HIGHLIGHTS



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- Letter from Joe
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Summer/Fall 2025
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*Cover photo: A kiddo staying in our Family Shelter with her new backpack for the new school year!

For me, it's the giggles and smiles as our kiddos walk out our doors and climb onto the bus that very first day of school. I'll never get tired of that.

Was I tired that August evening when my daughter and I joined Family Shelter staff to finish packing school supplies into backpacks? Absolutely…but then came the smiles. Were our staff beyond worn out from running multiple shelter locations - both on-site and in hotels - while managing record-high guest counts that have more than doubled in just the last year? From getting our kiddos registered for summer camps? From organizing Kane County Cougars games, skating parties, Cubs outings, and back-to-school bashes? Absolutely…but then came the giggles.

Were Family Shelter parents exhausted after a summer of caring for little ones while also working to rebuild their lives - through jobs, job searches, medical appointments, housing searches, and school registrations? Absolutely…but then came their kiddos sharing stories from their first day with pure joy.



Above: Some of the kiddos in our Family Shelter looking through their new school supplies.

And you…were you drained from all the happenings of your own life when you made that extra trip to the store to buy school supplies to donate? Or when you came here to serve a meal, organized a supply drive with your company, or carefully budgeted so you could support our kiddos starting a new school year? Absolutely…but then came the first-day memories our kiddos will carry with them forever.

Memories filled with anticipation, joy, and learning…**when they so easily could have been something very different…something very much worse.** <u>But they weren't. Because of you.</u>

Those smiles. Those giggles. That excitement. Those memories. That's you.

As family homelessness continues to skyrocket to levels we've never seen before, we will continue to need you. It isn't fair. It isn't right. It just…is. And until the day comes when we can close our doors because there is no longer a need for Hesed House, please know this: I, and everyone here at Hesed House, are deeply grateful for you. Thank you for making Hesed House possible.
Thank you for being Hesed House.

Thank you,
Joe

JOE JACKSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ending homelessness - one person, one family at a time.

Hesed House is the second largest homeless shelter in Illinois, but we are so much more!

Hesed House's Comprehensive Resource Center, footsteps from shelter facilities, provide immediate access to on-site specialists from other social service agencies. These specialists work side-by side with Hesed House Case Managers to expedite the process for returning individuals back to independent lives!

DID YOU KNOW?





HESED HOUSE OUTCOMES: JANUARY - AUGUST 2025

155 Individuals and families obtained housing!

384 Individuals obtained assistance for medical need!

47 Individuals engaged in ongoing treatment for substance abuse or maintained sobriety!

434 Households obtained homeless prevention assistance so they did not have to enter our shelters!



THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE OUR MISSION A REALITY!

“LIFE’S CHALLENGES”

OBRA’S STORY



Above: Obra, former Adult Shelter guest, in front of Hesed House sign.

“Life’s Challenges” is the title of a recent journal entry Obra wrote down during his daily writing sessions. He states “writing is a stress reliever. At home I just start jotting down all kinds of things, and it just relieves a lot of stress for me, and it just brightens up my day”. A couple of years ago, Obra found himself dealing with increasing rent prices and the stresses of not being able to pay child support. Obra heard about Hesed House through some friends he made at the Aurora Transportation Center and decided to seek help. When asked about his first night in the shelter, Obra shared “I didn't sleep too good, you know, just a lot of worrying, a lot of how did I wind up here, and things of that nature. It was kind of rough”.

Obra grew up in Maywood, Illinois and attended Triton Junior College for a couple of years. He found himself having to move to Aurora later in his life to be closer to work. When Obra turned to Hesed House for help, his biggest financial struggle was not being able to pay child support. He did what he had to do to provide for his son and be able to return to independent living.

“When I think about my son and the little things that I had growing up, I just wanted to make sure that he was provided for. [...] I had to take care of it because of who my son is, and I just wanted to be the best dad and just do what I could to help him out. So that was very important to me”. His son graduated college earlier this year and Obra was proud to witness such a great accomplishment!

“To my son: stay encouraged, stay motivated, daddy loves you, I’ll always be in your corner, whatever you do, whatever life choices you make, I always got your back”.

-Obra, former Hesed House guest

Obra stayed in our Adult Shelter for about 2 years. While at Hesed House, he enjoyed the chicken meals the volunteers would prepare and having a good laugh with the friends he made at the shelter. Obra states “I can't continue to stress how much staff has been important to me. I've had a lot of challenges here and I just thank staff for just being in my corner. When I didn't think that I could do it, some people saw something in me, so I just want to say thank you to staff and to everybody in the Hesed Family”.

Obra celebrated a year in his apartment this past August. He is currently working on becoming a supervisor at a local grocery store and looks forward to his daily writing sessions. Hesed House is proud of everything Obra has been able to accomplish. Thank you to our Hesed Family for helping us care for our neighbors in need and for making stories like Obra’s possible every day!



Right: Obra, former Adult Shelter guest, holds the keys to his new apartment!

HESED HOUSE'S ANNUAL DERBY PARTY

MAY 03, 2025





THE CAUSE:

Having served the community for over four decades, Hesed House utilizes more than 7,500+ volunteers and assists over 1,000 individuals and families experiencing and facing homelessness every year. The support received through the Derby Party helps make possible the host of life-changing services offered at Hesed House: meals, shelter, shower facilities, laundry facilities, clothing, counseling, case management, substance abuse counseling, medical services, mental health counseling, legal services, homeless prevention services, and so much more!



THE EVENT:

Hundreds of notable attendees joined together for an afternoon that has become one of the best events in the western suburbs! The event program consisted of a silent and live auction, Derby hat contests, a Humanitarian of the Year Award, and more exciting ways to get involved with the mission of Hesed House! Gathered under a glorious tent with delicious food and drinks, our attendees helped raise much-needed funds and awareness for the work of Hesed House!



THE IMPACT:

On behalf of everyone at Hesed House, we want to thank those who supported this year's Derby Party! You all helped raise over $1 Million to help care for our neighbors in need! Your support makes our work possible every day! Thank you for helping us feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give people the chance to hope again!

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S DERBY PARTY ON MAY 02, 2026!

For more information, email donate@hesedhouse.org!

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

- Organize a Donation Drive
- Help provide a meal in one of our shelters
- Shop our online wish lists
- Help share the mission of Hesed House with your friends and family!

For more information, email donate@hesedhouse.org

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**This artwork was made by kiddos in our Family Shelter.*

Hesed House is a national model for ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time.

It is the culmination of over four decades of strategic evolution from a formerly acceptable model of "eats and sheets" to the area's largest comprehensive resource center for the homeless – a campus of centralized, highly skilled professionals collaborating daily to provide the tools necessary to help individuals and families when they are experiencing homelessness, and once they have returned to independent living.

Serving Aurora and Naperville, along with portions of Kane, Kendall, and DuPage Counties, Hesed House's mission is to **feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and give people the chance to hope again.**

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.