

ARISE

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE SURVIVE, FIND HOUSING AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES



Joppa

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2024

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



CHRISTOPHER (BUCK) EVANS IN CAMP

CLIENT STORIES

Joppa Saw Me When No One Else Did

Invisible. That's how someone feels to the rest of the world when they have no place to call "home." And for Christopher Evans, known as "Buck," it was the scariest feeling imaginable.

"The loneliness – there was something about it. . . [It caused] aches, pains. How could I be invisible when I hurt so bad? But then the person walking across the street didn't see [me]. . . I don't want to feel it again. . .it's a dark place."

Buck distinctly remembers when he became invisible. But for years before, he was as visible as anyone else with a college education, a home and a good job. He served in the Army during Operation Desert Shield. Then, he earned an associate's degree in mechanical engineering. While working, he was struck by lightning so severely that he wasn't expected to live.

After an unexpected recovery, he started his own trucking company and lived a productive life for many years. However, a heartbreaking end to a relationship while he was living in Council Bluffs broke Buck's spirit. He left everything behind and started walking east along I-80 without a plan. A county sheriff stopped to help. He saw the veteran designation on Buck's ID and drove

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 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 15, 2024

IOWA HOMELESS MEMORIAL

December 21, 2024

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 21, 2024

Joppa Saw Me When No One Else Did, *CONTINUED*

him to Des Moines, knowing Buck could receive veteran assistance there.

A veteran's representative in Des Moines helped Buck obtain a two-bedroom apartment. Buck did well until 2020, when he got into an altercation with an unsheltered couple who refused to leave his apartment after a short stay.

He was arrested and given a 10-day sentence for poor conduct, Buck's first time in jail. While he was serving his time, the couple stole his belongings. He was held an additional 18 days due to Covid quarantining, and when he got out, he found his apartment locked. He was now homeless with no ID...invisible to society.

Buck had no way to prove he was a vet or to get assistance from government

agencies. They all required proof of identity for housing, food and military benefits. To them, he didn't exist.

Buck lived outside without heat or help for three years. When he realized getting help wasn't the same as giving up, he found his way to Joppa.

They didn't require paperwork or an ID. They just asked his name and offered resources to get him back on his feet. "The address that Joppa provides [for clients] is one of the greatest things of all time...that made me feel alive!" says Buck. This allowed him to get a new ID, EBT card and a phone.

He also accepted a tent, heater, food and clothing from Joppa. What Buck describes as "The Joppa Way" is how the staff and volunteers saw and cared for him. "We need Joppas in the world... Because if you're dirty and smelly, it don't matter. You're going to get something to eat," he said. Joppa also helped Buck into housing again through a state agency and paid his first two months' rent.

Buck feels like someone else saw him while he was invisible to the rest of the world. "I felt a presence with me that kept me alive through this... that made me share my story [with Joppa], and that is Jesus Christ," he says.

"Since the very first day I breathed, he's been there, and I didn't realize it – like Joppa was there, and I didn't realize it!"

Watch more of Buck's story on YouTube: [jop.pa/buck](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jop.pa/buck)



I Serve at Joppa

VOLUNTEER: Sheila Sinclair

INVOLVEMENT: I volunteer in the Resource Center twice a week and on Outreach on Sundays when needed.

BACKGROUND: I found Joppa through my friend Carrie Spain, with whom I volunteered at the ARL Second Chance Ranch.

DRIVING PASSION: Anyone who falls into bad circumstances needs support and understanding to help them get back on their feet. I enjoy helping people.

ON MY OWN: I am retired and have time to give back. I also still volunteer at the ARL and enjoy helping animals and people find their way to a home where they can feel safe and loved.

BECOME AN EVERYDAY ANGEL MONTHLY SUPPORT PARTNER

Help homeless people *every day of the year* by setting up monthly giving!

Joppa Everyday Angels contribute monthly to:

- Help one family or individual get off the streets each week
- Educate and engage the community in working together to end homelessness
- Help us prepare to build the Joppa Village as a solution to chronic homelessness in Des Moines

Sign up at: joppa.org/angels



everyday
angels

Matthew 25:35-40

BECAUSE OF YOU

- JOPPA HELPS A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL GET OFF THE STREETS EVERY WEEK
- OVER 600 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LIFTED OFF THE STREETS TO DATE WITH YOUR SUPPORT
- MORE THAN 80% OF THESE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN IN HOUSING TODAY
- JOPPA HELPED NEARLY 250 PEOPLE SURVIVE AND STAY WARM LAST WINTER

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Joppa is a faith-based organization that does not receive state or federal funding. Your generous contributions provide the critical funds that fill gaps in homeless outreach, survival, housing and aftercare services. However, the number of homeless people has rapidly grown, and we need your help to expand our support base of donors and volunteers.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE AVERAGE COST OF SERVING ONE PERSON FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR IS

\$500

IN 2023, WE LIFTED

65

PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

JOPPA SERVED

2.5x

MORE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN 2023 COMPARED TO 2021

ONE \$10,000 DONATION CAN...

- Serve 20 homeless lowans for a year
- Provide 4 weeks of outreach
- Lift 1 family into permanent housing

NOW IS THE TIME

Nearly 33% of the people Joppa is serving are first-time homeless. We need your help to continue meeting the needs of the many homeless neighbors in our community.

WAYS TO HELP

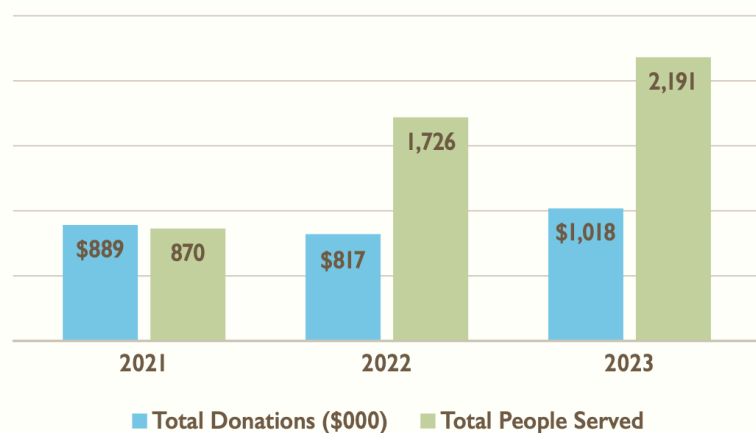
- Become an Everyday Angel monthly support partner
- Give a personally significant annual gift of any type*

HELP SPREAD THE WORD

1. Be a table host at our Gala Fundraiser in November
2. Host a Meet & Greet for friends and family at Joppa
3. Volunteer to help with our Annual Campaign

*Joppa accepts gifts in almost any form, including cash and matching gifts, donor-directed funds, stock transfers, cryptocurrency, gifts of appreciated assets, including securities, as well as non-cash gifts, including real estate, closely-held business assets, harvested crops and any illiquid asset.

Donations vs. People Served



JOPPA PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Wolf Construction

Wolf Construction Services, a commercial subcontractor based in Des Moines, is a proud partner of Joppa.

Orv Otten, director of field personnel, began volunteering in 2015 when a friend told him about the Joppa mission. Orv quickly became a regular volunteer on one of the winter heat teams. He liked being on the same route each week to check in on the people he'd come to know and catch up with them.

Orv's passion for Joppa began to spread at his company. Jon VanDis, president of Wolf Construction, joined the winter heat team routes as a volunteer with his kids. Support grew from there, and more and more volunteers came from Wolf Construction.

"Wolf Cares" is an employee-supported donation program that matches employee donations and then chooses a nonprofit by a companywide vote. Through it, Wolf Construction helped build the first Joppa Cottage Home by framing and roofing it. They've also roofed several Joppa tiny homes and plan to help build the Joppa Village. Wolf Construction has supported our homeless neighbors through the years, and Joppa is incredibly grateful for their continued partnership!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Scan to become a
JOPPA PRAYER PARTNER:



GIVE:

Your generous contributions provide critical funds for outreach and survival programs, housing and aftercare services, and the Homeless Resource Center:

- *Serving 2.5 times more people*
- *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

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

joppa.org/giving

VOLUNTEER:

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

- *Homeless Resource Center*
- *Thriftmart thrift store*
- *Homeless outreach & aftercare*
- *Donation Center sorting*
- *Sunday afternoon hospitality*
- *Event planning*
- *Annual Campaign 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:

- *24oz water & 40% DEET bug spray*
- *Pop-top canned goods & meats*
- *TP, paper towels & laundry soap*
- *Caladryl, cortizone & antibiotic cream*
- *Blankets, sleeping bags & pillows*
- *Backpacks, headlamps & AAA batts*
- *Clothing, shoes & accessories*
- *Home goods & home décor*
- *Premium goods to be sold online*

BRING SUPPLIES TO JOPPA:

Monday – Saturday, 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

"The address that Joppa provides [for clients] is one of the greatest things of all time... that made me feel alive!"

— Christopher "Buck" Evans (see cover story)

FLASHBACK

First Joppa Newsletter, April 2009

As we celebrate our growth, we look back to our beginnings 15 years ago and thank everyone who has supported us along the way.



I WAS JUST 8 WHEN WE PUBLISHED OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER IN 2009."

— CALEB STEVENS

Joppa Outreach

A Community of Unconditional Love



We are pleased to announce our new name: Joppa. Read more about its origin and significance below.

It is truly exciting to watch Joppa volunteers be used by God to love people who have given up hope, to meet critical needs just in the nick of time, and to literally help save people's lives.

With the current economy and warming weather, though, there are a considerable number of new people showing up on the streets each week and we expect record numbers of homeless people this spring and summer.

Please consider becoming a Joppa Partner by investing a portion of your monthly giving budget in supporting our local homeless community.

Together we are touching lives and making a significant difference right here in Des Moines!

On the behalf of all our volunteers, and the homeless people we serve, thank you for making this local work possible.

Joe, Jacki & Caleb Stevens
(515) 306-3275

"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday."

Isaiah 58:10 (ESV)



Help Us:

- Spread the Word
- Forward this Email
- Request Presentations
- Join a Delivery Team
- Adopt a Person or Camp
- Employ or Refer Jobs
- Become a Joppa Partner



Kids & Parents Can Collect Supplies

HOW WE DO IT

JOPPA ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEIR TIME, TREASURES AND TALENTS. WE WORK TOGETHER TO HELP UNSHELTERED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS ACCESS GOVERNMENT-FUNDED RESOURCES AND FILL GAPS IN HOMELESS SERVICES, EDUCATION AND HOUSING.



2326 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



INSIDE

Invisible: A Homeless Vet's Story
We Need Your Help: Our Case for Support



JOPPA.ORG

(515) 288-5699

ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT JOPPA:

Donate your luxury brands and higher-end items to **THRIFTMART**



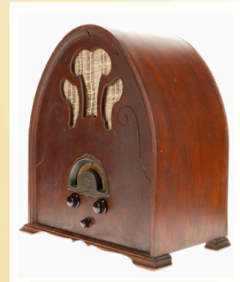
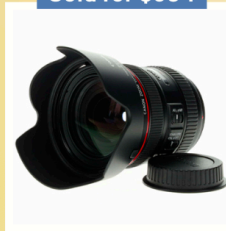
Listed for \$550

Sold for \$158



Listed for \$200

Sold for \$504



Listed for \$250

We maximize the value of your high-end items by selling them online and using our photo booth to make them shine!



See our ebay items here:
jop.pa/ThriftmartOnline

WHO PAID FOR THIS NEWSLETTER?

THIS ISSUE WAS PROVIDED PRO BONO BY MAIL SERVICES, INC.