

# 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."*



JEFF, BRANDI AND THEIR DOGS, PISTOL AND REMI, WERE HOMELESS BEFORE MEETING JOPPA

## JOPPA STORIES

### Joppa Helped Us Find Happiness Again

Jeff and Brandi Gautreaux were born and raised in Texas. Life was going reasonably well there for the married couple until some bad financial decisions combined with the high cost of living made it impossible to keep paying rent. "You can become homeless a lot easier than what a lot of people believe," says Brandi. "It doesn't have to be because of drugs and alcohol. I never in my life thought I'd be homeless."

With little community or government support available in Texas, the couple traveled to central Iowa to live with one of Brandi's cousins. However, they became homeless once again when that didn't work out. The couple moved back and forth between Iowa and Texas several times, looking for opportunities to get back on their feet.

After their last attempt in Texas failed, they panhandled for bus fare to return to Iowa for good. Jeff knew he could get rehired as an assembler at the electronics company where he worked before. "I'm known as one of the best workers in the building, and that's why they hire me back every time."

But unlike previous stays in Iowa, they couldn't live in a homeless shelter:

**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.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### PROJECT PJ

January 28, 2022

### JOPPA COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

April 2, 2022

### DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 17, 2022

### IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2022

### HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2022



## Joppa Helped Us Find Happiness Again, CONTINUED

While in Texas, they had rescued a tiny puppy cowering in a bush as children threw rocks at her. They named her Pistol and made her part of their family. Because she wasn't allowed in any of the Des Moines area shelters, the couple felt they had no choice but to live outside.

They camped by the Des Moines River within walking distance of Jeff's work and eventually got another dog as a companion for Pistol. Jeff says he loves their dogs like they're his children but admits it was hard to care for them while living unsheltered. "If it comes down to being hungry, it will be me before my dogs."



### I Serve at Joppa

**VOLUNTEER:** Tom Hromatka

**INVOLVEMENT:** Circle-of-Friends, Welcome Basket Team and Homeless Christmas Celebration

**BACKGROUND:** I have been a Joppa Team Leader through the St. Boniface Core Team since 2017 and have helped approximately 45 people transition to permanent housing as the coordinator for the Joppa Circle-of-Friends program. Our team has also overseen the Joppa Welcome Basket Program and made plastic yarn "plarn" sleeping mats.

**DRIVING PASSION:** To use the gifts God has given me to the betterment of those far less fortunate than I have been.

**ON MY OWN:** I enjoy spending time with family and friends, especially while biking, golfing, fishing, hiking and traveling.

**JOPPA HAS HELPED  
US GET WHERE WE  
ARE TODAY...  
— JEFF & BRANDI**

Brandi heard Joppa helped unsheltered people and called their number. Client Care Specialist Pat McPherran answered the phone. The couple quickly formed a relationship with Pat, who put them on an outreach route to receive weekly survival supplies from Joppa, including food for their dogs. "All the Joppa volunteers we've met have just been phenomenal," Brandi says.

An early October snowstorm made Jeff and Brandi desperate to find housing before winter. They had managed to save the first month's rent on an apartment, but didn't have enough for the deposit. So, Joppa covered it and supplied furniture and other needs for their new home. They received housewarming gifts from Joppa's Welcome Basket Team and continued to receive weekly visits and help through the Joppa Aftercare Program.

Now Brandi makes her living as a truck driver, and she and Jeff can afford a bigger apartment with more room for their dogs. It's the things people take for granted they say they are so thankful to have: a bathroom, a kitchen, a wall for their pictures, a safe place for their belongings and the chance to take a nap. "It's a lot less stress," says Jeff. "That plays a big role in our happiness. Joppa has helped us get where we are today, and we appreciate it so much."

*You can help people like Jeff and Brandi transition out of homelessness by giving at: [joppa.org/donate](http://joppa.org/donate)  
Sign up for newsletters with videos and other unique features at: [joppa.org/e-newsletter](http://joppa.org/e-newsletter)*

### BECOME AN EVERYDAY ANGEL MONTHLY SUPPORT PARTNER

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 in homeless services and solutions
- Develop fundamental solutions to end homelessness

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



everyday  
angels

Matthew 25:35-40

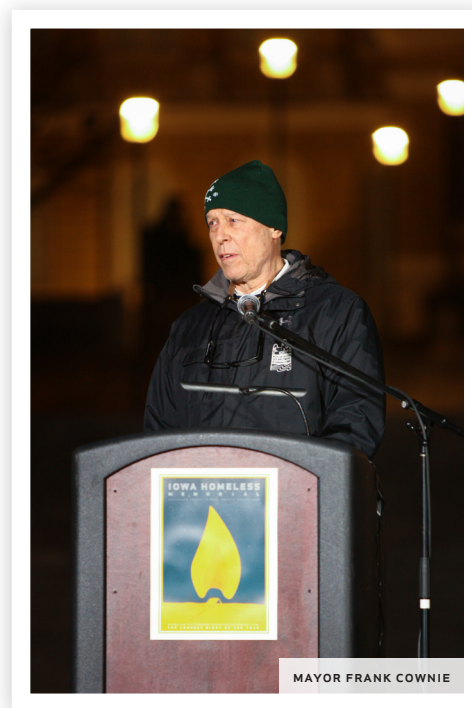
### BECAUSE OF YOU

- NEARLY 500 FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE TRANSITIONED OUT OF HOMELESSNESS
- MORE THAN 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN IN HOUSING TODAY
- JOPPA SAVED OVER 200 UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM FREEZING TO DEATH LAST WINTER

## Honoring Those Who Died Homeless in 2021

On December 21, the longest night of the year, Joppa holds the annual Iowa Homeless Memorial in front of the State Capitol to read the names of those who've died homeless and ensure they are not forgotten. The service honors their lives as dignified human beings. It also brings awareness to the issues of homelessness in the hope of bringing more people together to work toward ending homeless deaths. This year Lanae Strovers from Hamilton's Funeral Home and Joe Henkels from Knights of Columbus read the names of the deceased and any known details about their lives in front of more than 100 attendees holding candles on a cold, windy night. The deceased ranged in age from 27 to 73.

Mayor Frank Cownie read a City of Des Moines Proclamation declaring December 21 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Joppa acquired a similar State of Iowa Proclamation from Governor Reynolds earlier. Kennoniah Belille provided music, Heather Oosterhuis read the poem "Homelessness" and Pastor Q of Hickman Road Church of Christ read Psalms 23, held a moment of silence and prayed for those still experiencing homelessness.



MAYOR FRANK COWNIE

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### GIVE:

Your generous contributions provide the critical funds that fill gaps and meet unmet needs in homeless outreach, winter survival, housing and aftercare services, and the new Homeless Resource Center.

- Rated 100% on Charity Navigator
- We don't receive state or federal funding
- 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](https://joppa.org/giving)



### VOLUNTEER:

Volunteer opportunities are available for groups, families and individuals. Immediate openings include:

- Homeless Outreach and Aftercare
- Winter Heat
- Homeless Resource Center
- Food Prep & Meal Prep
- Tent Deployment
- Donation Sorting
- Second Saturday Workdays

#### BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

We depend on volunteers like you! Sign up on our website to attend a VolunTOUR or email us to learn more.

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

### SUPPLY:

Provide highest-need items such as:

- Tents & tarps (dark green or brown)
- 0-degree sleeping bags & blankets
- Gloves, socks & handwarmers
- Jeans, hoodies & backpacks
- Pop-top canned goods & meats
- Bottled water (24 oz)
- TP, paper towels & antibiotic cream
- Body wipes, deodorant
- Cleaners, laundry & dish soap

#### BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
at 2326 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines.  
Or call (515) 288-5699 Ext 3

**Thank you for your generosity!**





## WINTER SURVIVAL PACKAGES

### Putting Love into Motion This Winter

Whether you support Joppa financially or volunteer on an outreach or winter heat team, your actions put love into motion. Volunteers go out regardless of the weather to ensure life-saving heaters, fuel, food and other supplies are delivered to the unsheltered. Clients repeatedly tell us that Joppa has saved them from freezing to death each winter. However, most say it's not just the heat that makes the difference – it's knowing someone cares about them. The heat comes with a warm smile, an encouraging word, a hug. Joppa volunteers share the unconditional love of Christ with the people they serve, and that's what provides hope.

You can be part of this hope by giving towards any of these winter survival items. Please mail your gift to Joppa or give online at: [joppa.org/WinterSurvival](http://joppa.org/WinterSurvival).

Also, email [volunteer@joppa.org](mailto:volunteer@joppa.org) to learn about joining a Winter Heat, Outreach or Aftercare Team.

#### WINTER SURVIVAL SHELTERS

- Temporary winter shelter packages for those with no immediate options for housing or other shelter
  - Includes winter tent, tarp, zero-degree sleeping bag, blankets and pillow
- |                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| a) Ten Shelter Packages . . . . . | \$1,500 |
| b) Five Shelter Packages. . . . . | \$750   |
| c) One Shelter Package . . . . .  | \$150   |

#### HEATER SYSTEMS

- Heat for those without immediate housing options
  - Safe for indoor use in tents, cabins and wooden structures
  - Includes heater, 20-lb propane tank and a long hose
- |                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| a) Ten Heater Systems . . . . .  | \$1,250 |
| b) Five Heater Systems . . . . . | \$625   |
| c) One Heater System. . . . .    | \$125   |

#### HEATER FUEL

- Weekly delivery of propane fuel for heater systems
  - 20-lb tanks provide an average of one week of heat per dwelling
  - We strive to provide a backup tank of fuel for each dwelling
- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a) Ten people for one month . . . . .  | \$600 |
| b) Five people for one month . . . . . | \$300 |
| c) One person for one month . . . . .  | \$60  |

#### WINTER BOOTS

- Waterproof boots to help prevent frostbite and trench foot
  - To survive, homeless people often walk 10-20 miles per day to sources of food, work and other resources
- |                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| a) Ten pairs of boots . . . . . | \$900 |
| b) Five pairs of boots. . . . . | \$450 |
| c) One pair of boots . . . . .  | \$90  |

## 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.





MAYOR FRANK COWNIE, CITY MANAGER SCOTT SANDERS, JOPPA COFOUNDERS, DIRECTORS AND VOLUNTEERS CUT RIBBON FOR THE NEW HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTER

## NEW JOPPA SERVICES

### Homeless Resource Center Grand Opening

On December 14, 2021, nearly a hundred supporters helped Joppa celebrate the grand opening of the Homeless Resource Center located at 2326 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines. This innovative facility is designed to address some immediate needs of individuals experiencing homelessness while giving them tools and resources to help put them on a positive path toward a longer-term stable living environment.

"This has been a Joppa dream for many years. Seeing it now open to serve the needs of homeless families and individuals makes me incredibly grateful to everyone who had a hand in making it happen," said Joe Stevens, CEO and cofounder of Joppa.

"This is the latest step in Joppa's commitment to end homelessness, and we are excited to continue to make progress toward that goal."

The center opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, with comments from Joe Stevens, Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie and Des Moines City Manager Scott Sanders. After the brief ceremony, the center hosted tours for attendees.

#### The Homeless Resource Center provides:

- Access to computers and free Wi-Fi
- Cell phone charging stations
- A private telephone booth with free local and long-distance
- USPS postal addresses for each individual to receive mail
- Information and referrals to agencies and other resources
- Food and snacks, restroom and a water bottle filling station
- Survival supplies, clothing and hygiene items

Watch video highlights and learn more at: [jop.pa/ResourceCenter](http://jop.pa/ResourceCenter)

"We wanted to create a warm and welcoming place that meets the needs of the homeless in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect," Stevens said.

The Homeless Resource Center is currently open from 12:00 to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday to help anyone experiencing homelessness in central Iowa.





2326 Euclid Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310

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Permit No. 1025

## INSIDE

### The New Homeless Resource Center Is Now Open!

Learn how to help people stay warm and survive this winter



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 28, 2022**



SCHOOLS AND WORKPLACES  
**PLAN YOUR ORGANIZATION'S PROJECT**

REGISTER NOW AT  
[jop.pa/ProjectPJ](http://jop.pa/ProjectPJ)

Questions?  
[ProjectPJ@joppa.org](mailto:ProjectPJ@joppa.org)

Hashtag  
**#ProjectPJ**

**GET YOUR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED!**