

"In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha; she was always doing good and helping the poor."



### **JOPPA STORIES**

### The Drive to Survive

Each morning, Daniel Pollard woke up at 4:30 a.m. in his car, which was broken down in a parking lot on SE 14th Street. He walked seven miles in the wind, rain and cold to be at work by 7 a.m. After a 12-hour shift, he walked the seven miles back to his car, where he tried to get comfortable enough to sleep before starting over the next day.

"I'm just happy to have a job," Daniel said. "I have a son who depends on me. Even though I'm homeless, I have to take care of him."

A little over a year ago, Daniel was working as a quality analyst at Wells Fargo and living happily with his girlfriend and their 13-year-old son, Daniel Jr. Then in March 2020, Daniel's position was eliminated. The loss of his job—coupled with the PTSD he suffers as a Purple Heart veteran who served in Operation Desert Storm—sent him into a deep depression. His personal relationships declined, and he found himself alone and homeless.

"There's a stigma attached to people who are homeless, but it can happen to anyone," Daniel explained. "I served in the military; I went to college. I did everything right. But here I am."

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

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DOWN & OUT HOMELESS FUNDRAISER November 18, 2021

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL December 21, 2021

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION December 21, 2021

PROJECT PJ January 28, 2022

### The Drive to Survive, CONTINUED

Daniel parked his car in a lot across from his son's house so he could stay close and watch over him. When the car eventually broke down, he didn't have the money to fix it. His feet swelled from living in such a confined space, and he slept poorly from being constantly on edge.

Then one day, Daniel was referred to Joppa. He met with staff and explained where he was living in his car. Outreach teams began visiting weekly with supplies and food, and one volunteer helped Daniel get his new job.

### THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS ME GOING IS MY SON. — DANIEL POLLARD

But just when he was starting to get ahead, Daniel's car was towed. He tried to survive outside to stay near his son, but finally went to a shelter to escape the winter weather. From there, Daniel took public transportation to work, although he still had to walk one mile to the bus stop and two miles on the weekends.

Despite the many setbacks, Daniel

is determined to do what's necessary to rebuild his life. While he sees his son as much as possible, he is looking forward to the day when he can afford his own place and Daniel Jr. can live with him part-time.

"The only thing that keeps me going is my son," Daniel explained. "He sees me working hard and pressing on, so I can't give up. I want my son to be proud of me."

In February, Daniel's positive outlook paid off. Joppa surprised him with the keys to a 2013 Chevy Malibu, which was donated by generous supporters. With tears in his eyes, Daniel slowly opened the door and got behind the wheel. "This pushes me forward," he said. "It's incredible. I feel so blessed."

As he drove away from Joppa, Daniel said with a smile, "I'm going to pick up my son, and we're going to go for a drive."

Watch for Daniel's video in the upcoming Spring 2021 Arise e-newsletter. Not receiving our electronic newsletters? Sign up at joppa.org/e-newsletter.

#### **BECOME AN EVERYDAY ANGEL!**

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
- Develop fundamental solutions to end homelessness

Sign up at joppa.org/angels



## l Serve at Joppa

**VOLUNTEERS:** Bill & Joyce Shackleford

**INVOLVEMENT:** Outreach and Food Rescue

**BACKGROUND:** Through our involvement in the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry, we learned about Joppa and offered to help. After assisting with food rescue for a couple weeks, we also joined an outreach route.

**DRIVING PASSION:** We believe in making the world a better place. Plus, it's just common sense to help people who are less fortunate.

**ON OUR OWN:** We ride bikes, go fishing, and we're getting to be pretty good gardeners. Bill also serves on the board of directors for the Ray Society at Drake University, where he developed a course on homelessness.



Matthew 25:35-40

#### BECAUSE OF YOU

- MORE THAN 450 HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HELPED OFF THE STREETS
- OVER 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN OFF THE STREETS
- JOPPA SAVED OVER 200 UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM FREEZING TO DEATH LAST WINTER

### 2020 METRICS







7,540



6,605 REFERRALS TO PARTNERS



2,340



45 PEOPLE HELPED OFF THE STREETS

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

## GIVE:

#### Become a Joppa supporter!

Joppa does not receive ongoing state or federal funding. Your generous contributions provide much-needed funds for homeless outreach, core operating support and other services that fill gaps and meet unmet needs. Join us with your gifts and make a difference today.

#### **GIVE ONLINE OR MAIL TO:** Joppa 2326 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

Joppa is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. All gifts are tax-deductible.

#### joppa.org/giving

#### **VOLUNTEER:**

Volunteer opportunities are available for groups, families and individuals. When you volunteer at Joppa, you...

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

- Learn about homelessness
- Engage with diverse individuals
- Lead or join a team of volunteers
- Develop meaningful relationships
- Participate where you're passionate
- See your impact in multiple ways

#### BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

We depend on volunteers like you! Join us and impact the lives of homeless people—all while practicing social distancing and following CDC guidelines.

Email: volunteer@joppa.org

#### SUPPLY:

- Tents & tarps (dark green or brown)
- Sleeping bags & headlamps
- Bottled drinking water
- Sunscreen & bug spray (40% DEET)
- Toilet paper & paper towels
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent & dish soap
- Canned goods & nonperishables
- DART bus tokens

#### BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at 2326 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, or call (515) 288-5699

Thank you for your generosity!

#### FROM THE HEART

"There's a stigma attached to people who are homeless, but it can happen to anyone. I served in the military; I went to college. I did everything right. But here I am."



KIM FIELD IS ONE OF MANY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED JOPPA CONTINUE OPERATING SAFELY THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

### PROGRAMS

### COVID-19: A Year Later

In March 2020, our world turned upside down. COVID-19 was declared a pandemic as the virus spread across the globe. Schools and workplaces went virtual, businesses shut their doors, and unemployment surged. Through it all, Joppa provided uninterrupted homeless services while taking measures to keep our clients, volunteers and staff safe.

As we reflect on the past year, we're thankful for our compassionate volunteers, donors and partners who helped us serve those in need when they needed us most. We're continuing to maintain safety protocols while we face increasing homelessness particularly first-time homelessness—as a result of the pandemic.

If you're looking for ways to help, please make a gift to Joppa, volunteer, or donate supplies. Together, we can overcome any obstacle and continue moving forward in our mission to end homelessness.

### HERE'S A LOOK BACK:

- We continued all services for people experiencing homelessness while following CDC and state guidelines
- We educated homeless individuals about how to stay safe, how to get tested and where to go if positive
- We delivered masks, hand sanitizer, soap, gallons of water, toilet paper, hygiene items and cleaning products
- We referred homeless individuals for testing and medical help upon symptoms
- We worked with Polk County to identify unsheltered individuals, assess vulnerability, and find temporary and permanent housing options



#### 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.



### GIVING

### Announcing our Annual Campaign

We're getting ready to kick off our 2021 Annual Campaign: Strengthening Foundations. This year promises to be the biggest one yet for Joppa, as we're completing construction in the Joppa Center and preparing to launch game-changing initiatives, including:

- Iowa's first Homeless Resource Center
- A new nonprofit thrift store called "Thriftmart"
- A Joppa Transitional Village with Loft Cottages

We are also continuing to impact lives through our Outreach and Aftercare Programs, Winter Survival Programs, Nutrition Food Program, education/advocacy efforts, and more. Funds from the Annual Campaign will support these services and help homeless individuals

restore their broken foundations.

Look for more information about the Annual Campaign coming soon! If you would like to schedule a tour of the new Joppa facility or talk about our Annual Campaign, please call Patrick Jansen, Donor Relations Director, at (515) 288-5699 x730.





JOPPA STAFF RAISE AWARENESS FOR PROJECT PJ

### EVENTS

### Project PJ Raises Awareness

HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL GRAHAM JONES AND STUDENTS SHOW SUPPORT FOR PROJECT PJ

On Jan. 29, businesses, schools and families participated in Project PJ,

an event organized by Joppa to raise awareness about homelessness. Kids and adults of all ages wore their pajamas all day as a visible reminder that everyone deserves a safe place to sleep.

Project PJ is part of our efforts to educate the community about the root causes of homelessness, which will build understanding and help prevent homelessness in future generations. Save the date for next year's Project PJ on Jan. 28, 2022!



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### INSIDE

**2020 Metrics – How we moved the needle** Kicking off our 2021 Annual Campaign





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(515) 288-5699

# DOWN&OUT

JOPPA

# SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18 2021

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