

# ARISE

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, FIND HOUSING AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES



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



NELSON AND ASHLEY'S HEART-BREAKING STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING THANKS TO JOPPA

## JOPPA STORIES

### Left on the Side of the Road

Ashley remembers the time she resorted to asking strangers for money. She hadn't eaten in days, she was pregnant, and she and her husband, Nelson, were out of options. But instead of spare change, what she received from one man was a cup of urine thrown in her face as he yelled, "Get a job!"

The act of cruelty broke her heart and left her sobbing with humiliation. The man didn't know Ashley was unable to work because of spine problems and back surgery that ended her path to becoming a medical assistant just weeks before her scheduled board exams.

The man didn't know Nelson had quit working to take care of her, and their parents weren't willing to support them. In fact, while they were living with Nelson's parents after Ashley's surgery, Nelson's dad decided it was time for them to leave, and he dropped them off by the side of a road in Des Moines. Just like that, they were homeless.

Neither of them ever thought they would end up with no place to stay. Nelson grew up in a fairly stable family. He learned about fishing, the outdoors and work ethic from his dad. Things were good when he was young.

*CONTINUED...*

#### OUR MISSION

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

**DOWN&OUT**  
HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER**  
November 19, 2020

**IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL**  
December 21, 2020

**HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**  
December 21, 2020

**PROJECT PJ**  
TBD

**JOPPA COMMUNITY CLEANUPS**  
April 10, 2021



## Left on the Side of the Road, *CONTINUED*

In high school he showed talent playing football, and he felt confident and optimistic about his future.

Ashley was a gifted athlete who swam in the Junior Olympics and set a home run record on her Hoover High School softball team. She graduated in the top 7% of her class and started out at Simpson College as a triple major in psychology, sociology and English literature.

"I had a full life going for me, and I didn't expect to be homeless. I never did. It's not a choice I made," she says.

It often takes just one or two tragic events to change the entire course of people's lives and leave them on the streets. For Ashley, it was the trauma of

sexual assault while she was at college that caused her to drop out and pursue a different career path, only to have her dreams shattered again by debilitating spinal disease.

For Nelson, it was when his dad had a near-fatal aortic aneurysm and his mom became addicted to prescription meds after gastric bypass surgery.

Suddenly, the stability was gone. Nelson dropped out of school and got involved with drugs: "I thought selling was the right thing to do to take care of my family."

When they became homeless, they slept outside with little protection, all while Ashley was still recovering from back surgery. When they found a homeless shelter, the conditions were cramped and crowded with no way to leave and still keep their spot. Someone told them about Joppa, and they finally found the help they needed to start surviving. "They were our saving grace," says Ashley. "They gave us tents, clothes, food, clean water, heat—we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them."

Watch Ashley and Nelson tell the rest of their story at the virtual Down & Out Homeless Fundraiser. Register here: [joppa.pa/fundraiser](http://joppa.pa/fundraiser)



## I Serve at Joppa

**VOLUNTEER:** Leah Kramer

**INVOLVEMENT:** I am an outreach route leader.

**BACKGROUND:** As a social worker/therapist at Broadlawns Medical Center, I wanted to be involved with housing and homelessness, so I started researching. I found Joppa, fell in love, and have been involved since.

**DRIVING PASSION:** My goals are to love people experiencing homelessness with the respect and friendship that they deserve. In addition, I hope that my involvement with Joppa educates people in my life about the humanity and vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness.

**ON MY OWN:** I'm working on becoming a master gardener.

**"I HAD A FULL LIFE GOING FOR ME, AND I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE HOMELESS."**  
— ASHLEY

Becoming an Everyday Angel monthly supporter is an easy way to make a powerful and long-lasting impact in our community, by providing consistent support for all of our programs and services.

**Everyday Angels contribute monthly to:**

- Help homeless people survive, find housing and rebuild their lives
- Engage students and adults in learning about homelessness and volunteering for work groups
- Develop transitional tiny home villages and uniquely affordable cottage homes to help end homelessness

**Sign up at [joppa.org/angels](http://joppa.org/angels)**



Matthew 25:35-40



## GROWING A GARDEN

### Meet Nick Watson

Nick Watson helped Joppa create the Shared Roots Community Garden as part of his Eagle Scout project with Troop 50. The 16-year-old logged 1,000 volunteer hours over six months to prepare the ground and construct 75 raised garden beds.

"I knew I wanted my Eagle project to be for Joppa because their mission statement says it all—"We help homeless people survive, find housing and rebuild their lives,"" Nick said.

After talking about various opportunities with CEO Joe Stevens, Nick decided the Shared Roots Community Garden was a perfect project for him because, as he explained, "I love gardening and helping people."

Thanks to Nick's hard work, the garden located in the Cheatom Park Neighborhood now provides fresh produce for local residents and homeless individuals.

"This is an inspiring project, and we're so fortunate to have community members like Nick to make it happen," Joe said.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### GIVE:

#### BECOME A JOPPA SUPPORT PARTNER

*Join us with your gifts and ongoing support.*

Joppa collaborates with other service providers, helps homeless people access existing resources, and develops unique programs that fill gaps and meet unmet needs in homeless services, housing development and education advocacy.

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

#### GIVE ONLINE OR MAIL TO:

Joppa  
2326 Euclid Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310

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

### VOLUNTEER:

Volunteer opportunities are available for groups, families and individuals. When you volunteer at Joppa you...

- Learn about homelessness
- Engage with diverse individuals
- Lead or join a team of volunteers
- Develop meaningful relationships
- Participate where you're passionate
- See your impact in multiple ways

#### BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

We depend on volunteers like you! Join us and impact the lives of homeless people—all while practicing social distancing and following CDC guidelines.

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

### SUPPLY:

- Tents + tarps (green or brown)
- Zero-degree sleeping bags
- Winter coats, gloves, hats, wool socks
- Gallon jugs + drinking water
- Masks, soap and hand sanitizers
- Head lamps + batteries
- Laundry detergent + dish soap
- Toilet paper + paper towels
- Cleaning supplies

#### BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday–Friday between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at 2326 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, or call (515) 288-5699

Thank you for your generosity!

## FROM THE HEART

"They were our saving grace," says Ashley. "They gave us tents, clothes, food, clean water, heat—we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them."

– Ashley





CHEATOM PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT SUSAN WELLS CUTS THE RIBBON TO CELEBRATE THE GARDEN

“THE SITE HAS THE MOST AMAZING VIEWS OF THE CITY.”  
— CURT CARLSON

## INTRODUCING: SHARED ROOTS *Community Garden*

The Shared Roots Community Garden located in the Cheatom Park Neighborhood of Des Moines is much more than a plot of land used to grow vegetables. It's a plot of land used to grow a community. In addition to fostering civic unity, the plot contributes to eliminating hunger; breaking down racial and ethnic barriers, and enhancing education. As a central meeting spot, life-long friendships have sprouted among the demographically diverse neighbors who reside in the area and the like-minded volunteers that are drawn to assisting them.

This garden complements the Joppa Cottage Home developments being built in the neighborhood, which provide housing that people living on fixed or part-time incomes can afford. Much like the Cottage Homes, the garden has been well received and a much welcomed asset to members of the community. In addition and as stated by Housing Program Manager Curt Carlson, who volunteers for Joppa, “The site has the most amazing views of the city.”

If you are interested in donating your time, talents or resources to the Shared Roots Community Garden or any other Joppa community program, visit [joppa.org/volunteer](http://joppa.org/volunteer).



### HOW WE DO IT

JOPPA COLLABORATES WITH OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS, HELPS HOMELESS PEOPLE ACCESS EXISTING RESOURCES, AND DEVELOPS UNIQUE PROGRAMS THAT FILL GAPS AND MEET UNMET NEEDS IN HOMELESS SERVICES, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION ADVOCACY.





OUTSIDE THE NEW JOPPA LOCATION, VOLUNTEERS PREPARE SUPPLIES TO BE DELIVERED TO HOMELESS CAMPS

## JOPPA HAS MOVED!

### New Home, New Opportunities

In late February, Joppa moved to its new, larger location at 2326 Euclid Avenue in Des Moines—and just in time, too. As COVID-19 spread, the facility enabled us to remain open and continue operating safely to serve homeless individuals.

Once construction is completed later this year, the location will feature a Homeless Resource Center, where people experiencing homelessness can get some food, charge their phones, check their mail, find job and housing resources, and access necessary survival supplies such as blankets, clothing and hygiene items. The resource center will be a warm and welcoming environment, offering fellowship, connection with volunteers and staff, and a full-time caseworker. Joppa has also hired a manager to oversee the Homeless Resource Center and insure our effectiveness with each visitor.

The new Joppa facility will also include a Volunteer Center, Education Center, Nutrition Center, Supplies Warehouse, Distribution Center and more. With the added space and amenities, we can make an even greater impact in the community. In addition, Joppa is looking to open a thrift store next door to help fund the Homeless Resource Center and provide job training.

Joppa has been busier than ever during the pandemic, and we're grateful for the volunteers, partners and donors who make it possible to continue helping homeless individuals during this uncertain time. We're excited to serve even more people in our new location—thanks to you and your support!



ERIC ROUSH VOLUNTEERS AT JOPPA

#### Staying safe during COVID

People experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable to viruses, so those individuals are counting on Joppa more than ever. As Joppa has remained open, we're making every effort to help fight the spread of COVID and keep our staff, volunteers and clients safe by:

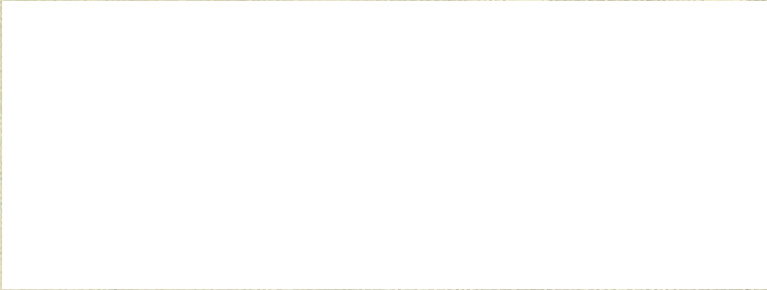
- Providing COVID-specific volunteer instructions and client handouts
- Following all CDC and state guidelines
- Distributing soap, water and hand sanitizer
- Educating homeless clients on how to stay safe, get tested and where to go if positive
- Referring individuals for testing and medical help upon symptoms





2326 Euclid Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310

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



INSIDE

**Joppa Has Moved!**  
Introducing the Shared Roots Community Garden



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699

VIRTUAL  
**DOWN & OUT**  
HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

**REGISTER NOW**

**NOVEMBER 19**  
7 P.M. CT

PAY WHAT YOU WANT TO ATTEND THIS VIRTUAL EVENT  
GET TICKETS HERE: [JOP.PA/FUNDRAISER](http://JOP.PA/FUNDRAISER)