



AURORA

— Housing our Homeless —

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I cannot express the amazing privilege and honor it is to serve alongside such dedicated social workers – a group of front-line professionals that have received far less attention yet are a huge part of this fight. In the face of the ongoing pandemic, they continued to show up to help people find shelter, healthcare, housing, mental health service and whatever necessary to improve the lives of who we serve. Throughout it all, our team at Aurora continued to raise the bar and change the lives of the most vulnerable in our community.

In 2021, our program leadership worked diligently to strengthen our programs and the impact that Aurora makes in our community and in the lives of who we serve. Learning from the challenges of the pandemic, we have deployed a new team to assist those individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis – Community Housing Advocacy Team (CHAT). This team is an in-house outreach team that focuses on prevention of evictions and homeless diversion when necessary. CHAT also serves as navigators for housing assistance within the community when Aurora's programs can't be leveraged.

Collectively, our programs and our team of dedicated social workers are stronger and support from the community has been tremendous. Thank you for continuing to ensure that Aurora's mission in our community makes the change needed in the lives of the men, women, children, and seniors experiencing homelessness. Because of you, people are housed in a time of crisis.

More great things are on the horizon. We believe we will hit a significant milestone regarding our chronically homeless population – functional zero! This could not be possible without the dedication and perseverance of our team at Aurora and you. It is an exciting time and I hope that you will continue to stand by our side as we carry onward.

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 experiencing homeless or are at-risk of being homeless. Aurora's services include programs such as the **Street Outreach Team** that serves as "boots on the ground" to provide care, supplies, and services to those living on the streets and in shelters; **Re-Entry**, which helps former offenders, who are re-entering society, successfully transition from incarceration to daily life in the community; **Housing First**, which provides a rental assistance for those with disabilities; and several more programs like **Rapid Rehousing**, **Permanent Supportive Housing**, **Homeless Prevention**, and the **Community Housing Advocacy Team**.

Aurora impacts more than 1,300 individuals each year. This number includes children, men, women, veterans, seniors, the re-entry population, refugees, and individuals with disabilities.

Aurora is dedicated to connecting those experiencing homelessness, those 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
COMMUNITY HOUSING ADVOCACY TEAM**



OUR MISSION:

Creating solutions to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

OUR VISION:

We believe that the community will be stronger when every man, woman and child have a safe, decent, and sustainable 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

STAFF:

Zac Heronemus
Executive Director

Stephanie Hinton
Finance & HR Director

Danette Romines
Director of Programs

Sierra Riordan
Assistant Director of Programs

Susie Cooley
Marketing & Development Officer

Kim Armstrong
Resource Development Officer

Patty Pyle
Claims & Compliance Officer

Sophie Hancock
Claims Specialist

Rose Duran
Re-Entry Team Lead

Nana Wing
Re-Entry Case Manager

Natasha Goodge
Outreach Team Lead

Susan Steinkamp
Crisis Intervention Specialist

Carrie Burress
Outreach Case Manager

Cher'Rita Horne
Outreach Case Manager

Jess Soucy
SOAR Case Manager

Jesse Vanhooser
Housing Support Programs Coordinator

Amanda Farmer
Homeless Prevention
& Diversion Case Manager

Sherry Swope
Beacon PSH Program Coordinator

Emily Harper
Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager

Teresa Goodrich
Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager

Tammie Ayscue
Housing Crisis Intervention Specialist

Madelyn Priar
Housing Crisis Intervention Specialist

Rai Elrod
Housing First Case Manager

Brandi Scott
Vision 1505 Community Engagement

Katie Kreager
Vision 1505 Team Lead

Marlee Pittmann
Vision 1505 Case Manager

BOARD MEMBERS

Chadd Huffmann, President
Homes by Huffmann

Stephanie Stone, Vice President
Old National Bank

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

Chaz Halsell, Secretary
Fifth Third Bank

Elissa Hewins
Social Security Administration

Jim Thomas
German American Bank

Amber Heath
ECHO Community Health Care

Clay Ellerbrook
Morley Corp

Stephen Ralph
Evansville Christian Life Center

Kelsey Blackgrave
Deaconess Health Systems

Joshua Trockman
Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLP

Melinda Roberts
University of Southern Indiana

Elliott Kavanaugh
First Bank

Robert Bernardin
Boren Bernardin Schiff Group

Tanya Schmitt
Heritage Federal Credit Union

Andrew Cope
Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union

Randy Goodwin
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 136

Shelbie Gray
Apex Behavioral Services

Murphy Hall
Southwestern Behavioral

A SUCCESS STORY

In 2018, an Aurora client spent her first night in a public shelter. At this time, she was dealing with many struggles, which largely included maintaining the sobriety she expressed wanting - which ultimately lead to housing instability.

In August of 2020 she was referred to the Housing First Program, and was housed by January 2021. This greatly impacted her journey to sobriety in a positive way. The client now reports being 2 years sober as well as this being the longest she has ever been able to hold down a job.

The client has thanked the case management services received from Aurora through the Housing First program for the several life skills she has been able to learn and put to practice.

Lastly, she is beyond excited to report that she has grown with her employer and is now a supervisor, her children are back in her custody full-time, she has been able to save over \$6000, AND, as of December 2021, she is a proud NEW HOMEOWNER!



2021 AURORA IMPACT

Housing Program Stats



Key

Housed Total
Living in permanent housing situation

Unhoused Total
In temporary living conditions or returned to homelessness

Institutional Setting
Hospital, Nursing Home, Substance Abuse Treatment, Jail, Foster Care, Half way House, or Residential Project

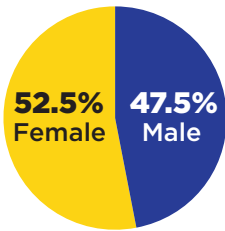
Home Ownership
Purchased a Home

Passed Away
Died

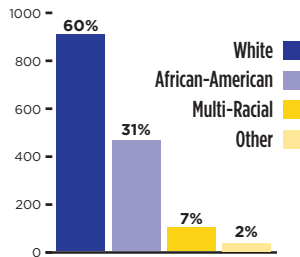
Searching/Other
Active Client at Year-End, Not Discharged, Other

Demographics

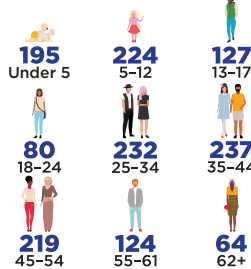
Gender



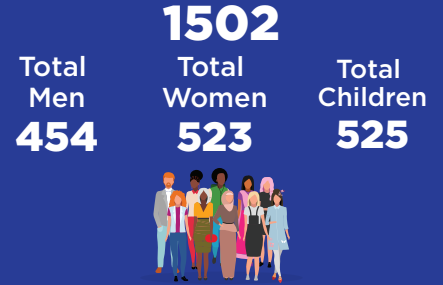
Race



Age

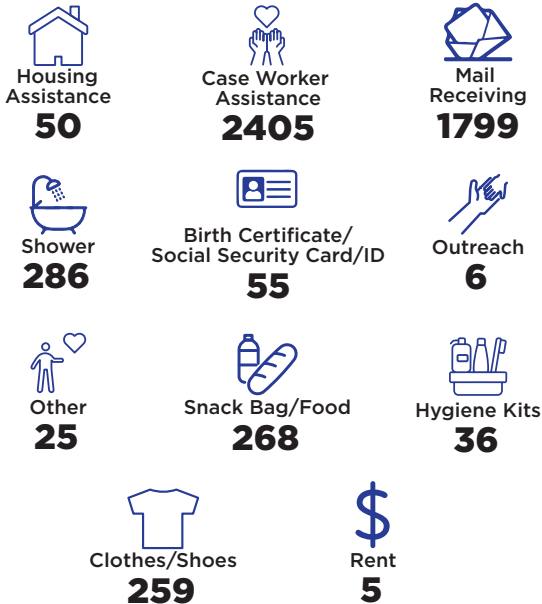


Total Served



Walk-In Services

Aurora provided
5194 Walk-In Services



Prevention & Diversion

Aurora helped prevent
427 people
from being evicted



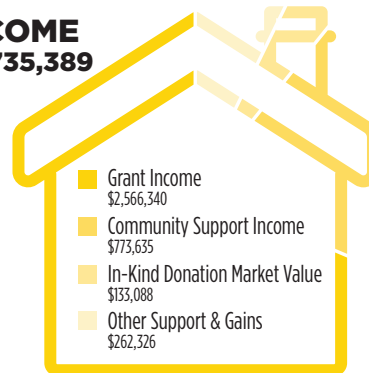
Total Mileage

Aurora Case Managers logged
31,162 miles providing...

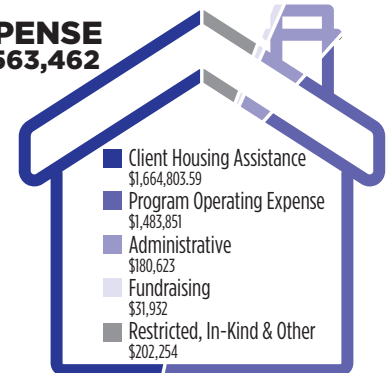


2021 Financials Unaudited

INCOME
\$3,735,389



EXPENSE
\$3,563,462



NET 2021 GAIN: \$171,927

AURORA

Housing our Homeless

auroraevansville.org

1001 Mary Street | Evansville, IN 47710 | 812-428-3246 | info@auroraevansville.org

