

HIGHLIGHTS

HESED HOUSE



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A CUP OF COFFEE. A CUP OF HOPE.



Joe Jackson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The sky's bright sun brought the illusion of a warm day. Their visible breath told the real story.

It was a Sunday morning last February when I saw the two middle-aged men standing just outside my office window. Each man grasped his own steaming cup of coffee. I watched as they talked, laughed, and sipped their coffees together.

Seeing these men sharing a conversation over a cup of coffee was such a simple sight – but it warmed my soul just like a hot cup of coffee warms your core on a cold, winter day.

You see, over the two weeks beforehand, sights like this were non-existent because of the fierce weather. Not even a hot cup of coffee will keep you warm in what seemed like an endless stream of single-digit temperatures.

But this morning was different. The sun was out. Temperatures were above freezing. The weather was changing for the better.

Little did I realize, their situation was changing for the better, too.

I saw them outside each morning for the next few days. By that next Friday, they were gone – back into places of their own again. I think about those two men just about every morning as I have my own cup of coffee. I think about all of you, as well.

Because of you all and the amazing support you have given Hesed House for nearly 40 years, those men had a place to stay during a bitterly cold, life-threatening Midwest winter. They had the dignity that comes with sharing a hot cup of coffee with a friend. And now, because of you and your support, they have homes of their own again.

As we transition back towards those cold Chicago days and nights, **thank you** for making these moments possible!

"...BECAUSE OF YOU...THEY HAVE HOMES OF THEIR OWN AGAIN."

HESED HOUSE

SHELTER EXPANSION MATCH

HELP US UNLOCK A MATCHING GIFT TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS! EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE WILL BE MATCHED - UP TO HALF A MILLION DOLLARS!

Anna is standing in the new Phase 1 shelter space. She is excited to hear that Phase 2 could be starting soon with your support!

Thank you for partnering with us for this exciting new chapter as Hessed House remains a beacon of hope in our community!



When you partner with Hessed House this holiday season, you're bringing more than just hope and dignity to those we serve!

You're also helping us to build and operate a brand-new expanded shelter space that will provide food, shelter, clothing, and life-changing services for hundreds of people every day!



Every dollar given helps us unlock another dollar - up to \$500,000 - from the NKC Family and Foundation to be used for the construction of an amazing new shelter space! Scan the QR code to learn more!

PARTNERING TO MEET MEDICAL NEEDS

Collaboration with local pharmacy allows our guests to have dignified care.

For half an hour every Thursday, a little magic happens as Sudhir Manek, a pharmacist at Medical Park Pharmacy, and Ann Mansour, our Medical Case Manager at Hesed House, work together to meet guests' medical needs. For the past 10 years, staff like Ann have helped guests with their own unique medical needs and circumstances.

“THIS PARTNERSHIP HELPS WITH GUESTS’ BURDENS AND LIGHTENS THEIR LOAD OF RESPONSIBILITIES. BY OFFERING A SERVICE LIKE THIS, WE SHOW THEM THAT WE CARE FOR THEM.”

- ANN MANSOUR, HESED HOUSE MEDICAL CASE MANAGER



Above: Sudhir and his team at Medical Park Pharmacy are always ready to help us meet the needs of our guests.

Sudhir makes himself available to our guests just like he does for all of the people who come to him.

Sudhir notes that “before I’m a pharmacist, I’m a human being,” and his work with the vulnerable is important. Many times, guests of Hesed House will stop by the pharmacy to ask him medical questions. They know that Sudhir and his team see them as their neighbors, and will treat them just like any other customer. Ann notes that the partnership with Medical Park Pharmacy “helps with guests’ burdens and lightens their load of responsibilities. By offering a service like this, we show them that we care for them. We want to make life easier.” When they help someone, Sudhir and Ann remove problems like long lines of waiting or confusing calls about medication with doctors’ offices. Over the years, thousands of people have had the medical care and support they need through their dedication.

We are so grateful for a partnership that is rooted in bringing dignity to every guest!



Ryan Dowd

DIRECTOR OF
MISSION AND
STRATEGY

RYAN'S RAMBLINGS

Did you know that around 53% of homeless individuals have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)? A TBI is an “invisible disability” because you cannot see it from looking at someone, and it is a very common (but unseen) cause of homelessness. Hesed House understands that there are many reasons that someone becomes homeless, including medical situations like a TBI.

With your support, we are there for those who need us. Thank you!

A NEWLY IMAGINED LIFE

Sara's four years at Hesed House helped her find a new path forward.

Sara's story with Hesed House began in 2017, and she stayed with us for four years as she worked through many obstacles. Almost ten months ago, through a lot of hard work and dedication, she moved back into her very own place. She is grateful for the support she found here that allowed her to hope again.

Like many of our guests, she had no idea what to expect when she walked through the doors of our Emergency Overnight Shelter. She felt confused, sad, and unsure of her future. The volunteers and staff who came alongside her provided her with care and compassion. She became a better cook, found her life partner, made new friendships, and much more as she got the help she needed for a new chapter in her story. In time, she felt motivated to re-launch her life as she imagined, thanks to supporters like you!

“HESED DOESN'T LEAVE PEOPLE HANGING. THEY WILL HELP YOU, MOTIVATE YOU, AND BE THE RESOURCE YOU NEED.”



Above: Sara visiting Hesed House on her way home from work Summer 2021



Above: Sara at Hesed House's large tent kitchen in Winter 2020.

The kitchen is usually filled with staff and volunteers* and she would often help serve meals to care for others staying in the shelter with her. These days, you will see her back at Hesed House volunteering* or getting additional resources as she may need. She wants supporters of Hesed House to know, "Hesed doesn't leave people hanging. They will help you, motivate you, and be the resource that you need."

We are so proud of you, Sara!

*Note, due to COVID-19 many volunteer opportunities have been temporarily reduced.



LEARNING TO COOK MAKES A NEW PLACE INTO A HOME!



Above: New food coordinator, Nora, with guest Kevin in the Overnight Emergency Shelter kitchen.

A kitchen is more than a room. It is a gathering place, and a space to make memories! For one former guest, his new place didn't quite feel like home. He realized it had been a very long time since he cooked for himself. Fortunately, Amanda was interning with us and able to spend some special time developing cooking classes.

As she explained, "Cooking skills are important especially when someone is on their own. Since guests get their meals provided while they are in program, they may not have the skills or knowledge to cook for themselves once they are no longer a guest at Hesed House. Cooking skills can give guests a way to practice a practical skill and gain some independence. This has the potential to help build confidence and promote healthy eating."

Months later, our team continues to work with our guests as they help in the kitchen. Nora, our new Food Coordinator, has embraced a similar outlook and we look forward to continuing this program as we support our guests in their chapters beyond Hesed House!

HIKE FOR HESED 2021 | MANY STEPS, ONE COMMUNITY

This year, due to the pandemic, we invited you to have your own Hike for Hesed!

Thank you to Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Ginger Creek Community Church, Scientel Solutions, "Dan the Man," Team DeRosa, St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, Dick's Sporting Goods, The Olenski Family, our sponsors and many others who donated and had an event!

Email hike@hesedhouse.org to learn how you can have a Hike for Hesed yourself this spring!

PRESENTED BY:



[HTTPS://HESEDHIKE21.GIVESMART.COM](https://hesedhike21.givesmart.com)



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