

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."



KELLI IS WORKING TWO JOBS WHILE LIVING IN HER CAR

KELLI'S STORY

From Trapped & Trafficked to Finding Hope

A woman without shelter is vulnerable to so much more than the Iowa weather elements. This fact became a terrifying reality for Kelli when, after losing her apartment and then her car, she found herself trapped in the bondage of human trafficking.

Kelli, 39, began struggling financially years ago following an unhealthy 15-year relationship during which she was the sole provider for her two children and their father. Kelli's ongoing alcohol and drug abuse had strained relationships with her parents, and her grandmother was her main source of encouragement and support. When her grandmother died in 2019, Kelli was plunged into a depression further fueled by her addictions. Eventually, she was evicted from her apartment and became homeless.

Kelli was traumatized by the physical and sexual assault she experienced while living on the streets. To cope, she would disassociate herself from reality, which is a common protection mechanism for abuse victims. But she continually came back to the realization that she desperately needed to free herself and find her best life again.

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

VOLUNTOURS

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

at Joppa each second Tuesday

SECOND SATURDAY WORKDAYS

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

at Joppa each month

JOPPA COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

April 1, 2023

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 16, 2023

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2023

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2023

Trapped and Trafficked to Finding Hope, CONTINUED

With a strong faith in God, and the desire to heal from her addictions, Kelli escaped trafficking predators and worked hard to regain employment. She is serious about rebuilding her emotional and financial health, but she still doesn't have a home. Her two children are currently in the Department of Human Services custody, and she has a restraining order against her ex-partner.

Her focus is now on working to establish a safe home for her children. "I want to provide for [my children.] And I don't want to be a weight on the system that's already overcrowded," Kelli says.

**I AM AMAZED AT GOD'S POWER.
I'M AMAZED AT THE RESOURCES
HE'S MADE AVAILABLE TO ME.**

— KELLY, WHO IS SLEEPING IN HER CAR

Kelli works two jobs and has set up a payment plan for her outstanding debts. She was able to purchase another car for transportation to work and for shelter while she sleeps. She's applied for housing and is waiting to hear back.

Kelli believed God spared her life during these last two years of homelessness so that she can tell her story to help others. She hopes her story of determination and hope will encourage more people to get involved with Joppa and help people out of homelessness.

She knows she can use Joppa's Homeless Resource Center for assistance with checking on her housing application and other needs like food, clothing and support services. "I get to be a part of the Joppa family. I get to experience something that's actually really amazing." Kelli credits Joppa and the supplies she's received from the Joppa Homeless Resource Center for helping her survive and take steps to start rebuilding her life.

"I am amazed at God's power. I'm amazed at the resources he's made available to me and how he's moved so much around for me."

Meet Kelli and watch her compelling story at
[YouTube/JoppaOutreach](#) premiering February 6



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEER: Blair Avitt

INVOLVEMENT: I have helped on the food rescue team for over 12 years and volunteer five days per week.

BACKGROUND: I grew up in Des Moines and once owned several bars and restaurants in town.

DRIVING PASSION: When I was homeless, Joppa helped me get back on my feet and into an apartment. I want to give back for their kindness.

ON MY OWN: Due to health issues, I enjoy watching TV and most of all giving back to my community and helping others.

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



Matthew 25:35-40

BECAUSE OF YOU

- OVER 500 FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE TRANSITIONED OUT OF HOMELESSNESS
- MORE THAN 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN IN HOUSING TODAY
- JOPPA HELPED OVER 200 PEOPLE SURVIVE AND STAY WARM LAST WINTER

LEADERSHIP

Meet Darren Holmes - Chief Financial Officer

In January 2023, Joppa welcomed Darren Holmes as chief financial officer. Holmes oversees organizational finances, human resources, facilities and special projects.

Darren, a certified public accountant (CPA), came to Joppa from Wells Fargo, where he held several leadership positions during his 18-year tenure, including senior vice president - Home Equity Servicing, business support manager and senior business consultant.

"Darren has been a faithful Joppa volunteer and advisor for a couple of years," said Joe Stevens, Joppa CEO and cofounder. "He also



has a proven record of effective leadership, a clear vision and the desire to elevate Joppa and Thriftmart to help more families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness survive, find housing and rebuild their lives."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GIVE:

Your generous contributions provide critical funds for outreach and survival programs, housing and aftercare services, and the Homeless Resource Center.

- *Rated 100% on Charity Navigator*
- *Candid Platinum Seal Award*
- *No federal or state funding*
- *Joppa is a 501(c)3 nonprofit*
- *All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law*

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 including:

- *Homeless Resource Center*
- *Homeless Outreach & Aftercare*
- *Winter Heat Team*
- *Thriftmart store opportunities*
- *Donation Center sorting*
- *Event Planning Team*
- *Community Garden Team*
- *Second Saturday Workdays*

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

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

Email: volunteer@joppa.org

DONATE:

Provide survival items & Thriftmart goods:

- *Blankets, pillows & sleeping bags*
- *Gloves, hand & foot warmers*
- *Backpacks, headlamps & AAA Batts*
- *Bottled water (24 oz)*
- *Pop-top canned goods & meats*
- *TP, paper towels & antibiotic cream*
- *Hygiene items & body wipes*
- *Cleaners, laundry & dish soap*
- *Clothing, home goods & décor*

BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
2326 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines,
or call (515) 288-5699, Ext 3

Thank you for your generosity!

FROM THE HEART

"I get to be a part of the Joppa family. I get to experience something that's actually really amazing."

— **Kelli** (see cover story)



HOMELESSNESS IS MORE VISIBLE THAN EVER IN DES MOINES

GET INVOLVED

Homelessness is on the Rise – You Can Help!

In November 2022 alone, Joppa delivered hope to 351 homeless individuals and families who were living outdoors without shelter.

Through services at the Homeless Resource Center and weekly outreach, this resulted in more than 1,200 connections with our central Iowa homeless community in November.

Many of those served are also experiencing homelessness for the first time – a scary statistic that shows us more people than ever are in need of our help.

If you are feeling called to help, please consider giving, volunteering and donating items to Joppa or Thriftmart, in addition to praying.



FOUR WAYS TO ENGAGE



Become a Joppa
Prayer Partner



Make a gift



Find a volunteer
opportunity



Hold a supply drive

HOW WE DO IT

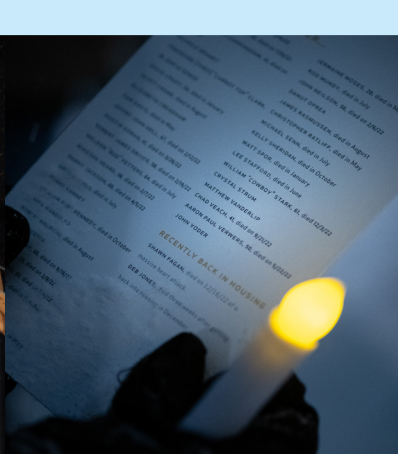
JOPPA COLLABORATES WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS, HELPS HOMELESS PEOPLE ACCESS EXISTING RESOURCES, AND MOBILIZES PRIVATE DONATIONS FROM FAMILIES, CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET UNMET NEEDS IN HOMELESS SERVICES, HOUSING AND EDUCATION.



IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

Honoring Those Who Died Homeless in 2022

On December 21, Joppa held the 14th Annual Iowa Homeless Memorial at the State Capitol. Mayor Cownie spoke and proclaimed the day as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Melissa O'Neil and Carl Voss read the names and eulogies of 48 individuals who died homeless in Iowa to remember them and honor their lives.





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INSIDE

Kelli's Story: Trapped & Trafficked to Finding Hope

Meet New Joppa Chief Financial Officer



[JOPPA.ORG](https://joppa.org)

(515) 288-5699

2023
COMMUNITY
CLEANUPS

SATURDAY
APRIL 1
8:30AM - NOON
1PM TO 4PM

REGISTER HERE ➔

