

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."



ITALAY AND HER DAUGHTERS IN THEIR NEW HOME

CLIENT STORIES

A Mother's Fight for Hope

Most mornings, 32-year-old Italay woke up before her children, not because she had to be somewhere early, but because she needed a moment to think. That moment came in the front seat of a parked car, watching her breath fog the windshield, while five children slept behind her. This was not how she imagined motherhood.

Italay was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. Her childhood was marked by trauma that no child should endure. "My uncle molested me when I was younger. And, my father molested my brother," Italay shares. After her parents divorced, Italay moved through the foster care system.

At 14, while still in foster care, Italay became pregnant. She made the selfless, yet painful, decision to choose adoption, a loss that stays with her.

While still in high school, Italay became pregnant again but pushed herself to still graduate, giving birth days before turning 18. In the following years, she balanced motherhood, work and school, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in psychology from Colorado Christian University. "I am proud, I graduated even after everything I went through," she says.

She later endured the devastating loss of an infant son born with

CONTINUED...

OUR MISSION

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

JOIN US
for a Second
Saturday
WORKDAY!

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, 2026

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2026

JOPPA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2026

A Mother's Fight for Hope CONTINUED

a serious heart condition. By her late twenties, Italay was raising five children on her own, working multiple jobs.

When a extremely abusive relationship came to an end, Italay prayed for direction. "I asked God to direct my path," she says. "And I heard Him say, 'Get up and go to Iowa.'" She had never been to Iowa before.

Italay followed God's instruction, but shortly after moving to Iowa, her brother in Colorado unexpectedly passed away. She traveled there

with her children to grieve. During that time, her financial cushion became depleted. When she and her children returned to Iowa, they had no source of income and nowhere to go.

"I was homeless with my kids for 16 months," she says.

They lived in Italay's

Ford Explorer. "Living in a car is traumatizing," she says. "My kids were scared their friends would find out we were homeless. That hurt more than anything," Italay says. She made sure her children went to school every day with clean clothes, braided hair and food.

Eventually, Italay connected with Joppa after a referral from Primary Health Care for mail services. She checked her mail at the Homeless Resource Center and shopped at Thriftmart for clothes and shoes for her children.

Joppa learned that Italay was denied housing because of an old bill on her credit. "That bill stopped everything," she says.

Joppa stepped in to pay off the debt, securing her approval for housing. "Without Joppa, I would not be here in this apartment with my children," she says. "I would probably still be homeless."

See Italay and her remarkable children tell their story at Joppa.org/Italay or scan:



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEER: Shannon Hood

INVOLVEMENT: Homeless Resource Center Volunteer

BACKGROUND: Joppa is the perfect place for me to volunteer. I've always wanted to serve people experiencing homelessness and those struggling with addiction or mental illness. My brother, Chris, lived homeless in Des Moines, and I grew up on the grounds of a mental institution because of my father's job.

DRIVING PASSION: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40, NIV)

ON MY OWN: My husband and I love to travel, especially to Norway to visit our daughter. I enjoy biking, hiking, golfing and attending my grandchildren's activities.



LEGACY CLUB

PLAN A LEGACY GIFT

- Invest in our endowment fund
- Create lasting impact for generations
- Secure the future of Joppa's mission

Learn more: Joppa.org/Legacy



everyday
angels

Become a Monthly Everyday Angel

- Lift individuals and families off the streets each week
- Engage the community in ending homelessness together
- Build the Joppa Village in Des Moines

Sign up: Joppa.org/Angels

Matthew 25:35-40

BECAUSE OF YOU

- JOPPA LIFTS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES INTO HOMES EACH WEEK
- WITH YOUR SUPPORT, OVER 800 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HELPED OFF THE STREETS
- MORE THAN 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN IN HOUSING TODAY
- JOPPA HELPED NEARLY 600 PEOPLE SURVIVE AND STAY WARM LAST WINTER

2025 IMPACT METRICS

Joppa helped a total of 2,425 men, women and children experiencing homelessness in 2025 through consistent street presence, advocacy and coordinated support. This unduplicated figure reflects the true breadth of homelessness in Greater Des Moines.

Working together, we've had a record-breaking year helping people off the streets!



117

PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS



17,955

MEALS SERVED



9,575

OUTREACH VISITS



106,572

LBS. OF FOOD DELIVERED



1,864

AFTERCARE VISITS



3,913

USPS MAIL DELIVERIES



8,294

RESOURCE CENTER VISITS



2,130

VOLUNTEERS



11,663

REFERRALS TO PARTNERS



42,371

VOLUNTEER HOURS

*So far in 2026, Joppa has lifted **36** people off the streets as of **March 26, 2026**, bringing the total to **837** since **2008**, with more than **80%** remaining off the streets today.*

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

NYEMASTER

For more than 14 years, Nyemaster has been a partner of Joppa, contributing significant legal expertise on a pro bono basis. Nyemaster is an Iowa-based law firm providing comprehensive, client-focused representation across its core practices: Corporate, Government, IP, Employment, Litigation, and Tax.

The relationship began with Nyemaster drafting the original Joppa bylaws and has grown into a collaboration with multiple attorneys and professionals. Rod Kubat has provided pro bono general counsel to Joppa for more than a decade. Kathy Law, Iowa State Bar Association President and Joppa board member, provides real estate and other legal services including those for Joppa Village. Wendy Marsh provides intellectual property counsel and has filed trademarks for both Joppa and Thriftmart.

Joppa is deeply grateful for Nyemaster's sustained commitment, generosity and partnership, which have strengthened our organization and advanced our mission.

"For all of us who work pro bono for Joppa, it's rewarding to know we're making a difference and giving back to our community through our firm and our expertise," says Kathy Law.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Scan to become a
JOPPA PRAYER PARTNER:



GIVE:

Your generous contributions provide critical funds to lift families and individuals off our streets each week:

- Helped 117 people off streets in 2025
- Awarded Candid GuideStar Platinum Transparency Seal 7 consecutive years
- Joppa is a 501(c)3 nonprofit & does not operate on federal or state funding
- 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 individuals, families and groups, including:

- Be a Thriftmart cashier
- List premium items on eBay
- Sort donations
- Help keep our facilities clean
- Serve in the resource center
- Cook meals for outreach
- Provide outreach or aftercare
- Help plan events

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

We depend on volunteers like you!
Email to learn more or sign up at
joppa.org to attend a VolunTOUR.

Email: volunteer@joppa.org

DONATE:

Provide survival items & Thriftmart goods:

- Clothing, shoes & accessories
- Home goods & home décor
- Bottled water (24 oz) & bug spray
- Pop-top canned goods & meats
- TP, paper towels & antibiotic cream
- Cleaners, laundry & dish soap
- Blankets, sleeping bags & pillows
- Backpacks, headlamps & AAA batts
- Premium goods Joppa can sell online

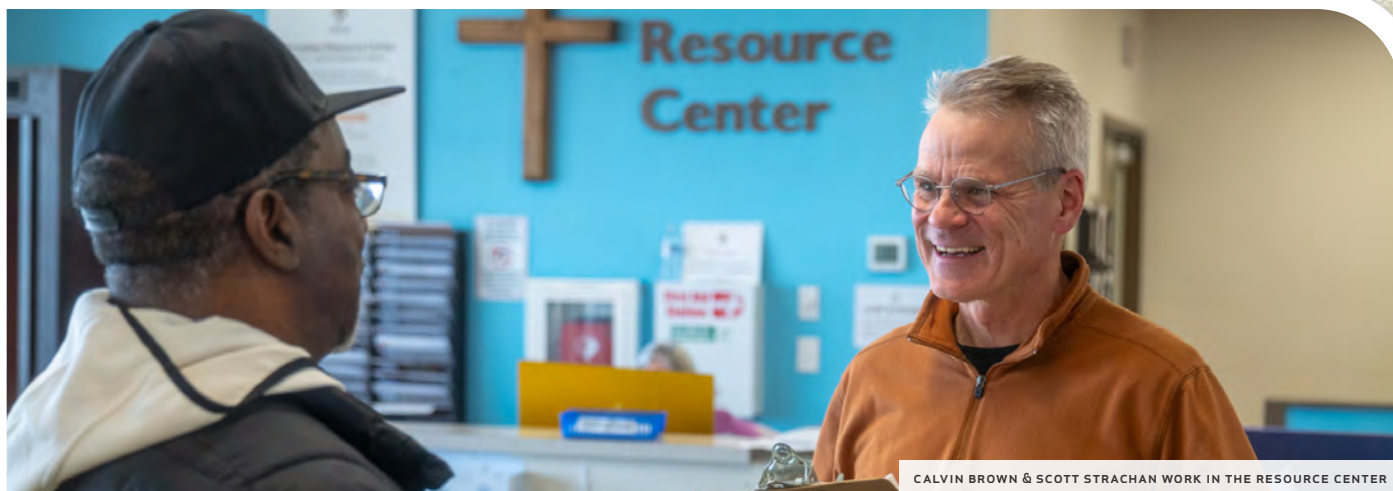
BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

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

"My kids were scared their friends would find out we were homeless.
That hurt more than anything." – Italy



CALVIN BROWN & SCOTT STRACHAN WORK IN THE RESOURCE CENTER

ENDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Joppa Client Advocacy Program

Helping people move from the streets into housing is at the heart of Joppa's mission, and our newly expanded Client Advocacy Program is accelerating that work in powerful ways.

Joppa Client Advocates are trained volunteers who meet one-on-one with our homeless clients. They listen carefully, clarify goals, identify barriers and help them create a plan towards housing with clear, practical steps forward. They meet regularly to provide consistency, accountability and steady encouragement. This work is rooted in relationship. When someone has a committed advocate on their team, they are far more likely to get off the streets and reach their goals.

Scott Strachan started volunteering on Outreach 15 years ago. He quickly began building relationships with those he encountered on his routes and upon retirement last year, felt called to join the Client Advocate team.

Scott says, "In this role, you see clients for who they truly are and understand the situations that led them to homelessness. When they come to Joppa, they're stuck. We help them step back, problem-solve and begin rebuilding their lives."

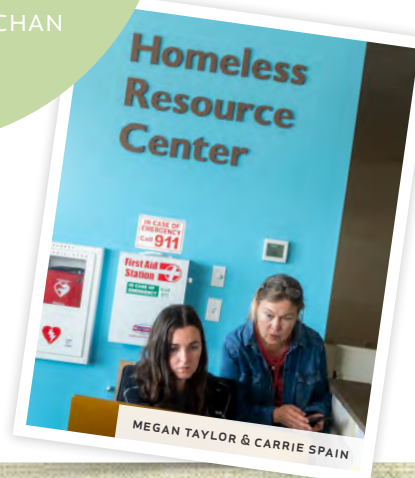
CLIENT ADVOCATES play a vital role in supporting those experiencing homelessness. If you have served at the Homeless Resource Center or on Outreach, consider joining the Client Advocate team.

Contact Carrie Spain at carrie.spain@joppa.org

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AND UNDERSTAND
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— SCOTT STRACHAN



HOW WE DO IT

JOPPA ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENTS AND RESOURCES. 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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

INSIDE

A Mother's Fight for Hope

You Helped Lift 117 People Off Our Streets in 2025!



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699



Thriftmart Volunteer Opportunities

- › Cashiers
- › eBay Pricers
- › Shelf Stockers

For more information, please
contact Jacki Stevens at
jacki.stevens@thriftmart.com

WHO PAID FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

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