

ARISE

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, FIND HOUSING AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES



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



KRISTIN, A 27-YEAR-OLD WOMAN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN DES MOINES

JOPPA STORIES

Women Facing Homelessness

Out of more than half a million homeless people in this country, an estimated 39% are women and girls, and that percentage is growing.¹

This increase has occurred as the pandemic exacerbated the conditions and situations that cause homelessness among women, such as domestic abuse and a lack of affordable housing.

When women become homeless, they face a more difficult battle for survival than men. The most severe and continuous threat is physical and sexual violence.

Kristin, a 27-year-old homeless woman in Des Moines, says it's hard to find places to stay to get off the street because it's usually men she knows who offer their apartments, but always for a price: "They don't want money. They want to have sex. And when I say 'no,' it's 'put out or get out' pretty much."

Kristin was forced to move her tent to an isolated wooded area to avoid predators. "Being out here by myself as a woman is probably the scariest thing ever," she says. "It's not safe. You don't know who's out here, or a tree could fall on you. I sleep with an ax in my hand and pepper spray right next to me, and I only sleep a few hours a night."

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 18, 2021

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL
December 21, 2021

PROJECT PJ
January 28, 2022

JOPPA COMMUNITY CLEANUPS
April 2, 2022

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER
November 17, 2022

Women Facing Homelessness, *CONTINUED*

Often the best way homeless women find protection is by forming a relationship with a man. Before he took his own life in February of 2021, Kristin's late boyfriend stayed up nights to protect her, but she says he also beat her and mistreated her. "It wasn't the healthiest relationship, but he was still the only person I had."

Homeless women also struggle with high rates of mental, physical, and sexual health problems, with many obstacles in getting the assistance they need.² "You don't have bus fare, so it's hard to keep appointments. If you have to walk 14

miles [to get help], then you're not going to go," says Kristin.

Women can find it harder to escape homelessness, but not just because of violence and health problems. They're hired for lower-paying jobs than men and have difficulty staying clean to keep

employment. Feminine hygiene products are expensive and hard to get, and maintaining a clean wardrobe is nearly impossible. "[The hard part is] getting a shower and feeling like a normal person to go in there and work and not feel embarrassed or weird," says Kristin.

Despite living homeless for years, Kristin finally sees herself on a better path with the assistance of Joppa volunteers who've cared about her. One day she hopes to mentor other women after she transitions out of homelessness. "I want to be able to get down on their level and show them that I've come up from it and let them know that you can get out of it."

1. <https://www.careerandrecovery.org/unique-challenges-of-women-experiencing-homelessness/>

2. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-8353-1>

Help women experiencing homelessness, like Kristin, by giving at joppa.org/donate. Sign up at joppa.org/e-newsletter for newsletters with videos and special features.



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEERS: Jim and Cindy Pierce

INVOLVEMENT: Outreach route leaders for 7+ years, decorated a tiny home, serve at the Homeless Memorial/Christmas party

BACKGROUND: We started serving as part of a church-wide project. After finishing our first camp route, we were sold on Joppa's mission and caring for our homeless friends. We continue to love and support this ministry.

DRIVING PASSION: The desire to serve others and be Christ's hands and feet. Joppa creates a unique opportunity to show Christ's love through serving the homeless community.

ON OUR OWN: Spending time with family and friends, being outdoors and traveling.

BECOME AN EVERYDAY ANGEL!

Make a long-lasting impact by providing monthly support for Joppa programs and services.

Everyday Angels contribute monthly to:

- Help homeless people survive, find housing and rebuild their lives
- Educate and engage the community
- Develop fundamental solutions to end homelessness

Sign up at joppa.org/angels



Matthew 25:35-40

BECAUSE OF YOU

- MORE THAN 450 HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HELPED OFF THE STREETS
- OVER 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN OFF THE STREETS
- JOPPA SAVED OVER 200 UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM FREEZING TO DEATH LAST WINTER

TINY HOME VILLAGE

Joppa Village Coalition

Joppa brought city and county leaders together to form the Joppa Village Coalition, which started meeting monthly in December 2020. All members committed to a charter with three objectives:

- 1) Identify suitable properties for the village
- 2) Gain requisite approvals for land use
- 3) Support fundraising, village groundbreaking, and ribbon-cutting

MISSION: Establish a gated village community to transition Polk County citizens out of homelessness.

VISION: A safe and supportive community that successfully transitions people from living under bridges, in tents and vehicles, and on the streets into permanent housing and stable, productive lives.

Village Coalition Project Partners

BSB Design • Edge Commercial • Habitat for Humanity • Simonson & Associates
Snyder Engineering • Wright Outdoor Solutions

Village Coalition Team

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Frank Cownie – Co-Chair
Des Moines Mayor

Christine Hensley – Co-Chair
Ret. Des Moines City Council
(Coalition Co-Chair)

Linda Westergaard
Des Moines City Council

Josh Mandelbaum
Des Moines City Council

Matt Anderson
Des Moines Deputy City
Manager

Matt McCoy
Polk County Supervisor

Joe Stevens
Joppa

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE:

Become a Joppa supporter!

Joppa does not receive ongoing state or federal funding. Your generous contributions provide much-needed funds for homeless outreach, core operating support and other services that fill gaps and meet unmet needs. 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/giving

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 people experiencing homelessness.

Email: volunteer@joppa.org

SUPPLY:

- Tents & tarps (dark green or brown)
- Zero-degree sleeping bags
- Gloves, jeans, sweatpants & hoodies
- AAA Batteries & blankets
- Hoodies, backpacks & headlamps
- Canned goods & cleaning supplies
- TP, body wipes & deodorant
- Laundry detergent & dish soap
- DART bus tokens

BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Or call (515) 288-5699 x3

Thank you for your generosity!

FROM THE HEART

"I sleep with an ax in my hand and pepper spray right next to me and I only sleep a few hours a night."
— **Kristin**, a 27-year-old woman experiencing homelessness in Des Moines.



“PEOPLE DESPERATELY
NEED A SUPPORTIVE
COMMUNITY TO
BE LIFTED OUT OF
HOMELESSNESS.”
—CURT CARLSON

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The Joppa Village: A Community of Support

Moving another step toward building Iowa's first tiny home village, we formed the Joppa Village Coalition in December 2020 and enlisted the help of county and city leaders, including Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie as co-chair.

This group worked diligently to narrow a long list of properties for the village down to the best choice: a former wastewater treatment site at 1661 County Line Road between Fleur and SW Ninth Street. We are in the process of purchasing the 21-acre property with the help of a generous donor, stepping us even closer to making the village a reality.

Several highly respected professionals partnered with Joppa to create a comprehensive plan for the Joppa Village, which will be a safe, supportive community that helps people transition from homelessness into permanent housing.

“People desperately need a supportive community to be lifted out of homelessness,” says Joppa Housing Program Manager Curt Carlson. “This village is designed to provide the peer support and cheerleading they need to become the best versions of themselves.” He says people placed in housing without a network of helpful neighbors and friends can end up feeling isolated. Too often, they move back to homeless camps to be near

people they know because loneliness can feel even worse than living unsheltered.

The goal of the Joppa Village is to prevent isolation and regression back into homelessness by bringing people together through cooperative living. Each resident will play a role in maintaining the village, and all will have access to job training, medical care, and shared spaces, including a large kitchen and other amenities in the village community buildings. In addition, the village will be gated to keep residents safe, and everyone will be held accountable for following community guidelines.

“Ideally, this will be a neighborhood trying to give back,” says Ed Binkley, Associate Director of Design at BSB Design. “The big picture is a self-sustaining community intended for residents to build each other up.”



JOPPA LOFT COTTAGE

HOW WE DO IT

JOPPA COLLABORATES WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS, HELPS HOMELESS PEOPLE ACCESS EXISTING RESOURCES, AND MOBILIZES PRIVATE DONATIONS FROM FAMILIES, CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET UNMET NEEDS IN HOMELESS SERVICES, HOUSING AND EDUCATION.



THE FIRST JOPPA LOFT COTTAGE ON DISPLAY AT THE SHARED ROOTS COMMUNITY GARDEN IN CHEATON PARK

EVENTS

First Loft Cottage Build by Strategic America

Inspired by a previous Joppa Tiny Home build by Drake students, Michelle Thornton, Director of Client Strategy & Services at Strategic America (SA), challenged her coworkers to join her in a build of their own. "I thought, 'If we can help people get off the ground and into a home, that would make such an impact on their lives, and it would give us a chance to work alongside each other for something bigger than any one of us.'"

Michelle and her coworkers raised the funds for the build, but due to some logistical delays and then COVID-19, the project was sidelined. Finally, nearly 30 SA volunteers came together in the company parking lot to build the first Joppa Loft Cottage prototype in September. BSB Design created this new "loft" concept for the Joppa Tiny Home Village to improve safety during pandemics. The new prototype now includes a full bathroom, kitchen and other amenities for an even better living environment.

To encourage the spirit of giving back, SA gives every employee two paid volunteer days a year. "It's rewarding for them and for all of us who contribute to positive change in our communities," says Strategic America CEO John Schreurs. "Joppa's mission of helping homeless people not only survive, but rebuild their lives, is one example of that work toward positive change."





2326 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310

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



INSIDE

Women Facing Homelessness

Strategic America Builds First Joppa Loft Cottage



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Homeless Resource Center GRAND OPENING

**December 14
10:30 a.m.**

Joppa Center
2326 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

Join us for a ribbon-cutting event to mark the official opening of the Homeless Resource Center—the first of its kind in the state of Iowa! The event will feature tours, appetizers and a short dedication ceremony.