



# AURORA

— Housing our Homeless —



## 2020 Annual Report





## OUR MISSION:

Creating solutions to prevent and to end chronic homelessness in our community.

## OUR VISION:

We believe that everyone has value and needs a safe, decent affordable place to call home.

## OUR PLEDGE:

Aurora pledges to be actively involved in:

### Direct Services:

Providing services to the homeless and near homeless in our community, including case management hours

### Prevention:

Promoting services that prevent homelessness

### Community Awareness:

Educating the community on homelessness

### Collaboration:

Facilitating collaboration among agencies, churches, schools, businesses, etc.

### Advocacy:

Advocating for the social and economic changes necessary to make ending homelessness a reality

## OUR CORE VALUES:

### Collaboration:

Working together, united in action

### Vision:

The ability to dream and serve as a catalyst

### Integrity:

Interactions are based on Social Work Code of Ethics, honoring HMIS Privacy Practices

### Competence:

Emphasis on training, use of evidence-based practices

### Passion:

Enthusiasm, strong desire, extravagant fondness

### Determination:

Strongly motivated to succeed

### Compassion:

Understanding that the experience of homelessness can result in emotional distress, including trauma

## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Never could I have imagined when I assumed the role of Executive Director on January 20, 2020, that our community, state, and nation would face a global pandemic that would threaten the health, well-being, and livelihoods of us all. What we all experienced, and continue to experience to this day, has challenged us in ways we couldn't fathom during these unprecedented times. Looking back, these challenges presented Aurora and our community a tremendous opportunity for increased collaboration, necessitated innovation, and elevated social service work in response to the call to action for the individuals, families, and seniors who were impacted so heavily.

Throughout it all in 2020, Aurora never wavered in its pursuit to prevent and end homelessness. Our team operated safely and diligently to ensure the clients we served had every opportunity to find housing and improve their lives in spite of the challenges we all faced. In fact, Aurora was an organization that elevated its services by deploying the COVID Homeless Prevention & Diversion Program which has helped 252 families avoid eviction and the homeless experience — and that number continues to grow today. I am extremely proud of our team for their compassion and dedication to the clients and the community we serve. They are truly heroes for the work they carried out in 2020.

As we look forward, Aurora will build upon the partnerships that were newly formed and those that were strengthened. We will continue to lead efforts and provide programming that strives to eliminate the homeless experience in Evansville and Southwestern Indiana. And we will not quit until the most vulnerable in our community have a safe, decent, and affordable place to call home.

Zac Heronemus  
Executive Director  
Aurora, Inc.

## WHO WE ARE

Aurora, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Evansville, IN, strives to prevent and end homelessness in the Evansville community. The Aurora team provides many services for those who are homeless or are at risk of being homeless in the community. Our services include a Homeless Outreach Team to provide shelter and supplies to the homeless in our area, a Re-Entry program to help anyone released from institutions successfully transition back into the community and off the streets, rental assistance for those with disabilities, and much more through programs like Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Beacon PSH and Vision 1505.

Aurora impacts more than 1,600 individuals each year. This number includes children, men, women, veterans, the re-entry population, refugees, and individuals with disabilities.

Aurora is dedicated to connecting the homeless, near homeless, and those in crisis to resources in the community that can help. Our team strives to expand public awareness of homelessness and conduct research to be shared with city, state, and federal officials in order to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

## OUR PROGRAMS:

**RAPID REHOUSING • HOUSING FIRST  
VISION 1505 • BEACON PSH  
RE-ENTRY • OUTREACH  
PREVENTION**



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Robert Bernardin, President**  
Boren Bernardin Schiff

**Chadd Huffmann, Vice President**  
Homes by Huffmann

**Stephanie Stone, Treasurer**  
Old National Bank

**Paul Green, Secretary**  
Retired - Business Manager /  
Financial Secretary - IBEW Local 16

**David Byrley**  
CenterPoint Energy

**Elissa Hewins**  
Social Security Administration

**Sr. Maureen Houlihan**  
Daughters of Charity

**Jim Thomas**  
German American Bank

**Amber Heath**  
ECHO Community Health Care

**Clay Ellerbrook**  
Morley Corp

**Stephen Ralph**  
Evansville Christian Life Center

**Chaz Halsell**  
Fifth Third Bank

**Kelsey Blackgrave**  
Deaconess Health Systems

**Joshua Trockman**  
Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLP

**Mary Reese**  
Berry Global, Inc.

**Melinda Roberts**  
University of Southern Indiana

**Elliott Kavanaugh**  
First Bank

## STAFF:

**Zac Heronemus**  
Executive Director

**Stephanie Hinton**  
Finance & HR Director

**Danette Romines**  
Director of Programs

**Sierra Riordan**  
Interim Assistant Program Director

**Susan Steinkamp**  
Crisis Intervention Specialist

**Nathan Jochum**  
Marketing, Communications  
& Special Events Coordinator

**Crystal Arnwine**  
Grants & Resource  
Development Officer

**Sophie Hancock**  
Claims Specialist

**Brandi Scott**  
Housing First Case Manager

**Rose Duran**  
Re-Entry Team Lead

**Nana Wing**  
Re-Entry Case Manager

**Patty Pyle**  
Claims & Compliance Officer

**Natasha Goodge**  
Outreach Team Lead

**Carrie Burress**  
Outreach Case Manager

**Cher'Rita Horne**  
Outreach Case Manager

**Jess Soucy**  
SOAR Case Manager

**Jesse Vanhooser**  
COVID Homeless Prevention  
& Diversion Coordinator

**Amanda Farmer**  
Homeless Prevention & Diversion  
Case Manager

**Sherry Swope**  
Beacon PSH Program Coordinator

**Bridgette Howerton**  
Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager

**Gina Robinson Ungar**  
Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager

**Katie Kreager**  
Interim Vision 1505 Team Lead

**Marlee Pittmann**  
Vision 1505 Case Manager /  
Community Engagement Specialist

**Crystal Guinn**  
Front Office Administrator

## A SUCCESS STORY

**Program helps man adjust to life after prison, reunite with sons**



Frank Montgomery, center, answer questions from his son Dylan O'Riley before they install a sink in their basement on Feb. 21. Montgomery began Aurora's Re-entry program after spending three years in prison. The program has helped hundreds of former offenders get re-acclimated after prison. PHOTOS BY MACABE BROWN / COURIER & PRESS

Aurora's Re-Entry program gave him support to re-acclimate and secure an apartment and job

**Brook Endale** Evansville Courier & Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

**E**VANSVILLE — Frank Montgomery found himself frozen in front of the counter at the West Side Dairy Queen. • He had often thought about what his first meal would be after leaving prison, but when it was his turn to order, his mind went blank. • "I don't know why, but you forget these things. You forget these simple tasks we do every day," Montgomery said. • After three years behind bars, he couldn't remember how to order a hamburger. • Montgomery said he left prison with big ideas of what life outside would be like only to quickly realize getting readjusted is the beginning of a long journey.



Frank Montgomery wipes the dust off a wall after sanding the ceiling in a kitchen before a paint job at a home in Evansville.

"You have to relearn about everything. It's an odd sensation getting out and being put back in a social lifestyle."

**Frank Montgomery**

See RE-ENTRY, Page 3A

### Frank Montgomery

Re-Entry, cover story on the Courier&Press, and now small business owner "Montgomery said without Aurora, he would have been homeless after his release. The Re-Entry program helped him get settled into an apartment on the north side of Evansville. He went back to work at Toyota and slowly settled into a stable routine. In January of 2020, he was awarded full custody of his son again. As Frank says, 'I got the right people in my life now'" - Courier & Press 3/4/21

## 2020 AURORA IMPACT



### Services for Walk-In Clients

Total Service for Walk-In Clients - 4056



Mail Receiving — 849 | Snack Bag/Food — 370 | Shower — 58  
Laundry — 2 | Clothes/Shoes — 308 | Hygiene Kits — 138  
Case Worker Assistance — 1369 | Housing Assistance — 150  
Birth Certificate/Social Security Card/ID — 43  
Assessment — 17 | Rent — 57 | Outreach — 65 | Other — 630

### Total Served

Total Served - 1,395



Total Men — 481 | Total Women — 492 | Total Children — 422

### Demographics

Adult Male — 458 | Adult Female — 468  
Child Male — 191 | Child Female — 230



### Race Demographics

836 White | 412 African American  
61 Multi-Racial | 29 Other



### Age Demographics

162 Under 5 | 205 5-12 | 105 13-17 | 82 18-24  
228 25-34 | 231 35-44 | 180 45-54 | 103 55-61 | 50 62+



### Total Mileage - 22,385mi



### Exited to Permanent Housing



Total Housed  
313

Victory — 6  
Rapid Re-Housing — 194  
Re-Entry — 50  
Housing First — 29  
PATH/Street — 26

MOVING ON

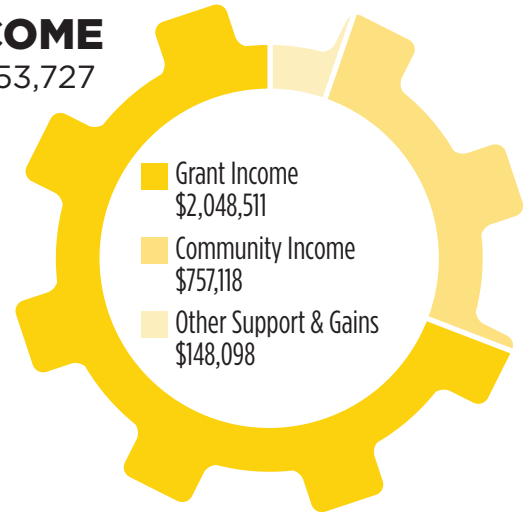


Beacon — 2  
Vision 1505 — 6

## 2020 FINANCIALS *Unaudited*

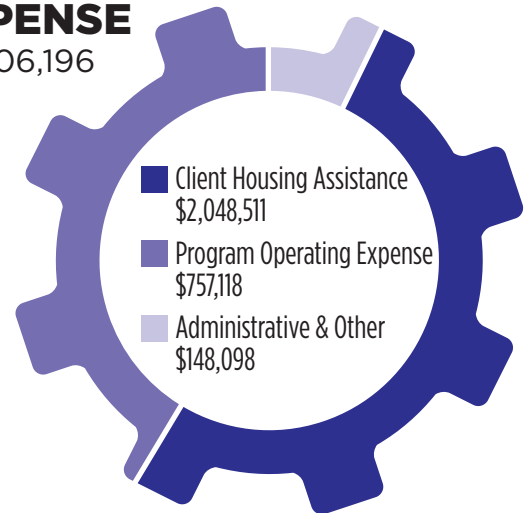
### INCOME

\$2,953,727



### EXPENSE

\$2,806,196



**NET 2020 GAIN: \$147,531**



# AURORA

Housing our Homeless

[auroraevansville.org](http://auroraevansville.org)

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