



HIGHLIGHTS

Preventing Homelessness – A True Account

Thea was days away from becoming homeless but is now back on track thanks to you.

It was late October 2017 when Thea realized she had only seven days to figure out whether she would be able to keep her apartment. She was in the final stages of graduate school to become a social worker. Her mother had been helping, but when her mother lost her job, everything was thrown into disarray.

With just days to spare, Thea got a call that she had a job offer, but she wouldn't get paid in time to avoid an eviction. "After I realized I got the job, I knew I had a chance to catch up, but I needed help."

"Thank you for making me feel like I mattered."

Thea contacted Hesed House's Carpenter's Place Homeless Prevention Program, came in to complete documentation and qualified for rental assistance. "I got to keep my apartment. It is just a little studio but it is my little sanctuary."



After receiving her rental assistance, it only took Thea three months to get back on track paying all her bills on time after starting her job (which she is still at today). This is her message

to you, "Thank you for making me feel like I mattered. Everyone deserves to feel human, to feel like they matter, you made that possible for me on that day."



Special Insert Enclosed

Dear People of Hesed,

“What do we do about people who choose to be homeless?”

Maybe it is the low unemployment rate or the explosive growth of tent cities popping up around the country, but I’m being asked this question more often than ever before.

My answer is simple: Nothing.

We shouldn’t do anything about people who choose to be homeless because no one chooses to be homeless. I have met thousands of individuals while they were homeless and not a single one chose it.

At Hesed House there are three “types” of homelessness:

- ➔ 50% of people stay 2 weeks or less – They certainly don’t choose homelessness.
- ➔ 42% of people stay 2 weeks to 1 year – They certainly don’t choose homelessness.
- ➔ 8% of people are with us for longer than 1 year.

This last type is what the federal government calls “chronic homelessness.” On its face, being homeless for years can look like a choice, until you consider two factors:

- ➔ Mental illness – A person who is unemployable because of untreated schizophrenia has not made a “choice.”
- ➔ Trauma – Many chronically homeless individuals suffer from C-PTSD (complex post traumatic stress disorder), a particularly difficult-to-treat form of PTSD caused by repeated traumatic events. Trauma is not a choice.

Substance abuse certainly factors in, but I didn’t include it as one of the most important factors, because usually the substance abuse is an attempt to cope with mental illness or trauma.

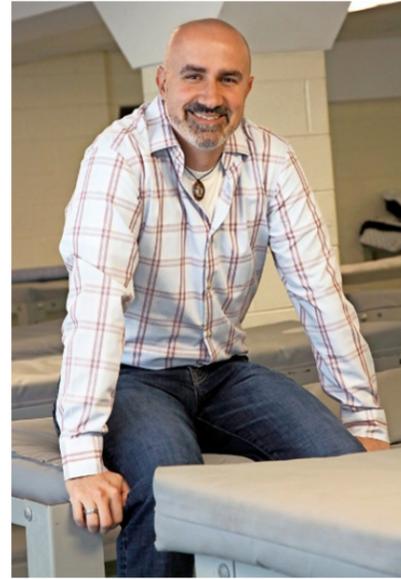
So, the answer to the question of what to do about the “homeless by choice” is easy. A far more difficult (and important) question is:

“What do we do about people who struggle from severe mental illness and trauma?”

Answering that question is at the core of Hesed House’s reason for being. When you volunteer, donate or pray for Hesed House, you are part of helping to find an answer to that question.

Peace,

Ryan J. Dowd, Atty., MPA
Volunteer, Donor & Executive Director



...not a single one chose it.

Longtime Volunteer Works to End Homelessness

Tom assembles other volunteers to assist Hesed House residents individually.

Coming in at least twice per week during the PADS AM (And More) Daytime Drop-In Center program, Tom VanderMeulen has assembled regular daytime volunteers to provide individualized services. His amazing team (the “Advocacy Volunteer Corps” or “AVC”) became an important extension of our case managers and program staff efforts.

“One Person, One Step at a Time.”

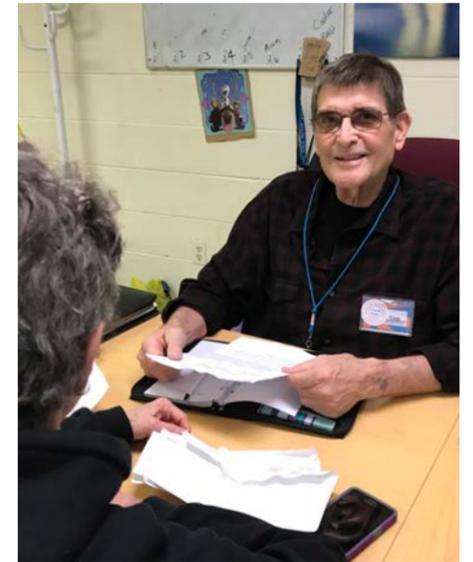
Among their many achievements through the years: mentoring, transportation, advocacy, obtaining id’s, time management, budgeting, voter registration, medical case management, guest-authored publications, job searches, weekly TED Talks, providing community volunteer opportunities for guests, and the popular annual NFL Pool. Tom humbly shared that his

underlying philosophy through all of these services matches Hesed House’s – “one person, one step at a time.”

This past July, Tom retired from his volunteer duties. He shares many fond memories of his past 7 years here and continues to stay in touch with many of the staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the guests whose lives he touched in such meaningful and profound ways. Tom states, “I found much enjoyment with the people, they became my friends, and even some, my family.”

No one knows more accurately the impact that Tom has made on their lives than Kevin, a former Hesed House guest and current volunteer. Kevin states, “Tom was such an integral part of my life at Hesed and still today. He has really helped so many!”

Tom’s wife, Jean, had planted the seed for working with homeless



Tom ready to meet the needs of the day at Hesed!

individuals and families. His years of walking along side our guests is such a fitting tribute to his wife’s legacy of giving back and serving the least of these. To learn more about how you can be involved with the AVC, please email volunteer@hesedhouse.org.

Happy to be at Home

With your support, Terry is housed and employed.

Fifty-three year old Terry was not always disabled, he became “legally deaf” as a child and came to Hesed House just over 4 years ago. During his entire time with us, Terry rode his bike 10 miles round trip regularly to his job across town where he recently celebrated his 5 year anniversary. Thanks to your support, earlier this year Terry received an apartment through our LIGHT-House Permanent Supportive Housing program where he continues to receive case management services to ensure he stays housed.

Both of Terry’s case workers have shared that he is very independent and love working with him. He is ecstatic to be in his own home and takes so much pride in it. As evident from the many commendation badges prominently displayed on his work vest, customers and management continue to recognize him for his hard work and dedication.

Terry wanted each of you to know that “Volunteers make a difference!”



Terry proudly wearing his recognizable work vest.

Counting Miracles: Successes from January 2018 – August 2018



TOTAL OF ALL 47 OUTCOMES
1360

The Three “Facilities” Amigos



Curtis, Mark and John

This threesome was recently recognized for their extraordinary continued volunteer service after completing the HEAT (Hesed Employment and Training) program. Their teamwork and expertise has made a huge impact on the many capital improvement projects this past year allowing us to save resources and time from having to hire outside vendors.

Thank you to all who supported the HEAT Team and the many exciting changes happening right now at Hesed House!

Upcoming Special Events

The 2nd Annual AGWS Great Gatsby Gala

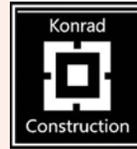
Presented by:



Friday, October 26, 2018 | Hotel Arista, Naperville
7-10 pm
AGWS.GIVESMART.COM

O'Malley's Holiday Fundraiser to benefit Hesed House

Presented by:



Saturday, December 15, 2018

Raffles, Door Prizes, and 50/50 Raffles All Day Long!
Doors Open at 11 am | Dinner Served at 6 pm

Limited seating and sponsorships still available.

OMALLEYS.GIVESMART.COM

For more information on these events, please contact
Lauren Jernigan at (630) 897-2156, ext 514 or
ljernigan@hesedhouse.org.



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Aurora, IL 60506-5551

THANK YOU! We are so thankful for the love and generosity of our donors, staff and volunteers. If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact Director of Development Michelle Kallevik, CFRE at 630-914-6428 or donate@hesedhouse.org.

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Hollywood Goes Hessed

Earlier this year, Hessed House Executive Director, Ryan Dowd, got a Facebook “friend request” from Emilio Estevez (of Breakfast Club fame).

As luck would have it, the Hollywood actor and filmmaker recently made a movie about homelessness. After learning that Ryan is a nationally recognized, leading expert on homelessness, Emilio sought his

support and assistance in raising awareness for the cause. To date, Ryan and Emilio have done five public sessions together in the United States and Canada.

Why is this important to Hessed House? Well, aside from it being really cool that Mighty Duck star Emilio Estevez knows who we are and what we do, Ryan has been given amazing opportunities to

reach literally hundreds of thousands of people about homelessness – teaching others how to more compassionately and empathetically work with homeless individuals – and will increase more financial support for Hessed House.

Now for the star-struck readers, we have some pretty awesome photos from a few of the events they have done together.



Q&A session for the movie, “the public,” at the Toronto International Film Festival

From left to right

- **Emilio Estevez** (Breakfast Club, Young Guns, The Mighty Ducks)
- **Jena Malone** (Hunger Games, Batman v. Superman, Pride & Prejudice, Saved!)
- **Christian Slater** (Heathers, Interview with a Vampire, Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves)

- **Michael K. Williams** (12 Years a Slave, HBO’s The Wire and Boardwalk Empire)
- **Ryan Dowd** (Hessed House Executive Director)
- **Alec Baldwin** (The Hunt for Red October, 30 Rock, Saturday Night Live)

Also starring in the movie (but not pictured above):

- **Taylor Schilling** (Orange is the New Black, Argo, Atlas Shrugged)

- **Jeffrey Wright** (Hunger Games, Casino Royale, HBO’s Westworld)
- **Gabrielle Union** (Bring it On, Bad Boys II, 10 Things I Hate About You)
- **Che “Rhymefest” Smith** (Grammy Award-winning musician)
- **Jacob Vargas** (Sons of Anarchy, Traffic, Heaven is for Real)

To see the full Toronto International Film Festival Q&A on Youtube: go to www.hessedhouse.org/publicqanda

About the movie: “the public”

Description of the film “the public” from IMDb.com:

In “the public” an unusually bitter Arctic blast has made its way to downtown Cincinnati and the front doors of the public library where the action of the film takes place. The story revolves around the library patrons, many of whom are homeless, mentally ill and marginalized, as well as an

exhausted and overwhelmed staff of librarians who often build emotional connections and a sense of obligation to care for those regular patrons.

At odds with library officials over how to handle the extreme weather event, the Patrons turn the building into a homeless shelter for the night by staging an “Occupy” sit in. What begins as an act of civil disobedience becomes a stand off

with police and a rush-to-judgment media constantly speculating about what’s really happening. This David versus Goliath story tackles some of our nation’s most challenging issues, homelessness and mental illness and sets the drama inside one of the last bastions of democracy-in-action: your public library.

To see a trailer of the film, go to: www.hesedhouse.org/publicmovie



Alec Baldwin explains the dramatic increase of homelessness in New York City, while Ryan listens in.



Off the stage everyone pauses for a quick picture!



We’re not sure what Ryan said here at this Q&A, but Emilio obviously thought it was funny!



Emilio and Ryan messing around with Canadian television and radio personality, George Stroumboulopoulos.