

# 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."*



CARL & NICOLE IN FRONT OF THEIR APARTMENT COMPLEX

## CLIENT STORIES

### Hope Beneath the Bridge

Carl and Nicole moved from Wisconsin to Stuart, Iowa, to better provide for their three kids. Carl got a job working in a warehouse, which allowed him to put food on the table and pay rent. Nicole got a job at the local gas station to try to connect with the community.

Carl and Nicole grew up around alcoholism. They witnessed it firsthand in their parents, uncles and even grandparents growing up. "We're recovering alcoholics. And that actually was our downfall," said Nicole. They lost their jobs, their licenses, their kids and finally, their home due to drinking.

"What caused us to be evicted was letting alcohol choose and dictate our life for so long that there was no turning back," said Carl.

They had to call their oldest son for help when they lost their apartment. They stayed with him in the Des Moines area for six months in exchange for helping take care of their grandkids. When they eventually had a falling out with their son, Carl and Nicole moved out and became homeless.

After they were both arrested for drunk driving, they lost their licenses and the truck they were living in. With nowhere to go, they tried living in a park and then finally settled under a bridge in Des Moines. There, they

CONTINUED...

## OUR MISSION

*To create communities of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless as we work together to end homelessness.*



## 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

### JOPPA ANNUAL GALA

November 7, 2025

### IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2025

### JOPPA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2025



## Hope Beneath the Bridge, *CONTINUED*

learned how to survive homelessness.

They faced frigid temperatures, hunger, theft and the constant threat of being attacked or having other homeless campers set their tent on fire.

"I never thought I would dumpster dive—I couldn't at first. But I'm just like, I have to feed myself," explained Nicole.

Keeping food and water was one of their hardest challenges. They faced food storage issues, freezing water and no way to cook or defrost water for drinking.

"Joppa was a huge part of our story ... The Joppa Winter Heat

Program really saved our lives. You can only put so many blankets on you. You can only wear so many socks. You can only put so many gloves on your hands," Carl explained.

Joppa helped Carl and Nicole at their camp under the bridge twice a week with Sunday outreach visits, food and supplies, and propane heater fuel deliveries on Saturdays. "Without Joppa, we would've

frozen to death," Nicole said.

Carl and Nicole were able to get back into housing through the Veterans Administration's HUD-VASH Program with help from Primary Health Care. Joppa helped them move in and furnish their new home, partnering with The Free Store for furniture. Joppa is also assisting Carl in regaining his license so that they can have transportation.

Joppa volunteers still visit them weekly through the Aftercare Program. "If it wasn't for you guys, we wouldn't have succeeded—especially the volunteers ... and donors, too. It's just the warmth, the friendliness ... they're like your family. And it's nice to have the smiles. And even a hug. A hug is the best," Nicole shared, holding back tears.

Watch this video for the rest of their story and learn how Joppa positively impacts people's lives every day.

Visit [Joppa.org/CarlNicole](http://Joppa.org/CarlNicole) or scan:



## I Serve at Joppa

**VOLUNTEER:** Suzan Strandberg

**INVOLVEMENT:** I sort client mail and fulfill requested items to be delivered to our homeless clients on outreach routes each Sunday.

**BACKGROUND:** I moved to the area seven years ago and heard about Joppa at my church.

**DRIVING PASSION:** The smiles, love and support of the other Joppa volunteers keep me engaged to fight poverty. We are called to serve those on the outer margins of life, and when we serve others, we serve God.

**ON MY OWN:** I grew up in a family that was always helping others. Volunteering at Joppa lets me continue that practice of serving others.



### BECOME A JOPPA EVERYDAY ANGEL

*Everyday Angels contribute monthly to:*

- Help individuals and families get off the streets each week
- Engage the community to help end homelessness
- Prepare to build the Joppa Village

**Sign up:** [Joppa.org/Angels](http://Joppa.org/Angels)

Matthew 25:35-40

### PLAN A LEGACY GIFT

*Invest in the Joppa Endowment Fund:*

- Leave a legacy of hope
- Create lasting impact for generations
- Secure the future of Joppa's mission

**Learn more:** [Joppa.org/Legacy](http://Joppa.org/Legacy)

### BECAUSE OF YOU

- JOPPA LIFTS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS OFF THE STREETS EACH WEEK
- WITH YOUR SUPPORT, OVER 700 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HELPED INTO HOMES
- MORE THAN 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN IN HOUSING TODAY
- JOPPA HELPED NEARLY 600 PEOPLE SURVIVE AND STAY WARM LAST WINTER

**11+**LOCAL HOMELESS SERVICES AND HOUSING PROGRAMS CLOSED OR REDUCED IN 2024-2025<sup>1</sup>**1,200+**PEOPLE IN POLK COUNTY ARE HOMELESS EACH DAY<sup>2</sup>**34%**OF IOWA'S HOMELESS POPULATION ARE FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN<sup>3</sup>**800+**PEOPLE ARE APPROVED FOR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED HOUSING IN POLK COUNTY BUT REMAIN ON A WAITING LIST DUE TO A LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOMES<sup>4</sup>**-58,674**SHORTAGE OF RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE IN IOWA FOR EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME RENTERS<sup>5</sup>**GAPS IN SUPPORT****Help Joppa Close the Gap**

Nearly 80% of our financial support comes from people like you. Together, we're changing lives—helping homeless individuals and families survive, find housing and rebuild their lives. Since 2008, we've worked hand in hand to lift more than 700 people off the streets, with over 80% still in homes today. None of this would be possible without you.

Over the past five years, Joppa has grown boldly to meet rising needs. While many services shut down during the pandemic, we expanded our facilities and opened the Homeless Resource Center. We also launched our first Thriftmart store to help sustain our mission and continued investing in the Joppa Village development, a transformative next step in our work to help end homelessness.

The Joppa Village will provide permanent housing for individuals who have been chronically homeless for years. It's an innovative, community-based solution for those left behind by other options. These strategic steps have positioned Joppa to serve more people than ever before.

Today, with local housing programs shutting down and critical homeless services being reduced, your support is more vital than ever.

**HOMELESSNESS CONTINUES TO RISE IN CENTRAL IOWA**

Senior citizens make up the fastest-growing segment and over one-third of Iowa's homeless population are families with children.

More than 1,200 central Iowans have no place to call home on any given night. Joppa served 2,224 homeless people in 2024.

Many of our neighbors sleep in cars, under bridges and in the woods, trying to survive through the night until morning. They have no options, home or hope.

**BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORT PARTNER OR GIVE ANNUALLY**

(See details on the other side of this page).

*Will you stand in the gap with us to help our neighbors in need?*

1. Axios, Des Moines Register, Iowa Radio, KCCI 2. Point In Time (PIT) 2025 Count (779) + Uncounted Homeless Individuals Joppa Served (449)  
3. Institute for Community Alliances 2024 PIT Explorer Dashboard 4. Primary Health Care 5. National Low Income Housing Coalition



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### West Bank

Since 1893, West Bank has built a reputation for earning their customers' trust while continuing to be recognized as one of the best banks in America. First and foremost a community bank, they are well known for being responsive to local needs.

Joppa has experienced this firsthand over the years with exceptional customer service. Kirk Besh, Senior Vice President of Commercial Banking, said, "I am proud to be Joppa's dedicated banker. West Bank cares deeply about building strong, supportive communities. That includes backing organizations like Joppa. We believe our community is better and stronger when everyone has a safe place to call home."



**West Bank's foundation awards monetary grants to nonprofit organizations focusing on three areas of community involvement: Human Services, Education and Arts & Culture. West Bank has generously supported Joppa with grant awards over the years.**

Sara Gallagher, Director of Marketing, said, "We succeed when our community is successful, and part of that is just being able to support organizations like Joppa and others that are really serving the needs of our community."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Scan to become a  
JOPPA PRAYER PARTNER:



### GIVE:

Your generous gifts provide the critical funds required to help lift individuals and families off our streets each week:

- Helped 91 people off streets last year
- Awarded Candid GuideStar Platinum Transparency Seal six consecutive years
- 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](https://joppa.org/giving)



### VOLUNTEER:

Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals, families and groups, including:

- Cook meals for outreach
- Help keep our facilities clean
- Work in the resource center
- Do outreach or aftercare
- Become a Client Advocate
- Work in our thrift store
- Help plan events
- Join a Second Saturday Workday

#### BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

We depend on volunteers like you! Email to learn more or sign up at [joppa.org](https://joppa.org) to attend a VolunTOUR.

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

### DONATE:

Provide survival items & Thriftmart goods:

- Clothing, shoes & accessories
- 24oz water & 40% DEET bug spray
- Pop-top canned goods & meats
- Toilet paper & paper towels
- Cleaners, laundry & dish soap
- Shampoo and body wipes
- Blankets, sleeping bags & pillows
- Backpacks, headlamps & AAA Batts
- Home goods & home décor

#### BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

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

Thank you for your generosity!

## FROM THE HEART

*"If it wasn't for you guys, we wouldn't have succeeded—especially the volunteers ... and donors, too. It's just the warmth, the friendliness ... they're like your family. And it's nice to have the smiles. And even a hug. A hug is the best." — Nicole (see cover story)*



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

You play a vital role in lifting people out of homelessness. By becoming a monthly or annual support partner, you help local individuals and families survive, find housing and rebuild their lives.

Joppa is a faith-based organization that receives no state or federal funding. Your generosity fuels every outreach effort, every warm meal and every transition into permanent housing.

Together, we can end homelessness in our community.

1

## GIVE PERSONALLY

- Become a monthly support partner
- Give annual gifts of any type\*

### **Your Gift of \$600 or \$50/Month**

Helps one homeless person survive each year with weekly visits and support

### **Your Gift of \$1,200 or \$100/Month**

Lifts one homeless person off the streets and into a home each year

### **Your Gift of \$2,400 or \$200/Month**

Lifts one couple or two individuals off the streets and into a home each year

\*Joppa accepts gifts in nearly any form—cash, donor-advised funds, matching gifts, stock transfers, cryptocurrency, appreciated securities, real estate, privately held business assets and even harvested crops or other non-liquid gifts.

2

## INTRODUCE FRIENDS

- Host a private Joppa tour for friends and family
- Support 30-Day Annual Campaign in September
- Be a Table Host at our annual gala in November

### **Host a Private Joppa Tour**

Invite friends and family to experience Joppa firsthand, see our impact and explore ways to get involved

### **Support the 30-Day Annual Campaign**

Share your Joppa story and invite others to support us during the 30-day giving campaign in September

### **Be a Table Host at the November Gala**

Invite friends to an inspiring ballroom gala to hear stories of transformation and learn how we are working together to end homelessness in Greater Des Moines

## HOW WE DO IT

JOPPA ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEIR TIME, TREASURES AND TALENTS. WE WORK TOGETHER TO HELP PEOPLE ACCESS RESOURCES AND FILL GAPS IN HOMELESS SERVICES, HOUSING AND EDUCATION.





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Des Moines, IA 50310

Non-Profit Org.  
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## INSIDE

### Surprising New Homeless Statistics

Hope Beneath the Bridge



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699

## IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### OUTREACH COOKS

Cook 40 meals in your own kitchen and deliver them to Joppa one Sunday each month. Warm meals include easy favorites like beef burgers, burritos or ham and cheese sandwiches.



### CLEAN TEAM

Help keep our facilities clean, peaceful and welcoming for every guest who walks through our doors. Flexible weekly shifts and all supplies are provided. Just bring your heart and hands.



### RESOURCE CENTER

Offer essentials, encouragement and dignity at the Homeless Resource Center one afternoon each week. No experience required—just compassion and a willingness to listen to our guests.

*Email [volunteer@joppa.org](mailto:volunteer@joppa.org) or call (515) 288-5699 Ext. 2 to learn more*

WHO PAID FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

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