

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."



FORMER JOPPA CLIENT, BLAIR, HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR OVER 12 YEARS.

BLAIR'S STORY

Valued Volunteer Reclaims Purpose

Over the years, we've learned volunteers serve for different reasons. For some, their dedication and drive stem from having first-hand experience with homelessness. For some others, volunteerism is inspired by knowing that we only have so much time in this world to make a difference. For Blair, one of the longest-serving Joppa volunteers, his loyalty and passion for volunteering come from a combination of both.

After more than a decade of volunteering for Joppa, Blair was diagnosed in January 2022 with a terminal illness and told he had only three months to live. Yet, more than a year later, Blair continues volunteering two-to-three days a week, picking up and transporting food donations for people experiencing homelessness.

Joppa Cofounders Joe and Jacki Stevens remember that soon after his initial diagnosis, Blair was understandably shaken. But then, to their surprise, he expressed a desire to keep volunteering.

"He said that he just can't dwell on [the diagnosis]," Jacki remembers. She said he wanted to continue living his life. "So, he keeps volunteering. He just keeps pushing through."

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

MONTHLY VOLUNTOURS

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Each second Tuesday at Joppa

SECOND SATURDAY WORKDAYS

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Each second Saturday at Joppa

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 16, 2023

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2023

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2023

Valued Volunteer Reclaims Purpose, *CONTINUED*

Born and raised on the east side of Des Moines, Blair owned several successful metro bars and restaurants, which he later sold. He admits he was a “partier” who often gambled away money as soon as he earned it. After suffering two heart attacks, his health declined to the point where he could no longer run a business.

“**I DON’T KNOW WHAT WE’RE GOING TO DO WHEN BLAIR’S GONE,”**
— JOE STEVENS, JOPPA CEO

While renting a room in a home owned by an elderly couple, Blair found himself facing homelessness when the couple passed away, and the home became vacant. Despite having no working heat, electricity or water, Blair secretly slept in the abandoned house.

That’s when Blair learned about the Joppa propane and heat program from the homeless

community.

“I met Joe, and he helped me out big time,” he recalls. Joppa helped Blair with heat while Joe and Jacki worked on finding him suitable housing.

Through a City of Des Moines program, Joppa helped Blair move into an apartment. Even though Joe and Jacki could have walked away at that point, Blair says Joe continued to visit. He helped Blair apply for Social Security, gave him rides to get groceries and talked with him about the future.

“He helped me make a list of goals and stuff like that,” Blair says. “He’d come by for at least an hour every week at different times for quite a few weeks.”

Joe remembers working with Blair on budgeting and thinking through ways to spend his time that would feel fulfilling. Volunteering came up, and Joe says Blair was excited about the idea. Joe believes that volunteering has given Blair a renewed sense of purpose, even more so following his diagnosis.

“I don’t know what we’re going to do when Blair’s gone,” Joe says. “He’s been such an integral part of our DNA and does so many things for us. He’s part of our family, and we’re really going to miss him.”

You can join Blair as a volunteer or support Joppa by visiting joppa.org.



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEER: Jess, Ethan, Levi & Selah Farquhar

INVOLVEMENT: My kids and I help fulfill client requests for the outreach routes.

BACKGROUND: My friend Aimee hosted a VolunTOUR for our church group. I was newly married, pregnant with our firstborn and had time to serve. Three kids later, Thursdays are now known as our Joppa days!

DRIVING PASSION: Serving at Joppa is a way I can show Jesus I love Him by joining others to meet basic needs. Everyone needs to know they are worth being seen, known and loved.

ON MY OWN: Exploring new parks with my family, walking our dog, reading and teaching kids about how good Jesus is.

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 providing homeless services and support
- 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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Become a Joppa Prayer Partner

Friends and supporters of Joppa know that faith is the foundation of everything our volunteers and staff do to help families and individuals experiencing homelessness in central Iowa. Therefore, the Joppa Board of Directors set a goal in our 2023 strategic plan to have 1,000 volunteers faithfully praying for the organization, our leaders, volunteers and staff, and the needs of those we serve.

If you are passionate about prayer and helping to end homelessness, please consider becoming a Joppa Prayer Partner: The Joppa Prayer Coordinator regularly meets with Joppa leadership to discuss prayer requests and then updates Joppa Prayer Partners on timely prayer requests via email.



BECOMING A JOPPA PRAYER PARTNER IS EASY!

Use this QR code or visit joppa.pa/pray to enter your name and email address, and a prayer coordinator will follow up with more details.



“**THEREFORE I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT, AND IT WILL BE YOURS.”** MATT 11:24

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*
- *Thriftmart store opportunities*
- *Community Garden Team*
- *Donation Center sorting*
- *Event Planning Team*
- *Fundraising Team*
- *Second Saturday Workdays*

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

We depend on volunteers like you! Sign up at Joppa.org to attend a VolunTOUR or email to learn more.

Email: volunteer@joppa.org

DONATE:

Provide survival items & Thriftmart goods:

- *Sleeping bags, blankets & pillows*
- *Bottled water (24 oz)*
- *Backpacks, headlamps & AAA Batts*
- *Pop-top canned goods & meats*
- *TP, paper towels & antibiotic cream*
- *Hygiene items & body wipes*
- *Cleaners, laundry & dish soap*
- *Clothing, shoes & accessories*
- *Home goods & home décor*

BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday – 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

“He said that he just can’t dwell on [the diagnosis]. So, he keeps volunteering. He just keeps pushing through”

— **Jacki Stevens on Blair, Joppa volunteer** (see cover story)



Quality finds. Every time!



THRIFTMART UPDATE

Stacked Discounts and Rewards!

Shopping at Thriftmart just became even more rewarding! New tag colors are discounted every Tuesday, and daily sales have been added to the generous Thriftmart Rewards program, providing stacked discounting Tuesday through Saturday every week!

"In addition to finding quality items at amazing thrift store prices, Thriftmart shoppers are now offered even more discounts on a variety of quality items throughout the week," says Jacki Stevens, Thriftmart CEO.

As a nonprofit thrift store owned and operated by Joppa, Thriftmart offers new and gently used quality home goods, décor, clothing and accessories—including shoes, belts and purses. Proceeds from purchases support people experiencing homelessness and the Joppa mission to help end homelessness.

"Our Rewards program and daily sales offer the opportunity for shoppers to get the best discounts on quality merchandise on every visit."

THRIFTMART WEEKLY SALES

Military Tuesday – 10% military discount

Senior Wednesday – 10% senior discount for 55+

Premium Items Thursday – 20% off a premium category each week

Friends & Family Friday – 15% off for all Rewards members

Student Saturday – 10% student discount



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.

“Thank you, Joppa, for keeping me alive. I was consistently homeless between 2016 and 2020, in Des Moines and you provided me with food, water, tents, heaters, propane, coat, sleeping bags, hygiene items and more during that time. One time, I was feeling suicidal and one of your staff took me to a local emergency psych clinic, which I will forever be grateful for. Thanks to you, I am no longer living on the street and am sober. You are an amazing organization.”

— HEATHER FROM DES MOINES

IMPACT METRICS

The Joppa Impact - 2022

While we celebrate the difference compassionate individuals make when they offer people who are experiencing homelessness the dignity and respect they deserve, we simultaneously mourn the increasing need for Joppa programs and services.

Metrics from 2022 show that Joppa volunteers provided life-saving services to 1,726 unduplicated individuals—the most we have ever served in one year. We attribute the 200% increase in the number of homeless people we helped to several factors, including a lack of affordable housing, job loss or reduced income from the pandemic and increased costs due to inflation.

As the number of Iowans experiencing homelessness rises, the continued support of Joppa volunteers and donors is needed now more than ever. If you feel called to give of your time, talents or treasures, please see “How You Can Help” on page 3 or visit joppa.org.

1,726 TOTAL HUMAN BEINGS SERVED
(UNDULICATED PEOPLE)



6,023
OUTREACH VISITS



3,959
AFTERCARE VISITS



6,984
RESOURCE CENTER VISITS



326
AVG PEOPLE SERVED WEEKLY



17,337
MEALS SERVED



71,868
LBS OF FOOD RESCUED AND
DELIVERED TO THOSE IN NEED



4,160
USPS MAIL DELIVERIES TO
HOMELESS PEOPLE



6,879
REFERRALS TO PARTNERS



1,862
VOLUNTEERS



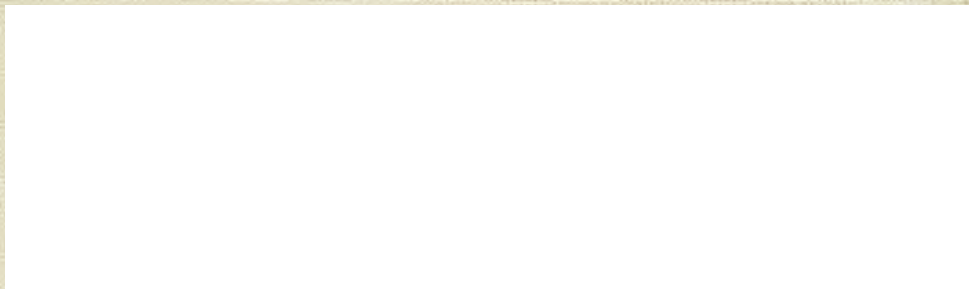
39,730
VOLUNTEER HOURS



2326 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



INSIDE

Joppa served 200% more homeless individuals in 2022!

Get Stacked Discounts While Earning Rewards at Thriftmart



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 16 2023

5:00 PM Appetizers & Silent Auction
6:30 PM Dinner & Program

DOWN&OUT
HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

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