

# HESED HOUSE



Summer 2024  
Volume 36,  
Number 1

# HIGHLIGHTS

*Equal justice under law.*

Those words are etched into the U.S. Supreme Court Building. They hung over my daughter Claire and I most of the morning of April 22 as we joined the Johnson v. Grants Pass rally in Washington, D.C.

**The Court ultimately ruled that people experiencing homelessness can be penalized, ticketed, and charged with a crime for sleeping outdoors...EVEN WHEN THERE IS NO AVAILABLE SHELTER IN THE AREA.**

Justice – particularly the definition that reads “treatment that is morally right or fair” – is a driving force of nearly all we do here at Hesed House.

To us, there is nothing morally right or fair about any man, woman, or child experiencing homelessness – shelter or unsheltered.

I went to Washington, D.C. to fight and be a voice for those we serve.

But that rally alone will not bring justice or end homelessness...

**The fight that happens each and every day right here at Hesed House will.**

**And we need each and every one of you reading this in that fight.**

To each of the vulnerable men, women, and kiddos we serve at Hesed House and on the streets...

Your time, energy, support, donations, volunteering...

...bring dignity

...re-affirm their humanity

...help them move another step closer to ending  
their homelessness

You are on the front-lines for justice for our neighbors in-need.

Homelessness is impacting more people than we have ever seen in our 41 years of existing.

Your support is more crucial than ever.

*The question is, will you answer the call?*



**JOE JACKSON**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shown Right: Hesed Staff member Bre McMenamain joined Joe and Claire at the rally while she was out in DC

No funds from Hesed House were used for staff travels.  
To stay updated on how your partnership is making a difference, or to learn more about how to get involved or what this ruling means, contact [donate@hesedhouse.org](mailto:donate@hesedhouse.org).



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

# HESED HOUSE STAFF BECOMES LIKE FAMILY

In October of 2018, Shannon realized she had nowhere to go. She had just gone through an emergency appendix surgery and her then-partner left her stranded in the hospital. Her only choice was to take a cab to Hesed House at 1 in the morning. After staying in our shelter, she has returned to independent living and still returns to connect with our staff whom she grew close to.

Shannon's journey with Hesed House was not a simple one. She went through many difficult situations but she always knew she could count on the staff to be there for her.

**“I still consider this like my second family [...] This is the healthiest area for me...I know what to do now and I'm not losing what I have”.**

During her time at Hesed House, Shannon found herself in a complicated relationship and at times staff helped her navigate it. Additionally, sometimes our guests will try a new living situation and it doesn't work out. As Shannon states, **“I kept going back [to Hesed after leaving] but the staff accepted me and didn't turn me away”.**

One of Shannon's favorite memories was when she was asked to help serve dinner during Christmas time. She enjoyed being a part of helping in that special celebration. Now that she is in her own home, she looks forward to being able to cook and share a meal with loved ones over the upcoming fall and holiday season.

**Thank you for helping make sure that the men, women, and children who come to Hesed House like Shannon have somewhere to turn to in their time of need!**



*Above: Pictures of Shannon and staff member, Carolyn.*

# VOLUNTEER BAKES FOR HESED HOUSE EVERY WEEK!



About 4 years ago, Kathy Smith volunteered with her church, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church located in Naperville, IL. Kathy and her church group would prepare food once a month for our guests and then drop it off to be served by staff due to the fact that at the time we were unable to have on-site volunteering because of the global pandemic.

After some time, Kathy decided that she wanted to do something more for Hesed House. Kathy explained, "I love to bake. So it's a good way to combine two loves together."

Since that time, Kathy has been delivering over 100 freshly baked cookies *every week!* Our staff look forward to her visits because we know that sharing her treats shows our guests that they truly matter. If our math is right, she's made some 21,000 cookies - *and counting!*

**"It's important to give back and when I was coming here, I could see the people and there's nothing like a homemade cookie."**

Thank you, Kathy, for not only all of your time and effort you put into your baking but for caring for our guests in such a special way! Your kindness brings hope and dignity to everyone at Hesed House!

Above: Pictures of Kathy and some of her cookie deliveries!

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:



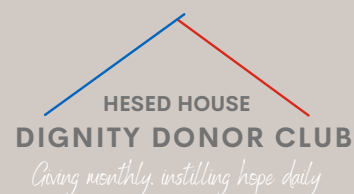
VOLUNTEER ON-SITE



JUNIOR AMBASSADOR CLUB  
- because everyone deserves dignity -



MANY STEPS, ONE COMMUNITY  
HOST A "HIKE FOR HESED"



*Caring monthly, instilling hope daily*



SHOP FROM OUR WISHLISTS OR HOST A DONATION DRIVE

To learn more about how to get involved with Hesed House, visit [www.hesedhouse.org](http://www.hesedhouse.org) or email [volunteer@hesedhouse.org](mailto:volunteer@hesedhouse.org).

# UPDATE: NEW MEN'S SHELTER SPACE OPENING SOON!

Hesed House has been under construction the past couple of years. The new shelter in our 680 building will increase our overall capacity for men, women, and families that turn to us each day. It will also allow our guest smoother access to the many services we provide to help meet their unique needs.



*Above: Different stages of our shelter expansion project through the years. Thanks again to all of our partners & donors for generously funding this project!*



Without your generous support, we would not be able to make this project a reality!

# THANK YOU!



Your Friends at Hesed House  
659 S. River St  
Aurora, IL 60506

## HESED HOUSE OUTCOMES JANUARY - JULY 2024

- **292** households obtained homeless prevention assistance so they did not have to enter our shelters.
- **27** individuals reunited with families.
- **148** individuals and families obtained housing.
- **97** individuals obtained identification.
- **299** individuals obtained assistance for medical need.

To view more outcomes, visit [www.hesedhouse.org](http://www.hesedhouse.org)

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT OUR ANNUAL DERBY PARTY!



On Saturday, May 4th, Hesed House hosted our Annual Derby Party. Thank you to all of our generous sponsors and everyone who attended this impactful event! Your support will truly help bring hope and dignity to our neighbors in need!

## Can't wait for next year's event? Neither can we!

Email [donate@hesedhouse.org](mailto:donate@hesedhouse.org) to learn more about the different sponsorship opportunities for next year's Derby Party on May 03, 2025!



Scan the QR code to view photos from this year's Derby Party!

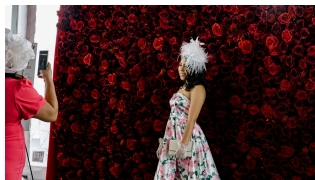
HELPING HESED HOUSE END HOMELESSNESS

MAY 4, 2024 | 3 PM | WHITE EAGLE GOLF CLUB

TECH SPONSOR:



PRESENTED BY:



Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc., dba Hesed House is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our EIN# is 36-3285644. Please contact Lauren Jernigan, Division Director of Development if you would like a tour, or with questions about how you can get involved at [donate@hesedhouse.org](mailto:donate@hesedhouse.org) or (630)914-6428. Learn more at <http://hesedhouse.org>.



659 S. River St, Aurora, IL 60506  
(630) 897-2156

