

HIGHLIGHTS

HESED HOUSE

INSIDE

- New Leadership
- More Room to Serve
- Ringing the "Gone Gong"

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EXCITING UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I was in Brazil, walking down a busy sidewalk when it struck me...

A man—wrapped in dirty blue blankets—huddled beneath neatly trimmed bushes. It could have been a scene in any American city. *Except it was Brazil.*

- Homelessness looks very similar everywhere in the world.

Hesed House has been spectacularly effective at ending homelessness for our neighbors.

The world needs Hesed House - its spirit and knowledge and strategies.

You may know that a few years ago, I started training organizations on homelessness. I have worked with police departments, libraries, nonprofits, hospitals and more. I have been all across the United States and Canada, as well as Brazil and a planned trip to Australia (cancelled by Covid).

Global demand for my training has grown exponentially.

Having an opportunity to change the way the world treats the most vulnerable is exciting. It has reached the point, though, where it is not possible to be *Executive Director* of Hesed House, too.

"The world needs Hesed House..."

I'm not going anywhere, but my role at Hesed House is changing.

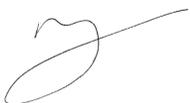
- I am now *Director of Mission and Strategy*, focusing on high-level strategy and vision.

- Joe Jackson, our *Managing Director*, has taken over the position of *Executive Director*.

Joe is amazing! I first met Joe several years ago when he was a student in two Master's level college courses I was teaching: "Servant Leadership" and "Nonprofit Management". In his 2.5 years at Hesed House, Joe has thrown himself into the mission of Hesed House - including living in the "COVID Hotel" for many weeks last spring. He also oversaw every aspect of the additional shelter space we just opened (you'll read about in this issue).

I look forward to continuing to work with you—and Joe!—to serve the most vulnerable members of our community (and world!)

Peace,



Ryan Dowd, *Director of Mission and Strategy*

"Joe is amazing!"

MORE ROOM TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED

Hesed House has expanded into three shelter spaces!

Hesed House has a long history of adapting to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve. Inspired by that history, we recently opened a third shelter space in our 680 S. River Street building. The new shelter increases the number of guests we can safely serve during this pandemic.

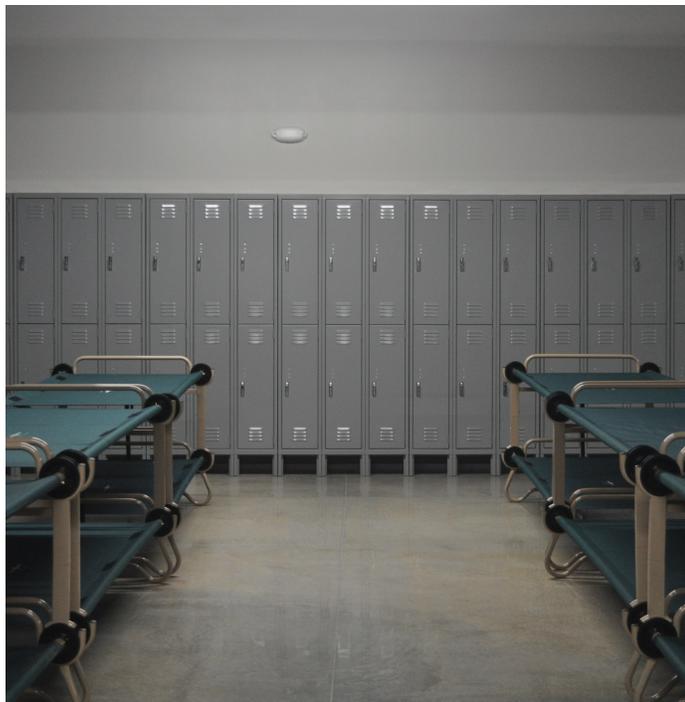
It was clear that for Hesed House to move through this complicated time, we needed to pull off a miracle of sorts. Fortunately, you, our community, came alongside us in big and small ways. With critical funding in place, we broke ground to turn a large portion of our warehouse into a third shelter. Less than 50 days later, staff gathered with Father Tim Piasaki to bless the completed space.

Father Tim has been a part of the fabric of Hesed House for much of our existence. Many years ago, he and Hesed leadership had a dream for the 680 S. River St. building. Their efforts resulted in the creation of the Comprehensive Resource Center. The CRC has been a one-stop shop to end homelessness for thousands of most vulnerable neighbors!

This new shelter space builds on that vision of ending homelessness for our guests. It gives our guests hope for tomorrow. It acts as a place for more people to find refuge, to grow and recover, and to focus on ending their homelessness.



Above: Cots are prepared in advance of the first night of sleeping in the new shelter.



Above: Lockers allow our guests to safely store their personal items without having to keep their belongings with them throughout the day.

"...we refuse to wait or stand idle while those who need us suffer."

Whether someone has COVID-19, struggles with addiction, or is healing from trauma, we have a place for them. And it is more than just a place. We have a community and staff dedicated to ensuring we will always have the heart and mission to meet people's unique needs to help them.

As Sister Rose Marie challenged naysayers during our founding in the 1980s, "are we going to wait for someone to freeze to death?" While the challenges we face continue to change, we still defiantly say "no" to waiting for tragedy to inspire action. Hesed House remains proactive in meeting the needs of those who suffer. **We celebrate this third shelter space for the hope it brings.** Thank you for standing with us in this holy calling.

A PANDEMIC WON'T STOP US

Volunteers and Donors continue to help us serve the most vulnerable!

Hesed House just isn't the same without you - our amazing volunteers and supporters - on-site with us each day. Many thanks to all who joined with us over the holiday season by making financial donations, holding special donation drives, and supporting in other ways! We look forward to when we can be together again! Even as COVID-19 continues to threaten the health of our community, Hesed House remains a beacon of hope and a safe, warm place for people to turn!



Above: Donors and volunteers continue to drop off items from our immediate needs list to help us serve those in need!



Above: With a big smile, a young guest happily rang the "Gone Gong" as his family moved out of Hesed House.



Above: Joe Jackson dressed up as the Grinch and surprised our families thanks to the generosity of donors and the makeup skills of PADS Staff member Alex Wilkin.

RINGING THE "GONE GONG"!

The "Gone Gong" is a very special instrument at Hesed House! When someone moves out and back into their own housing, they have the opportunity to ring the bell! **As people hear the ringing across our campus, everyone smiles and celebrates that with your help we are continuing to end homelessness - one person, one family at a time!**

A NEW CHAPTER



Dear Hesed Family,

My life changed forever on August 13, 2018.

Just moments prior, doubt and unrest consumed my thoughts. *Was this the right decision for my family? Was I going to let Hesed House down? What if this doesn't work out?*

Things that typically brought me joy – a beautiful bright blue morning sky, my large Dunkin' coffee, a fun song on the radio – all failed to make a dent in the anxiousness within me.

Then, just before 9:00 am, I found myself standing in the Hesed House lobby between two signs. To my left hung a sign covering key moments from the almost forty year old history of Hesed House. To my right, a sign emblazoned with Micah 6:8, "And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice and to love Hesed (mercy and compassion) and to walk humbly with your God."

As I read those signs, all the anxiety left my body. It became clear this was absolutely the right decision for my family and me. I realized I would never allow myself to let Hesed House down. **I was now a part of something bigger than anything I had done before.** I was a part of the mission of Hesed House.

As I transition into my new role of Executive Director, I still find comfort, but also perspective, from that spot in our lobby. The history of Hesed House humbles me. I am following in the footsteps of remarkable visionaries like Sister Rose Marie Lorentzen and Ryan Dowd.

Under their leadership, Hesed House was not only created, but it became a **national model for ending homelessness.** Thanks to them and countless others, thousands of men, women, and children are no longer homeless.

"I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to lead Hesed House!"

The Micah 6:8 sign reminds me, while the world will always need Hesed (mercy and compassion), it should not need Hesed House. If our world had more Hesed, neither homelessness nor Hesed House would exist.

Until that day comes when homelessness no longer exists, I promise you Hesed House will be here serving our most vulnerable neighbors. We will serve by enacting our mission of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and giving people a chance to hope again. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to lead Hesed House!

I look forward to working with all of you to achieve our vision of ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time!

Joe Jackson, Executive Director

A VIRTUAL MAGIC EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER!

Don't miss Netflix's Justin Willman in an exclusive performance as he joins with Hesed House!



PRESENTED BY

Even though we can't hold our
Champions of Hope Breakfast or our
Derby Party, we invite you to join us for:

HOME IS WHERE THE MAGIC IS

March 14 - 4 pm

Learn more and get your tickets today at
www.magic21.givesmart.com



THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for the amazing generosity of our donors and volunteers.
Visit [HTTP://HESEDHOUSE.ORG](http://HESEDHOUSE.ORG) to stay updated with the latest news!

If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved, reach out to
Lauren Jernigan, Division Director of Development
at (630)914-6428 or donate@hesedhouse.org.

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