

2022



AURORA

Housing our Homeless

ANNUAL REPORT

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 to successfully transition from incarceration to daily life in the community; **Housing First**, which provides rental assistance and case management support for people experiencing homelessness with the added barriers of chronic

mental health or substance abuse; and several more programs like **Rapid Re-Housing**, **Permanent Supportive Housing**, 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, and individuals with a disabling condition.

Aurora is dedicated to connecting those experiencing homelessness, those near homeless, and those in a housing 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 STAFF

Zac Heronemus

Executive Director

Stephanie Hinton

Finance & HR Director

Danette Romines

Director of Programs

Sierra Riordan

Assistant Director of Programs

Kim Armstrong

Resource & Development Officer

Sophie Hancock

Marketing & Development Associate

Patty Pyle

Claims & Compliance Officer

Rose Duran

Re-Entry Team Lead

Nana Wing

Re-Entry Case Manager

Natasha Goodge

Outreach Team Lead

Susan Steinkamp

Outreach Case Manager

Carrie Burress

Outreach Case Manager

Cher'Rita Horne

Outreach Case Manager

Sherry Swope

Beacon PSH Program Coordinator

Jesse Vanhooser

Rapid Re-Housing Team Lead

Amanda Farmer

Housing Crisis Intervention Specialist

Madelyn Priar

Housing Crisis Intervention Specialist

Haley Keown

Housing Crisis Intervention Specialist

Teresa Goodrich

Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager

Beverly Combs

Housing First Case Manager

Katie Kreager

Vision 1505 Team Lead

Jessi McKeethen

Vision 1505 Case Manager

Shelby Lindy

Vision 1505 Community Engagement

Paul Newell

Front Office Administrator

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I embark upon my fourth year serving as Executive Director of Aurora, I'm constantly reminded of how far we've come as an organization. Aurora has faced many challenges and opportunities throughout its history, especially over the past few years. Our team's consistent compassion and care for our clients stand out as the catalyst that keeps us moving forward in our mission of creating solutions to prevent and end homelessness in our community. Truly, it is an honor and privilege to work alongside so many remarkable people who make such a tremendous impact on the lives of the most vulnerable in our community.

Looking forward, we are faced with significant post-pandemic challenges. Federal funding that was earmarked to prevent evictions is declining. The higher cost of living and scarce housing availability makes it difficult to find and move vulnerable households into safe, decent, and secure homes. For these reasons, our community has suffered an uptick in the number of people experiencing homelessness. This is why it is more important than ever for us to diligently work together to make sure every individual and family has a safe place to call home.

I have no doubt that our team at Aurora will continue to inspire us with the amazing work they do every day. The support we receive from you, our advocates, helps ensure that Aurora has the best team and is in the best position to address the barriers our clients face. We are eternally grateful for your past and future support and will continue to leverage it so Aurora can best seize our opportunities and overcome the challenges that are presented.



Zac Heronemus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Stone | President • *Old National Bank*

Paul Green | Vice President • *Retired Business Manager/Financial Secretary at IBEW Local 16*

Chaz Halsell | Treasurer • *Fifth Third Bank*

Andrew Cope | Secretary • *Liberty Federal Credit Union*

Chadd Huffman | Past President • *Homes by Huffman*

Robert Bernardin | Past President • *Baird Private Wealth Management*

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

Elissa Hewins • *Social Security Administration*

Tanya Schmitt • *Heritage Federal Credit Union*

Amber Heath • *ECHO Community Health Care*

Clay Ellerbrook • *Hafer*

Melinda Roberts • *University of Southern Indiana*

Shelbie Gray • *Child Therapy Lab, LLC*

Randy Goodwin • *Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 136*

Stephen Ralph • *Evansville Christian Life Center*

Jim Thomas • *German American Bank*

Kelsey Blackgrave • *Deaconess Health System*

Elliott Kavanaugh • *First Bank*

Murphy Hall • *Southwestern Behavioral*

Zach Martin • *Woodward Realty*

Adam Grant • *Ascension St. Vincent*



OUR MISSION:

Our Mission is 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 PROGRAMS

Community Housing Advocacy Team (CHAT)
Rapid Re-Housing • Housing First
Vision 1505 • Beacon PSH • Re-Entry
Outreach • Homeless Prevention



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, business, 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 on training, use of evidence-based practices

Determination

Strongly motivated to succeed

Compassion

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



A SUCCESS STORY...

We would like to introduce you to Joey and Russelle, a couple who has found their way to sobriety, faith, and homeownership through Aurora and the other community services that convened to support them on their journey of rebuilding their lives with their children.

Russelle moved into Aurora's Vision 1505 program in early 2019 with her three children. As soon as she moved in, Russelle bravely set some major goals with Aurora's staff, which included maintaining sobriety. Her first goal was to have her license reinstated and obtain insurance. With determination, she not only had her license reinstated but also had the fees waived.

Next, Russelle focused on gaining steady employment. She always had a job, but it was often seasonal or unreliable. Through her hard work, Russelle started her own cleaning business called Restoration Cleaning and was able to secure her own clientele. Aurora's case managers excitedly watched as Russelle's dreams began to come true. Her business grew rapidly as she continued to grow stronger in her sobriety and stabilize her life.

Just two years after filing for bankruptcy, Russelle finally had hope of building her credit and securing home ownership through a program like Habitat for Humanity or something similar. Meanwhile, her husband, Joey, was released from jail and Treatment Court. They added him to the lease and he rejoined his family. Joey found stable employment, began contributing to the household income, and started sharing in all the duties of raising a family.

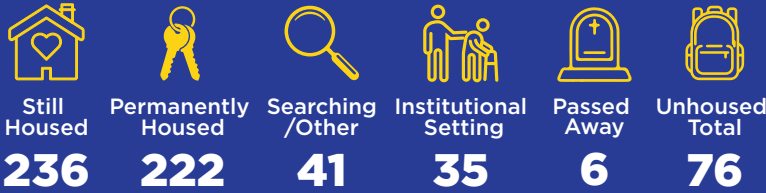
Through the support of living in Aurora's Permanent Supportive Housing, Vision 1505, the family rebuilt their credit and started a savings account. The household's original goal was to build a house through Habitat for Humanity, but at the end of 2022, they were able to become first-time home buyers independently.

Today, the couple and their three children, Journey, Christian, and Gracie are living out their dreams in a home they own. They have found a supportive faith community in Unbound Recovery Ministry and RISE Outreach at Forest Hills Wesleyan Church. Russelle's business, Restoration Cleaning, is doing amazingly well. As for the kids, Journey is participating in hockey and orchestra, Christian is playing baseball and basketball, and Gracie is a cheerleader.



2022 AURORA IMPACT

Housing Program Stats



Key

Still Housed
Housed within a program at year's end

Permanently Housed
Exited our programs into permanent housing (remained in their housing or found other options)

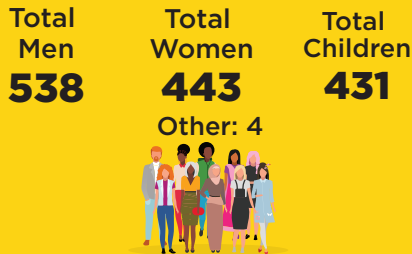
Searching/Other
Active Client at Year-End, Not Discharged, Other

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

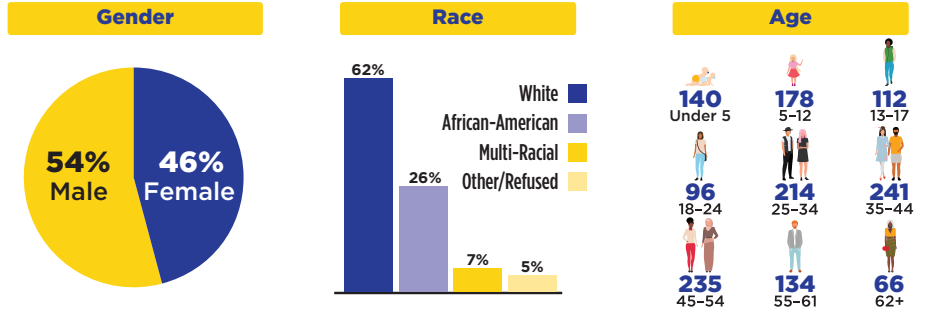
Passed Away
Died

Unhoused Total
In temporary living conditions or returned to homelessness

Total Served 1416

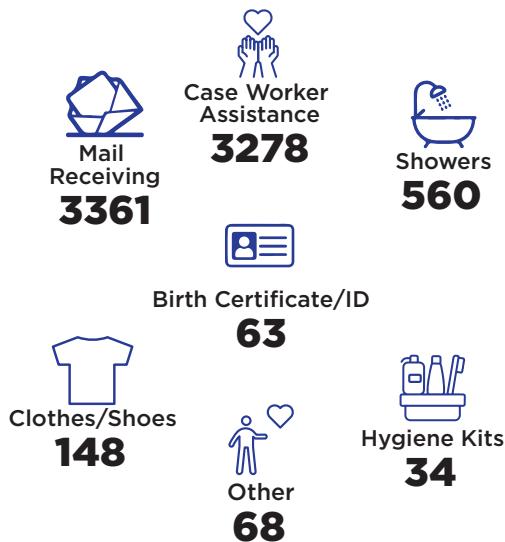


Demographics



Walk-In Services

Aurora provided **7512** Walk-In Services



Prevention & Diversion

Aurora helped prevent **499** people from being evicted



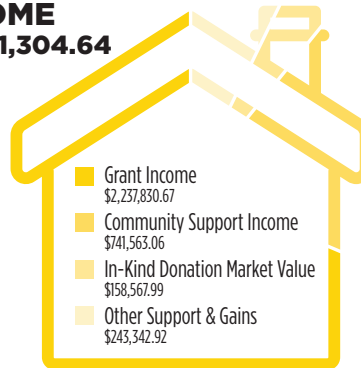
Total Mileage

Aurora Case Managers logged **44,476 miles** providing...

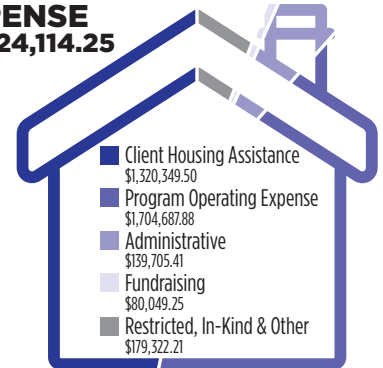


2022 Financials Unaudited

INCOME
\$3,381,304.64



EXPENSE
\$3,424,114.25



NET 2022 LOSS: \$42,809.61

AURORA

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auroraevansville.org

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