HIGHLIGHTS



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- Mike Serves Hesed House Guests for Over 30 years!
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Summer 2026
Volume 37, Issue 2

*Cover photo: Former guest Kara and her daughter Nala

Mike Shows What One Volunteer Can Do

For more than 30 years, he's adapted to serve guests however they need it most.

Hesed House was built by volunteers, and it still runs on them today. For more than thirty years, Mike has found a new way to serve as a volunteer every time the need has changed.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Mike watched over the adult shelter at night, keeping guests safe while they slept.

Then COVID-19 hit. Mike's church, the Chicago Church of Christ, could no longer cook in Hesed House's kitchen, so he brought the kitchen home. Every fourth Tuesday, he woke at 2 a.m. to cook breakfast for 200 guests, cracking eggs in two pans while pancakes browned on the griddle.



Above: Mike preps toast for the Adult Shelter.

"I wanted it to be better than what you'd get at Denny's."

Will YOU Join the Mission?

Make it yours by sharing the gift of your time. Scan the QR code to volunteer at Hesed House on your own, or bring friends from your church, organization, or company.

Guests are greeted with warmth, dignity, and plenty of laughter. Mike knows a smile feeds the soul just as much as breakfast feeds the body.

Volunteers like Mike make it possible to serve more meals, house more guests, and change more lives, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. But they can't do it alone.

Jenny Builds Trust One Conversation at a Time

She sees herself in every guest, and it shapes how she cares for them.

Every night, Hesed House's Adult Shelter gives more than 220 men and women a warm meal, a safe bed, and a hot shower. But for many guests, what stays with them most is a caring face like Jenny's.

Jenny works at Hesed House because she loves working with people, and it shows. Guests often line up just to talk with her, swapping stories about music, movies, and lately, the World Cup.



Above: Jenny in front of the mural outside Hesed House

"The more I learn about our guests, the more I see myself in them"

We Want YOU!

Scan to Apply Today!

That's how Jenny sees it. The more she learns about a guest's story, the more she recognizes pieces of her own. That connection shapes how she shows up for them every day, with patience, respect, and genuine care.

Jenny is one of many staff members who bring Hesed House's compassion to life, night after night. Because you support this work, guests like the ones Jenny serves find more than shelter. They find dignity, too. Thank you.

Did you know that over 7,500 volunteers serve at Hesed House every year?

Stepping Stones to Motherhood

A dream Kara never gave up on

Like many little girls, Kara always dreamed of being a mom. But she faced serious barriers first: teenage homelessness, substance abuse, and mental illness. When you're facing that much at once, asking for help can feel impossible. Then, Kara found her way to Hesed House. "Hesed House is a really good place to ask for help and learn your options," she said.

Hesed House doesn't believe in one-size-fits-all solutions, and Kara's path proved it. She arrived just after turning 18, and the Comprehensive Resource Center connected her with Youth 360, a program built to shelter and support young adults finding their footing. When the time was right, she returned to the adult shelter and worked closely with staff and case managers, building the kind of trust that takes real time. Eventually, it became clear Kara needed more personalized support — and she qualified for the Harbor Program, Hesed House's on-site permanent supportive housing for people who face barriers to living independently, whether from mental illness, disability, or substance use.

"Harbor was a stepping stone. Without it, I would not be where I am today."



Above: Kara playing with her daughter Nala Ann outside!



Above: Kara holding her daughter Nala Ann in matching Mommy and Me dresses

Harbor staff walked with Kara through her substance abuse struggles, helping her find healthy coping strategies and the stability to build a sustainable path forward. Slowly, she regained her independence — and made the choice, day by day, to get clean and stay sober. Through the program, she rebuilt a trusting relationship with her family, achieved sobriety, and found her way back to believing in herself.

And then came her biggest achievement yet: Kara became a mom.

Today, Kara lives at home with her family, her healthy, charming baby girl Nala Ann, and a house full of love, toys, and many rescue dogs. She'll celebrate one year sober in early August.

"I am proud of myself, and I am excited every day to wake up next to this smiling face," she said of Nala Ann.

The two spend their days finding small joys — splashing at the pool, taking walks around the neighborhood, browsing books at the library. Every outing marks a new milestone, for mom and daughter both. Nala Ann isn't talking yet, but everyone around her is convinced "Mama" is coming soon.

Did you know that Hesed House began with six local churches sheltering the homeless in their buildings on a rotating schedule?

Turn Your Circle into a Lifeline!

Host a donation drive for your neighbors in need!

Every day, neighbors in our community turn to Hesed House while entering or exiting homelessness - needing the most basic needs most of us never think twice about.

Your workplace, church, classroom, or family could help close that gap!
Gather a few essential goods, and you will fill the most critical needs for our most vulnerable neighbors.

1) Pick Your Goods

Scan the QR Code to find out what goods are needed most

2) Set A Date

Pick a day, a weekend, or even a whole month for your group to collect items!

3) Schedule a Drop-Off

Once your drive is complete, schedule a drop-off time with the Hesed House team!

For any questions, or to schedule a drop-off once your drive is complete, please email drives@hesedhouse.org or call us at (630)-897-2156!

Scan the QR code to find out what goods are needed the most!



Above: Tyce holding a toothbrush from his oral care drive

A Reason to Smile More

Oral hygiene kits bring dignity to our neighbors

Tyce, a sophmore in highschool, reached out to Hesed House to host an oral care drive with a mission of helping the world "Smile More!"

Anyone who's dealt with a toothache knows how consuming that pain can be, and for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, it's too often left untreated. As dental costs rise and many go without insurance, basic oral hygiene isn't a luxury; it's essential.

Tyce shared his favorite quote, "Don't let the world change your smile, but let your smile change the world."

Through his efforts, Tyce collected 350 adult oral care kits! These kits will reach guests at Hesed House's shelters, past guests now in homes of their own, and households on the brink of homelessness.

HESED HOUSE
BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES DIGNITY

Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc., dba Hesed House is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our EIN# is 36-3285644. Please email donate@hesedhouse.org if you would like a tour, or with questions about how you can get involved.

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Charity Navigator ★★★★ FOUR-STAR