

ARISE

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, FIND HOUSING AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES



Joppa

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2018

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



JOPPA STORIES

James Nicodemus

When Cancer Strikes the Homeless

It was the summer of 2015 when Joppa first met James "Nick" Nicodemus, he was living in a tent in the woods. Trouble, struggles and pain had plowed deep furrows in his weathered face. A lanky man, "pushing sixty," Nick was recovering from mouth cancer surgery that claimed half of his lower jaw. Native to Des Moines, he moved back from Omaha to be near his daughter and grandchildren.

"My wife of 30 years, who I had grown up with, died in 2014," he told us. "She was my best friend." Fighting the pain of losing her, Nick drank heavily and eventually lost everything. He'd been a floor installer for 45 years and still wanted to work, but was unable. "I lost my driver's license because of my drinkin' and the bus comes by here only 2 or 3 times a day," Nick said. It would have cost \$1,800 in fines to have his license reinstated so that he can get to work more easily.

"Joppa saved my life," he explained. "I was getting rained on. There are more mosquitos than you know what to do with. There's nothin' to eat. Everything is damp and wet. Your clothes mildew and you have to throw 'em away and try to find new ones. It feels like you're hiding from someone out here, but you're really not. This is just the only place you can be."

CONTINUED...

OUR MISSION

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



HELP PUT **HOMELESSNESS** TO BED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PROJECT PJ

January 26, 2018

JOPPA COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

April 7, 2018

TAKE A SLICE OUT OF HUNGER

June 3 & 4, 2018

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 10, 2018

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2018

WHAT WE DO

OUTREACH | HOUSING | EDUCATION

When Cancer Strikes the Homeless, CONTINUED

"Then Joppa came," he said. "They brought water and mosquito spray. On Sundays, they brought food. They gave me bus tokens, a clean, dry sleeping bag, a tent, shoes, pants and LOVE." He told us, "Without Joppa I wouldn't have known where to go."

Nick thought he was beating his cancer, but it was getting worse, so he had to continue fighting for his life. "Doctors told me it was stage 3 or 4, but I'm gonna beat it because I have the Lord on my side. I don't have cancer because I gave it to the Lord. I hope He'll accept it, because it's a lot, and living in a tent out here is tough."

After his new diagnosis, Joppa continued to support him as he went for treatment in Iowa City. Joppa made sure he had rides to and from treatment, a bus pass,

and a phone. But above all, Joppa gave him hope. At the time he was still homeless and, after treatment, returned to his tent in the woods. Joppa reconnected him with his daughter; and remained persistent about continuing treatment.

After continual advocacy on his behalf, Joppa connected Nick with Primary Health Care who found an apartment

for him through Anawim Housing. He moved in last fall. "I was totally amazed. I went to Iowa City for a treatment and when I came home, Joppa had put furniture in my apartment, even pictures on the wall. I fell on the floor and started crying."

"I thank the people who support Joppa," he says tearing up. "Keep it up. Your donations keep Joppa strong. The Lord blessed you so you can bless other people."

"I don't know how I'll live tomorrow or the next day," Nick says, his thin body nearly swallowed by the big recliner; "but I hope Joppa helps more people like they done helped me — and they done helped me a bunch! God bless them. I ain't done yet."

To become a Joppa donor, go to Joppa.org and click on "Donate." 

"I THANK THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT JOPPA," HE SAYS TEARING UP. THE LORD BLESSED YOU SO YOU CAN BLESS OTHER PEOPLE.
— JAMES NICODEMUS



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEER: Colleen Martin-Herrin, M.D.

INVOLVEMENT: I currently serve as the Joppa Medical Team Director.

BACKGROUND: I left 22 years of private practice to become the Medical Team Director for Joppa in 2016. I wanted to find a way to improve the health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

DRIVING PASSION: I believe all people should have access to medical care.

ON MY OWN: When I am not at Joppa, I am volunteering with the Iowa Weim Rescue, traveling in a Tiny Home on Wheels (THOW) and perhaps exploring the future idea of being a self-sustaining farmer.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As an Everyday Angel, you insure Joppa has a consistent and reliable source of funding to provide dependable support for all of our programs and services.

Everyday Angels contribute monthly gifts to:

- Help homeless people survive, find housing and rebuild their lives
- Engage students and schools in service learning to help prevent homelessness in future generations
- Develop transitional tiny home villages and uniquely affordable cottage homes

Return the enclosed reply card or visit joppa.org/angels to sign-up and be an Everyday Angel



Matthew 25:35-40

BECAUSE OF YOU

- KEPT 269 PEOPLE FROM FREEZING TO DEATH LAST WINTER
- HELPED AN ADDITIONAL 41 MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN GET BACK INTO HOUSING IN 2017
- BUILT 5 MORE TRANSITIONAL TINY HOMES & ANNOUNCED PERMANENT COTTAGE HOMES



HOMELESS WINTER SURVIVAL

Helping Homeless People Survive Winter

You can save lives and provide hope through life-saving heat, shelter and warm clothing, which will make the difference between survival, serious injury and possible death for the homeless population of Polk County.

Prolonged exposure to the cold creates serious problems for those forced to live outside. This includes frostbite, hypothermia and, in some cases, death.

If you would like to help Joppa save lives, click 'Winter Survival' at Joppa.Org/Donate

**“YOU CAN SAVE LIVES
AND PROVIDE HOPE
THROUGH LIFE-SAVING
HEAT, SHELTER AND
WARM CLOTHING...”**

WINTER SURVIVAL SHELTERS

Provides shelter for anyone experiencing homelessness, with no other options for housing. Includes tent, rain fly, sleeping bag, blankets, pillow, tarp and help with setup.

10 Winter Survival Shelters	\$1,500
5 Winter Survival Shelters	\$ 750
1 Winter Survival Shelter	\$ 150

HEATER FUEL

Weekly delivery of two 20lb. tanks of propane fuel for Heater Systems. More fuel delivered during severe weather conditions.

Heater Fuel for 10 People for One Month	\$600
Heater Fuel for 5 People for One Month	\$300
Heater Fuel for 1 Person for One Month	\$ 60

HEATER SYSTEMS

Provides heater system designed for in-door use in tents. Includes extra long hose and initial propane tank.

10 Heater Systems	\$1,250
5 Heater Systems	\$ 625
1 Heater System	\$ 125

WARM WINTER BOOTS

Quality waterproof boots designed to prevent frostbite, trench foot and other life-threatening foot related diseases.

10 Pairs of Boots	\$900
5 Pairs of Boots	\$450
1 Pair of Boots	\$ 90

FROM THE HEART

"I was totally amazed. I went to Iowa City for cancer treatment and when I came home, Joppa had put furniture in my apartment, even pictures on the wall. I fell on the floor and started crying."

-James Nicodemus



Iowa Homeless Memorial

Remembering Those Who Died Homeless in 2017

Over two hundred people, including many currently experiencing homelessness, gathered on a 35-degree night on the west terrace of the Iowa State Capitol to remember 24 people we know who died homeless in Iowa last year. From the stage, local and state officials proclaimed it a night to remember those who died, and the curse of homelessness that contributed to their deaths. Homeless advocates eulogized those whose deaths went largely unnoticed.

In the back of the crowd where homeless couples huddled together under thin blankets, Don, a man who had been tenting for more than three years, was remembering the brutal 2014 winter: "It was 22-below with a 60-below wind chill," he recalls.

Nearby, April Dudley soberly listens. Her small dog, Heaven, peaks out of the front of her coat. She's been homeless since her divorce last June. She'll time out of the

shelter where she's staying in early January, the cruelest part of Iowa's winter.

Sarah Derry shivers beside her. Her time in the shelter will be up four days after Christmas. "Then I'll be out on the street," she says, looking away, "and, well..." Sarah gives a resigned shrug, the universal gesture of people who are about to be set adrift on the sea of circumstance. "Where's Des Moines' heart?" another man challenges.



Memorial Crowd

The City of Des Moines needs to focus on solutions, like safe places for its homeless citizens to go when they time out of shelters. They also need to adopt the latest residential building codes so developers can build rental units that people with part-time jobs can truly afford. 🏠

WE WILL REMEMBER

- **Anthony Allen**
- **Jack Beverlin**, 51
- **Bradley Butcher**, 52
- **Michael Clarkin**, 56
- **Mickey Dobson**
- **Cesar Dubois***
- **Debra Fletcher**, 48
- **Aubrey Gillard**, 42
- **Herb Gish**
- **David Kolbe**, 64
- **Christopher Landers***
- **William Lester**
- **Jim Loveland***
- **Tom Matzie**, 63
- **Amanda Mudgett**
- **Glenn O'Shea**, 56
- **Ivan Powers**, 62
- **Donald Roberts**
- **Loring Michael Svoboda**, 62
- **Rosetta Wilhemina Toole***, 57
- **Douglas Tucker**
- **Jack Wagg**, 56
- **Ronnie Weaver**, 55
- **Richard Yeater**, 77

*Individuals had recently acquired housing.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE ONLINE AT JOPPA.ORG OR MAIL TO: JOPPA AT 118 SE 4TH STREET, #120, DES MOINES, IA 50309

95% OF EACH GIFT GOES DIRECTLY TOWARDS OUR MISSION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Mercy Students, Johanna & Rachel

PROGRAMS

Dedicated to Improving Homeless Health

Winter is here and so are the viruses that cause the common cold. It was a Wednesday morning and Sally came in with a cold, without the resources to buy cold medicine. When it comes to basic healthcare, the homeless population in Iowa is underserved.

Joppa has an onsite medicine cabinet for clients in need of over-the-counter medications. Onsite staff have been educated on proper medication use that can offer symptom relief for colds, heartburn, seasonal allergies and musculoskeletal discomfort.

For many years, the Joppa Street Nursing Team had been providing basic healthcare needs to those we serve by meeting them right where they live; under bridges, in tents and

in other temporary structures. With the new addition of Dr. Colleen Martin-Herrin, MD, this team has evolved into the Joppa Medical Team.

Dr. Colleen became aware of just how underserved the homeless population is from her daughter who did a college internship with Joppa. "I learned that the average life expectancy of a homeless person was 47," she said. "They suffer from the same chronic and acute medical problems as the rest of us, but have less access to preventive and ongoing care." Dr. Colleen wanted to help evolve the Joppa Street Nursing Program to be inclusive of more services by creating a full medical team with a framework that will provide a better, more consistent level of care.

Dr. Colleen works with Mercy College Community Health and Servant Leadership classes to assemble nutritional meal kits, distribute medical supplies & medications, organize medical visits and provide ongoing care for clients.

"One of our goals is to identify a primary care provider for every Joppa client," she says. In order to reach that goal, the Joppa Medical Team volunteers will arrange transportation to doctors and clinics.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Colleen.Martin-Herrin@Joppa.Org



Nutritional Meal Kits

HOW WE DO IT

JOPPA COLLABORATES WITH OTHER AGENCIES, HELPS PEOPLE ACCESS EXISTING RESOURCES, AND DEVELOPS UNIQUE PROGRAMS THAT FILL GAPS AND MEET UNMET NEEDS IN OUTREACH, HOUSING AND EDUCATION.



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

Non-Profit Org.
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INSIDE

How do homeless people stay healthy?

From surviving freezing temperatures to cancer treatments...



Joppa.org

(515) 288-5699



HELP PUT **HOMELESSNESS** TO BED
BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT

★ Wear PJs to Work or School ★
Friday, January 26, 2018

SCHOOLS | BUSINESSES | ORGANIZATIONS
REGISTER & PLAN YOUR PROJECT TODAY!

Register Here:
ProjectPJ.org

— ★ ★ ★ —
Questions?
ProjectPJ@joppa.org
(515) 288-5699 x712

— ★ ★ ★ —
Hashtag
#ProjectPJ

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