

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."



CALEB STEVENS, AGE 7, JOPPA COFOUNDER & FIRST SUPPLIES MANAGER

ANNIVERSARY

Joppa Celebrates 15 Years of Service

Fifteen years ago, one family embarked on a weekly day of service that would quickly evolve into what is now affectionately referred to as a ministry. Filling their vehicle with survival supplies, warm meals and blankets, they spent the day showing kindness and unconditional love to people experiencing homelessness in Des Moines.

"We never intended to start an organization," Joe Stevens recalls. "This was a private calling and family volunteer effort, but God had other plans."

In 2008, Joe, his wife Jacki and their son Caleb founded what's now known as Joppa, a multifaceted nonprofit organization. With many dedicated volunteers, donors and supporters, Joppa has helped more than 575 central Iowans overcome homelessness.

"One special thing about Joppa is that we are faith-based," says Jacki. "We have relied on God as our ultimate source, and He has always supplied everything we need. He has brought so many wonderful donors, partners and volunteers around us to propel us to where He wants us to go."

Three months after they started delivering meals and supplies, another

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

MONTHLY VOLUNTOUR

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Each second Tuesday at Joppa

SECOND SATURDAY WORKDAY

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Each month at Joppa

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER

November 16, 2023

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2023

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2023



COFOUNDER JACKI STEVENS DELIVERS HEAT TO BILLY IN 2008

Joppa Celebrates 15 Years... *CONTINUED*

organization stopped providing thousands of dollars' worth of heaters and fuel to homeless individuals each month during winter. The Joppa founders immediately felt called to pick up this vital service, begin weekly heat deliveries and start helping people find housing to get off the streets.

"This was all taking place in 2008 following the recession, and I had recently exited a technology company I had co-founded, so we didn't have a source of income at the time," recalls Joe. "We just asked God to provide the way, and we would do the work."

Launching the Winter Survival Heat Program and providing housing assistance would prove to be important milestones that grew Joppa in both size and impact. The organization has since expanded to thousands of volunteers who play critical roles in weekly outreach, winter heat deliveries, organizing and delivering supplies and meals, and making personal contributions to ensure Joppa continues to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Each volunteer and supporter has a different origin story regarding their connection to Joppa. For Rich and Kim Willis, an event through church acquainted them with Joe, Jacki and the Joppa mission to help homeless families and individuals survive, find housing and rebuild their lives.

"We volunteered for Sunday Outreach before the pandemic," says Kim. "It gave us the opportunity to meet

other volunteers and to see the mission with a hands-on experience of connecting with men and women in need. Without Joppa, where would these individuals be today?"

For Kory and Penny Schramm, it was friends who "put the fire in them" to get involved.

"We began volunteering with Joppa 14 years ago," says Penny, whose pastor friend and his wife connected them to Joppa. "We started alongside them in a homeless route for a while and soon felt the heavenly nudge to engage full-time and make Joppa a priority ministry in our lives."

The Schramms would eventually serve monthly on an Aftercare route, which they continue today. It has even grown into a family affair on holidays when they invite their five children, extended family and friends along on their routes. According to Penny, they believe it's important for people to see the ministry, understand the needs in the community and meet the people Joppa serves.

"God calls on us to love our neighbors, especially those in greatest need," says Penny. "We continue to pour ourselves into Joppa because we believe there's no organization in our community that more passionately fulfills this commandment."

As Joppa's volunteer base grew over the past decade, so did the needs of the community they served. Last year, the number of homeless individuals who sought assistance

CONTINUED...

BECAUSE OF YOU

- OVER 580 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LIFTED OFF THE STREETS
- 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

Mail Services Helps Fill the Gap

For nearly three years, the production of the Joppa Arise newsletter has been graciously donated by Mail Services, a multi-state document processing and data services company headquartered in Urbandale. The company also supports Joppa financially, as does the company's CEO, Shayne Huston, and his wife, Diane, who volunteer on winter heat and outreach teams.

"Sometimes people don't realize the different ways you can donate," Huston explains. He references a broad gap Joppa recently reported between current donation levels and the growth in the number of homeless families and individuals Joppa is serving. "It's important to us to help Joppa close that gap as much as we can."

Joppa Cofounder Joe Stevens says pro bono services like this are incredibly valuable, saving Joppa significant expenses we would otherwise have to raise.

"I admire Shayne. He runs this big company, and it must come with its own stress, yet he takes the time to help with anything we need," Stevens explains.

Huston says that when he helps Joppa, he may very well be caring for future employees. "We don't always know what situation our employees are coming from. To me, any Christian should be looking for ways to give back."



READ MORE ABOUT SHAYNE HUSTON WHO'S FEATURED IN THE "I SERVE AT JOPPA" VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT.

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*
- *Sunday Afternoon Hospitality*
- *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:

- *Blankets, sleeping bags & 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

"It's a huge blessing to see [God] working in so many different ways in the lives of staff, volunteers, and the people being served."

— **Lori Drafahl, Joppa Volunteer** (see cover story)



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEER: Shayne Huston

INVOLVEMENT: Outreach volunteer, donor, pro bono newsletter production and newest board member.

BACKGROUND: A gentleman in my bible study group worked at Joppa. I was excited to learn more about the mission and began to help.

DRIVING PASSION: It is 100% my belief in God and Jesus Christ. He has done so much for me, and I can't imagine not passing blessings on to others.

ON MY OWN: I was raised in a small southeast Iowa town and am blessed to be an American. My wife and I have three children and four grandchildren who are our treasures here on earth.

Joppa Celebrates 15 Years... *CONTINUED*

from Joppa doubled compared to the previous year – signaling the lingering effects of an affordable housing crisis, ongoing challenges from COVID-19 and impacts from inflation.

In 2021, Joppa opened its doors to the Homeless Resource Center, which acts as a central hub for people seeking supplies, assistance and referrals, as well as for the staff and volunteers who serve them. The following year, they celebrated the grand opening of Thriftmart, their nonprofit store that offers a high-quality thrifting experience supporting the Joppa mission.

Lori Drafahl learned about Joppa during a film production class where Joe and Caleb were also students. She heard them discussing Joppa and its mission and was compelled to join their volunteer video team.

"I had never heard of Joppa and felt God was nudging me to get involved," Lori says. "Seeing and hearing homeless people tell their heartbreaking stories firsthand had a profound impact on me — it was very different from other jobs that I could just move on from."

While 15 years is an incredible milestone, Joe, Jacki, Caleb and the entire Joppa family know it's only the beginning. There is more work to be done and more progress to be made when it comes to ending homelessness in our communities.

"You can feel there's a partnership with God at the center of Joppa," says Lori. "It's a huge blessing to see Him working in so many different ways in the lives of staff, volunteers, and the people being served."

"Being on this journey for the past 15 years has been humbling," says Joe. "We're excited to see where God takes Joppa next!"

“WE’RE EXCITED TO SEE WHERE GOD TAKES JOPPA NEXT!”
— JOE STEVENS, JOPPA CEO

Volunteer or support our mission with a financial gift by visiting joppa.org.

BECOME AN EVERYDAY ANGEL MONTHLY SUPPORT PARTNER

Help Joppa impact lives **every day of the year** by signing up for monthly giving!

Everyday Angels contribute monthly to:

- Help families and individuals survive, find housing and rebuild their lives
- Educate and engage the community in serving and supporting the homeless
- Develop fundamental solutions to help end homelessness in central Iowa

Sign up at: joppa.org/angels



Matthew 25:35-40

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 FILL GAPS IN HOMELESS SERVICES, HOUSING AND EDUCATION.



FROM LEFT: MEGAN TAYLOR, CHRIS DILLEY, JACKI STEVENS, AMBER LEWIS, TIM URBAN, NOAH TABOR, JOE STEVENS AND ERIC TABOR VISIT WITH THE CEO OF COMMUNITY FIRST VILLAGE IN AUSTIN, TX

TINY HOME VILLAGE UPDATE

Local Leaders Visit Austin Village

Nearly 200 tiny home village communities are operating successfully across the country or are in development to provide housing and supportive services for formerly homeless individuals. Iowa is one of only a few states without a village like this.

Joppa continues to build political support for city approval of a tiny home village community in central Iowa. In 2020, we assembled the Joppa Village Coalition (see members in callout). The coalition meets regularly and is working to gain the necessary votes to approve the village so we can lift 50 chronically homeless individuals off the streets of Des Moines and into permanent supportive housing.

Last year, Des Moines City Councilmembers Linda Westergaard and Carl Voss and Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy traveled to Austin to tour Community First Village, which Joppa plans to replicate. All three elected officials came back convinced it could work here locally and are helping build support for the necessary approvals.

This August, Amber Lewis, Tim Urban, Eric Tabor, Chris Dilley, Megan Taylor and Noah Tabor joined Joppa in Austin to spend a day learning about the village and came away with similar sentiments.

“It’s a dignified and meaningful community, a neighborhood that I would feel proud to live next door to,” says Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy. “It was clean. It was safe. It was beautiful. And it belongs in Des Moines.”

Check out Community First Village for yourself!



See it on the Today Show



Watch a village overview



Take a virtual village tour



Read about Community First Village

The Joppa Village Coalition

- Frank Cownie** (Chair) – Mayor of Des Moines
- Carl Voss** (Co-Chair) – Des Moines City Councilmember
- Angela Connolly** – Polk County Supervisor
- Linda Westergaard** – Des Moines City Councilmember
- Matt Anderson** – Des Moines Deputy City Manager
- Christine Hensley** – Retired Councilmember
- Joe Stevens** – Joppa CEO & Cofounder

Joppa Village Coalition Project Partners

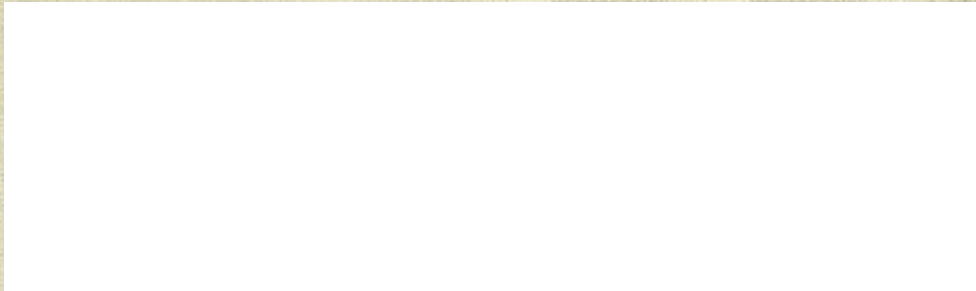
- Amber Lewis** – DSM Homelessness Policy Administrator
- BSB Design** – Residential Architects
- Simonson & Associates** – Commercial Architects
- Snyder Engineering** – Civil Engineers



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Des Moines, IA 50310

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INSIDE

Tiny Home Village Update

Kim Willis: Being a Homeless Outreach Volunteer



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699

JOPPA CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

