joppa KIDS
- Coordinate a Supply Drive
- Provide Client Transportation
- Help Acquire Sponsorships
- Join a Hospitality Team

#### 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.

Email [volunteer@joppa.org](mailto:volunteer@joppa.org) to learn more

### SUPPLY:

- Tents & Tarps (Green or Brown)
- Sleeping Bags & Backpacks
- Bottled Drinking Water (24oz)
- Bug Spray
- Headlamps & Batteries
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies
- Laundry Detergent & Dish Soap
- Canned Goods & Nonperishables
- DART Bus Tokens

#### BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday–Friday between 10 & 4:30 PM at 118 SE 4th Street, Suite 120, in Des Moines. Or call (515) 288-5699.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



I ALWAYS PICTURED HOMELESSNESS AS LIVING UNDER A BRIDGE. I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AS NOT HAVING A PERMANENT PLACE TO SLEEP.

I GOT A LARGER PERSPECTIVE OF HOMELESSNESS AND I LEARNED THAT IT WAS A BIGGER DEAL IN DES MOINES THAN I THOUGHT.

—ALLISON, SENIOR AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Lincoln High School Student Council



## PJ DAY IOWA

## Lincoln High School Impact

On the last Friday in January, people of all ages across the metro area embraced PJ Day Iowa and donned pajamas, robes and silly slippers as a visible reminder that everyone needs a safe place to sleep at night. The impact was notable and for one school, the impact didn't stop there. Des Moines' Lincoln High School took PJ Day Iowa a step further: Class time was offered for a variety of activities, discussions, making items and collecting donations. Hundreds of students took advantage of these opportunities. Here's what some of them had to say:

"...showed me just how close to home this issue is—it never crossed my mind that students around me at school are going through this. It's been uplifting to be able to help out those in need..." —Patrick, Senior

"I'm glad we could come together as a school to help homeless people instead of judge them." —Melisa, Senior

Teachers, India Morrow and Myriah Kolar facilitated an activity with students, using plastic wrap and clear packing tape to create life-size faceless figures to represent the homeless people living on the streets who are many times ignored or treated as invisible. Ms. Morrow explained, "These clear representations of human beings were then stuffed with colorful notes of encouragement to give them color and help them be seen and raise awareness of the homeless issue in Des Moines." These unique art pieces silently spoke volumes to those passing by in the hallways of the LHS RAILS Academy 9th grade building.

**I'M GLAD WE COULD COME TOGETHER AS A SCHOOL TO HELP HOMELESS PEOPLE INSTEAD OF JUDGE THEM.**

**— MELISA, SENIOR**

Students commented about the statues:

"I want people to know that everyone is important. Being important isn't based on how much money you have or your looks. When you help someone in need it makes you feel good about yourself and...what you're doing will help someone else. This project made me have a greater understanding of the world that I live in and I'm glad I could help!" —Jadah, Freshman

"I believe that everyone matters no matter the mistakes that they have made: so our homelessness project means giving [someone] a chance." —Catherine, Freshman

"This really made me realize that there are bigger problems out there than just me and my problems...I think that's our job as a society - to help the problem and help people get back up on their feet." —Cooper, Freshman

"I might give up my time, money and resources, however, what I get back is...the feeling that I'm making a real difference in our community." —Abigail, Freshman



Faceless Figures of Homelessness

Lincoln Principal, Paul Williamson, had this to say: "As educators, we need to make sure our students are not only engaged in current issues that impact our community and school, but inten-

tionally teach our students how to help problem solve these challenges for the future. This can't be done in one day; it must be purposeful and well-planned to have the most impact."

PJ Day Iowa gives Iowans the opportunity to come together in a very visible way to bring awareness to the issue of homelessness and inspire change in the way the homeless are cared for and viewed. Local students really stepped up to the plate this year and led the charge, offering hope for the future! 🌈

Check out the full story at [joppa.org/news](http://joppa.org/news).



**WHEN OUR SCHOOL DOES THINGS LIKE THIS IT REALLY MAKES US A BIG FAMILY AND BRINGS US TOGETHER TO FIGHT FOR THE SAME CAUSE.**

**—COOPER, FRESHMAN AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL**





Caleb Stevens, Founder of Joppa KIDS

“WHEN KIDS LEARN THAT HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME, THEY BECOME EVEN MORE COMPASSIONATE AND BEGIN DOING SOMETHING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...  
— CALEB STEVENS, 16

## JOPPA KIDS PART II

### Impacting Kids and the Homeless

Hear first hand from Joppa KIDS who are actively involved in serving the homeless.

#### Are the number of Joppa KIDS volunteers growing?

Yes, we've seen significant growth over the past year. PJ Day Iowa in January helped to get the word out. We're in approximately 30 schools already, including Lincoln—the city's largest high school—as well as multiple youth groups and kid's clubs, such as the Boy Scouts of America.

#### What projects are you working on now, or in the near future?

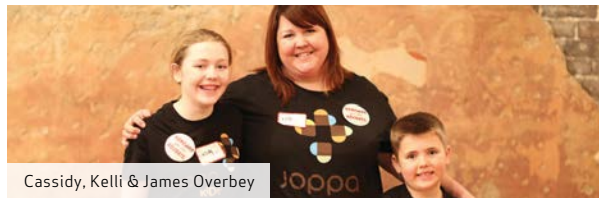
Creating a Joppa Tiny Home Build Curriculum for high schools and expanding Joppa KIDS into additional schools, youth groups and kid's clubs.

#### What would you like to see Joppa KIDS do or develop into long term?

Joppa KIDS is resonating with today's youth. We see these programs and volunteer opportunities someday expanding into other cities and states.

#### What kind of impact do you think Joppa KIDS has had or will have on the homeless community and the volunteers?

Awareness, compassion and action. When kids become aware of homelessness, and the issues that cause it, they better understand the importance of getting a good education and making good choices; which helps prevent future homelessness. When kids learn that homeless people are just like you and me, they become even more compassionate and begin doing something to make a difference in homeless people's lives.



Cassidy, Kelli &amp; James Overbey

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH JOPPA KIDS?

"Helping people on our route pick out their favorite foods."  
—James Overbey, Grade 3

"Meeting new people and getting to experience different things most kids my age haven't." —Cassidy Overbey, Grade 8

#### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES?

"I can be pretty shy, but volunteering thru Joppa has made me become more comfortable talking to people."  
—Cassidy Overbey, Grade 8

"I've learned how to be more thankful for the things we have."  
—Sam Smith, Grade 6

#### TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE WHILE VOLUNTEERING?

"Meeting and becoming friends with Rocky, an aftercare friend we visit." —James Overbey, Grade 3

"Interviewing the homeless after they toured Tabitha, the tiny home model, at the Iowa Homeless Memorial & Rally. I got a first hand perspective from lots of homeless clients about what Joppa is doing for them right now." —Cassidy Overbey, Grade 8

"On one of our routes...we met a man...every time we came he was so kind and once we had this really fun snowball fight with him." —Sam Smith, Grade 6

#### WHY DO YOU THINK JOPPA KIDS IS IMPORTANT; FOR YOU OR FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY?

"It's important for me and other kids to learn about the homeless so we can help them now, not wait until we are grownups. I think the homeless and other Joppa clients get happy when I'm around joking with them. I like to make them smile." —James Overbey, Grade 3

"It's important for kids to learn about life choices that may lead to homelessness. Several clients have given me real life advice on making good choices for myself." —Cassidy Overbey, Grade 8

## HOW WE DO IT

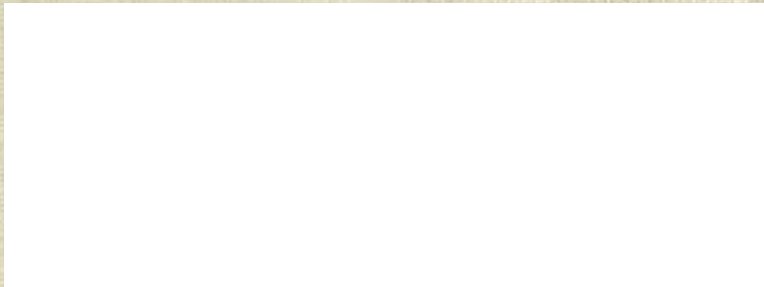
EXPRESS CHRIST'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE + BUILD RELATIONSHIPS & VISIT OFTEN + HELP PEOPLE STAY WARM, DRY & HEALTHY  
+ PROVIDE FOOD, SUPPLIES & CARE + RESPOND TO NEEDS & EMERGENCIES + BE A VOICE, ADVOCATE & LINK TO RESOURCES +  
ENCOURAGE POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD + HELP OFF STREETS & PROVIDE AFTERCARE UNTIL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





118 SE 4th Street, Suite 120  
Des Moines, IA 50309

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[joppa.org](http://joppa.org)

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(866) 288-5699 TOLL FREE

◆ **SAVE THE DATE** ◆



**DOWN & OUT**  
HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

11.11.17 | 5:00 PM

**SPONSORS**

