



HIGHLIGHTS

HESED HOUSE

INSIDE

- 40 Years of Ending Homelessness
- A Chance to Start Over
- Legal Services that Change Lives
& more!

Summer 2023
Volume 35, Issue 1

40 years.

Our organization has been serving the most vulnerable and fighting to end homelessness for 40 years.

(To put that in perspective, M*A*S*H was still on the air the first night of shelter...)

On one hand, 40 years is quite an accomplishment. Over that time, we have...

- Helped tens of thousands of men, women, and kiddos end their homelessness...
- Helped craft laws ensuring dignity and services for our most vulnerable neighbors experiencing homelessness...
- Become a national model of ending homelessness, replicated all over the United States...

All of that is possible because of you all...your support, advocacy, and volunteerism made those accomplishments and life-changing work possible for 40 YEARS...

On the other hand, *40 years is beyond frustrating*. It is frustrating...

- We're still needed - and needed more than any other time in the last 40 years...
- A single working mom with a newborn had to walk through our doors looking for shelter last month because her rent was raised over 200% and it is nearly impossible to find affordable housing locally...
- A man approaching 80 who lacked the ability to move, feed, dress, and bathe himself had to depend on our staff and volunteers for those basic needs in our shelter for months due to a lack of coverage for assisted living services...

With that frustration in mind, I apologize that you won't see a 40th Jubilee celebrating our history of service this year.

Frankly, we don't have time or energy for that sort of thing.
We're too busy fighting for dignity and hope for our guests and our unhoused neighbors.

To all of you who join and support us in that fight...who share our frustration but never waiver in the belief that we WILL end homelessness...
thank you for making the last 40 years possible!

With your continued support, even if it takes another 40 years or more,
until the fight to end homelessness is truly won -
Hesed House will be here!



JOE JACKSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A CHANCE TO START OVER

Antonio finds hope and friendships at Hesed House



Above: Antonio at Hesed House

Over 20 years ago, Antonio moved from Mexico to the U.S., searching for a new start. He rented a spare room with the same family for decades. Then his housing was gone. He ended up at Hesed House, where he has critical support systems helping him in this new season of life.

When he first came to the States, he planned to return to Mexico, but that changed when he found a place to live. As the years passed, he established his life working different jobs and building friendships. Over time, he began developing cataracts that changed his ability to see, but he still had his housing and felt very fortunate.

In 2020, his landlord passed away unexpectedly, and he could no longer rent his room. The landlord's wife brought him to Hesed House since he had nowhere else to go.

"Here we have a warm place to be and to sleep. It is not the same as sleeping in the streets."

The first few days were difficult for Antonio as he went through this big change in his life. He shared, "Here we have a warm place to be and to sleep. It is not the same as sleeping in the streets." Over time, he has made new connections changing his daily life.

Working with our staff, Antonio has received life-changing surgery that restored his vision.

When he celebrated his 66th birthday, the staff gave him a big cake he shared with the other guests. "Everything [Hesed House does] is good and necessary. I am very thankful because it is not just a meal; it is the kindness."

As he now looks towards the future, he knows he is part of a community that cares about him.

Thank you for supporting our mission and for helping us be a source of hope to individuals and families in need.



Right: Antonio working with our Medical Case Manager after his cataract surgery.

NIU AT HESED HOUSE

Legal Services that Help Change Lives



Colleen and student meet to discuss projects.

Hesed House has many different partnerships with organizations from around the community. One of the partnerships is with Northern Illinois University. Colleen Boraca, an NIU Law Professor and Hesed House Board of Directors member, runs the NIU Health Advocacy Clinic.

Since opening in January 2014, new NIU Law students join in this work each semester. They work with another Hesed House partner, Aunt Martha's Health and Outreach Clinic. Most of the ways they help our guests is through their focus on social security disability cases. Most recently, Colleen and her students filed their first Criminal Expungement case. These are very specialized services.

“I firmly believe that all lawyers, whether they do this type of work, or no matter what type of work they do, have an absolute obligation to use their talents to help those less fortunate...Coming here helps our students see that there’s a big difference between people who have lawyers and people who don’t.”

Colleen- Clinical Associate Professor and Director, NIU Health Advocacy Clinic

"You will not find a place that does the work of God on earth more. I mean, that with 100% sincerity. I see it every day."

As the needs of our community grow, the NIU Health Advocacy Clinic has also grown. They also have Power of Attorney Days, where they help guests complete the forms and learn about why people need them. Hesed House is thankful for partnerships like this!

Thank you, Colleen and everyone at the NIU Health Advocacy Clinic!



Above: Colleen (far right) and her students serving lunch at Hesed House

Our mission is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give people the chance to hope again.

VOLUNTEERING MAKES A DIFFERENCE



In June, our Family Shelter held an end-of-the-year carnival for our families. Many children enjoyed activities like decorating t-shirts, delicious treats, and fun games.

Volunteers helped make it an extra special event!



Above and Below. Syed volunteering at Hesed House

Meet Syed from Benedictine!

When Syed decided what to do for his spring break, he gave back to his community.

Syed attends Benedictine University. Instead of going to Cancun with his friends, he spent time helping around at Hesed House. "I am thankful for Hesed House because of the insight it has given me and the opportunities presented to me. Going in, it's like what I am doing for people, but they have left an impact on me too."

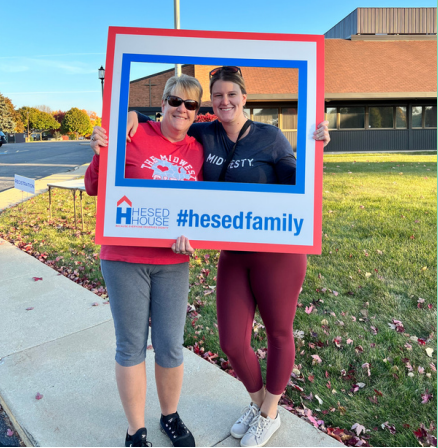
Syed continued volunteering some of his time even after his spring break ended. He sees how important volunteers are at Hesed House.



"They are taking time out of their day to be here, and you can feel the care they are giving and the energy they are putting forward. Even if it's just opening a shower door or serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, everyone is friends here. It's not just that I am doing this because I have to or because I need to. You are doing this for, like, your family."

THANK YOU, SYED, FOR HELPING US CARE FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A HESED HOUSE VOLUNTEER, EMAIL VOLUNTEER@HESEDHOUSE.ORG



Your friends at Hesed House
659 S. River St
Aurora, IL 60506

HERE ARE SOME WAYS
YOU CAN GET INVOLVED
WITH HESSED HOUSE:

- Host A "Hike for Hesed"
- Organize a Donation Drive
- Volunteer
- Donate
- Shop our Wish Lists
- Help share the mission of Hesed House with your friends and family!

For more information, email
donate@hesedhouse.org

DON'T MISS NEXT YEAR'S DERBY PARTY ON MAY 4TH!



On Saturday, May 6th, Hesed House hosted our Annual Derby Party. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors and everyone who attended this impactful event! Your support will truly help bring hope and dignity to our neighbors in need!

Can't wait for next year's event? Neither can we!

Email donate@hesedhouse.org to learn more about the different sponsorship opportunities for next year's Derby Party on May 4th, 2024!

DERBY Party

HELPING HESSED HOUSE END HOMELESSNESS
MAY 6, 2023 | 3 PM | WHITE EAGLE GOLF CLUB

TEENT SPONSOR: **scientel SOLUTIONS**
THE UNIVERSAL INTEGRATOR

PRESENTED BY: **GERALD**
SUBARU OF NAPERVILLE



Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc., dba Hesed House is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our EIN# is 36-3285644. Please contact Lauren Jernigan, Division Director of Development if you would like a tour, or with questions about how you can get involved at donate@hesedhouse.org or (630)914-6428. Learn more at <http://hesedhouse.org>.



659 S. River St, Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 897-2156

