

HIGHLIGHTS

HESED HOUSE



INSIDE

- Meet "Dog"
- Homeless to Homeowner
- Welcome Back Volunteers!

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MEET "DOG", THE 37-YEAR-OLD STUFFED ANIMAL

Dog belongs to my wife Tricia. He solidified his forever spot in Tricia's life during her childhood when she didn't have a home.

Sometimes she stayed in a car. Other times it was on the couch or floor of a friend of her mom's. Sometimes her mom was there, sometimes she wasn't... **Dog was always there so she wasn't alone.**

Tricia would get nervous to return to school after being gone for a few weeks when something pulled her and her mom elsewhere for a while... **Dog was always there to help her calm down.**

Classmates shamed her for wearing the same, sometimes dirty clothes to school. So did patrons at a pizzeria when the owner made 6-year-old Tricia bus tables because her mom came up less than two dollars short paying for their dinner... **Dog never judged her.**

There were nights Tricia cried because her belly hurt from not eating the last few days... **Dog was always there to help her fall asleep.**

Dog gave Tricia comfort and hope during a time otherwise filled with trauma and anguish.



Thanks to you, our guests don't need a "Dog". Thanks to you, our guests have....

...delicious, nutritious food to fill their stomachs and spirits.

...a safe place to stay during harsh Midwest weather and a global pandemic.

...clothing, washers and dryers, and reinvigorating showers.

...a medical clinic, behavioral and mental health counseling, job training, and other critical services to help them get on their feet again.

**Thanks to you they have Hessed House.
And thanks to you, one day they won't need Hessed House.**

Thank you for your incredible support in making Hessed House a reality and for joining us in our fight to end homelessness- one person, one family at a time!

Joe Jackson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOMELESS TO HOMEOWNER

After a move went awry, time at Hesed House gave a fresh start.

When a move to Aurora for a new job brought unexpected and overwhelming expenses, Katrina, a veteran and mom of 3, and her family had nowhere to turn. Their six months at Hesed House provided them a safe place to live and plan for what would come next. Katrina flourished at her new job, and they soon bought a home of their own.

Between moving expenses and being unable to find affordable housing, Katrina and her family spent several months living in a camper. "It was just so hard. I blame it on my young age... not knowing that the cost of living would be so different from where I grew up. I learned that lesson the hard way."

In the camper, they struggled to make ends meet and pay fees at local campgrounds. "I was about to give up...but then I was welcomed with open arms and gained a new family at Hesed House."

"I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP...BUT THEN I WAS WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS AND GAINED A NEW FAMILY AT HESED HOUSE."

Katrina credits divine intervention with introducing her to staff from Hesed House. "This is how you know God is with you...Meeting them this past summer was the best thing that ever could have happened to me... [Hesed House] provided everything we needed."

It was important for her family to stay together, especially for their kids. Your support of Hesed House ensured that as well as dignity, hope, and support. "They didn't make us feel out of place...They had a playground, things for the kids to do."



Above: Katrina proudly holding her key in the kitchen of their home!

"I can't even express the gratitude I have," she shared when thinking about the support from Hesed House.

Today, Katrina continues to excel in her role at the U.S. Postal Service and the family is doing great. She tearfully shared, "if Hesed House did not exist...I would have been jobless, homeless, and...I can't even imagine what I would have done...it just would have been bad."

For those facing difficulties in their own lives, Katrina shared, "this is just a moment in your life. And things will get better, and don't give up."

Now that her family is back on their feet, she plans to "give back and become a donor or serve time to help. I know that my time or my donations will really go to helping people. Families and individuals, just like me."



MOTIVATED FOR CHANGE

Former Guest Empowered to Make a Difference.

At 12 years old, Maria Vasquez walked through the doors of Hesed House for the first time with her mother. Here she found care and compassion as well as inspiration for her life's calling.

Maria felt pure exhaustion when they first moved in and recalls how important it was to have a safe place to rest. Her 11 months at Hesed brought her many fond memories, including her 13th birthday celebration.

"I'm thankful for Hesed House because they have given me an opportunity at a better life. They gave me a place to live, resources, a roof over my head, friendships, and even a scholarship to college."

These days, you will find Maria at Aurora University.

She is working hard to earn her political science degree. "College has been something I've been dreaming about since I was a kid. And it's definitely upheld the picture I had painted for myself."

For Maria, there are many ways she draws on her past as she looks to the future. Her advice to younger girls facing similar situations is "to focus on school...because that's what got me through it."

"...BEING HOMELESS GAVE ME A BIGGER INCENTIVE TO WANT TO WORK HARDER FOR MYSELF. AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD FOR OTHERS."

Maria has set a goal of working in the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. Her vision is to help reform policies and create change for those in need. When asked where this passion began, Maria explained, "being homeless gave me a bigger incentive to want to work harder for myself. And make a difference in the world for others. Like [Hesed House] did for my family and me."

We can't wait to see where Maria's path takes her and the lives that we know she will help along the way.

RYAN'S RAMBLINGS

Unfortunately, homelessness impacts more and more children each year. This not only is complicated for their physical well-being but can have a huge impact on their learning. Fortunately, our guests are able to work with case managers and schools to support students and families no matter how long they are with us.

When people ask "how long can someone stay at Hesed House?" there is no single answer. Of the guests at Hesed House:

- 50% will stay 2 weeks or less. Typically, an economic crisis forced them into homelessness.
- 42% will stay from 2 weeks to 1 year. They often have one major life barrier that they need help with, like an illness or legal concern.
- 8% will stay 1 year or longer and in these cases typically have multiple barriers keeping them from independent living.

Ryan Dowd

DIRECTOR OF
MISSION AND STRATEGY





WELCOME BACK VOLUNTEERS!

For over 39 years, volunteers have made a positive impact in the lives of everyone who has walked through the doors of Hesed House. We have missed seeing your smiling faces, and are excited to announce that we have fully reopened our volunteer schedule!

Get involved today by reaching out to Adam Zapfel, our new Volunteer & Community Engagement Coordinator!
Email: azapfel@hesedhouse.org | Phone at (630)897-2156 ext. 516

ONSITE & OFFSITE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

*Please note: proof of vaccination status and masks are still required for on-site volunteering.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES DON'T STOP THERE!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG LEADERS
-12 YEARS & UP- TO JOIN OUR JUNIOR
AMBASSADOR CLUB!**

Members of the Junior Ambassador Club will partner with us in efforts to raise awareness about the work we do, organize donation drives that meet the needs of our guests, and more!



JUNIOR AMBASSADOR CLUB
- because everyone deserves dignity -



JOIN OUR TEAM!

AT HESED HOUSE, MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE ISN'T A FLIGHT OF FANCY - IT DRIVES US IN EVERY ACTION WE TAKE. WE TRULY BELIEVE WE ARE GOING TO END HOMELESSNESS.

Visit <http://hesedhouse.org/careers> to explore current full-time and part-time openings!



HELP HESD HOUSE END HOMELESSNESS
[HTTP://DERBY22.GIVESMART.COM](http://DERBY22.GIVESMART.COM)

TENT SPONSOR:



PRESENTED BY:



It's a party with a purpose!

For more than a decade, the Derby Party has helped to raise much-needed funds to support the work of Hesed House. Through different programs, Hesed House helps hundreds of men, women, and children every day!

Due to the pandemic, it's been 3 years since we gathered together. In that time Hesed House has celebrated many outcomes:

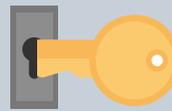
OVER 165,000

Nights of emergency shelter provided!



OVER 1,340

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



OVER 500

Individuals & families obtained housing and returned to independent living!



As the needs in our community grow, Hesed House is committed to meeting the unique needs of our vulnerable neighbors! With your support, hundreds of men, women, and children in Aurora, Naperville, and neighboring counties will be able to turn to Hesed House for support!

Thank you to our sponsors!



THE SCHROECK FAMILY



THE PREVITI FAMILY



THE BHATT FAMILY



659 S. River St, Aurora, IL 60506
hesedhouse.org

