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*together we can end homelessness!*

**Greetings!**

A new day has dawned  
 in meeting the needs of the homeless,  
 in supporting those who help the homeless, and  
 in involving the community  
 along the journey toward ending homelessness  
 in Evansville and Vanderburgh County!



Welcome to Aurora News!  
 We have some exciting things to share with you! Please read on ...

**New Website & E-mail Newsletter Tools**



Aurora's website has a fresh new look! To visit the site, enter [www.auroraevansville.org](http://www.auroraevansville.org) into your Internet browser.

As you visit the site, you'll find information about Aurora as well as Destination Home. (To quickly reach the Destination Home pages, click on its logo at the top of any page.)

If you or someone you know is homeless or near homelessness in our community, on the main page you'll find the image "Homeless in Evansville or Vanderburgh Co.? Click here for help." Clicking on the image will direct you to a page with homeless service providers in this area.

Another web-based addition to Aurora this spring has been the opportunity, through a local benefactor, to use Constant Contact to send you e-newsletters!

If you use e-mail and would like to receive "Aurora News" by e-mail instead of through the postal service, please indicate that request on the remittance envelope enclosed. Please print your contact information in the space provided, including your email address. Thank you in advance for helping us save on postage costs!

You may also sign up for our e-newsletter by visiting our website at [www.auroraevansville.org](http://www.auroraevansville.org) and clicking on the "Sign up for our Email newsletters" button at the bottom of the page. You'll be directed to a page that will allow you to select what kind of information you'd like to receive and what format you'd like the emails to arrive. (Please note: Our E-newsletters are sent from the e-mail address [info@auroraevansville.org](mailto:info@auroraevansville.org) If you have a spam filter, you may need to put that e-mail address in your address book or list of allowed emails.)

For Aurora News archives on the website: [www.auroraevansville.org/News/aurora\\_news.htm](http://www.auroraevansville.org/News/aurora_news.htm)

**From the Executive Director**

We held our annual staff retreat and board annual meeting earlier this month. One theme continued to present itself -- CHANGE. Aurora has experienced many changes over the last 18 years and that's a very good thing. Change is what brings an excitement and newness to life and the work we do.

The challenges of homelessness we face today are a mixture of the same challenges we faced 18 years ago, yet also include many different aspects. Success comes from being able to deal with both old and new issues in new, innovative ways. To continue to move forward we must ... recognize that change happens, ... seek new answers to old questions, ... embrace and adapt quickly to change, ... enjoy change, while being ready to change quickly and enjoy it all over again.

We, as an organization and as a community, cannot sit back and allow change to overtake us. We must be progressive, aggressive and proactive in our fight to end homelessness. We must remain active in our quest to continue existing services, while we work to address root causes that will ultimately end homelessness as we know it today.

The challenge is great, but knowing the spirit of this community, I believe we can accomplish much. You are invited to enjoy the change with us.



**Wish List**



**ITEMS FOR CLIENTS**

For persons living outside: mosquito repellent, bicycle locks & chains, batteries, flashlights, sleeping bags, 1- or 2-person tents, bottled water and juices, hand wipes, anti-bacterial hand cleanser, backpacks, sunscreen, socks & underwear (men's, women's & children's sizes), light-colored t-shirts, canned meats, deodorant, etc.

For persons establishing a home after being homeless for a time: furniture, kitchen items, bed or bath linens, etc.

**ITEMS FOR AURORA** Good, used vehicle (truck, van, or 4-door car); Free storage space to store donated furniture and household items; 2-drawer locking file cabinet with key

For more ways to get involved visit [www.auroraevansville.org/involved.htm](http://www.auroraevansville.org/involved.htm)

## Comings and Goings

### Aurora sadly says farewell to ...

**Leroy Herring**, an AARP employee that worked as our first ever custodian. Leroy was a joy to work with. He helped us so much with minor maintenance, donations and clerical help in addition to keeping the office spotless.

**Susie Carney** left us on June 14th to become a counselor at Vocational Rehabilitation. Susie had been our office manager since early 2003. Susie also helped with fund raising, was active with the Veteran Networking Group and taught Tenant Education Classes. She has a heart for the homeless and her passion will be missed. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

### We have welcomed new staff members this spring ...

We added **Kat Isbell**, BSCE, as Education Specialist in March. Her role is to provide staff support to further the mission of Aurora by coordinating community awareness and educational activities about homelessness and *Destination Home*.

In May, **Meghann Reyher**, BSW, joined our staff as a case manager with our Homeless Outreach Team. She is a 2006 graduate of USI and previously served as an intern with Aurora in the fall of 2005.

We welcome **Keith Gehl**, a part-time staff member through AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program. Keith keeps our building tidy and assists with other projects around the office as needed.

Meet all our staff at [www.auroraevansville.org/About%20Us/staff.htm](http://www.auroraevansville.org/About%20Us/staff.htm)



## Where do you . . .

Where do you know it's safe?

Where do you rest when you're sick?

Where do you watch the kids play?

... go after a night out?

Where do you barbecue?

... keep your favorite photos?

Where do you pick up your mail?

... feel you can be yourself?

Where do you get ready for work?

Where do you store your leftovers?

... extend hospitality to others?

Where do you watch a movie?

... see your family?



## HOME

*Let's work together to make sure EVERYONE in our community has one, because HOUSING MATTERS!*

Get acquainted with *Destination Home*, our community's 10-year plan to end homelessness at [www.auroraevansville.org/plan.htm](http://www.auroraevansville.org/plan.htm)

## Special Thanks

*We extended thanks to the following ...*

- **Homeward Bound sponsors, donors, volunteers, & teams**
- **Schnucks**--Newburgh location for outreach supplies
- **Matt's Lawn Care**, for keeping our grounds
- **Vectren** for assistance with *Aurora News*
- **Phil Siegel** for legal assistance
- **Carolyn Miller** for bulk mailing help
- **Sr. Mary Beth Kubera, D.C. & Creighton University** students for assistance with spring cleaning/organizing at the office
- **USI Department of Resident Life** for donations of household items & non-perishable foods at the end of the school year
- **U of E Center for Student Engagement** for donations of household items & non-perishable foods at the end of the school year
- **Impulse Hair Studio & Day Spa @ 1108 Lincoln** for assisting with community awareness through bag stuffers
- **Mater Dei Complex** for the facility use for our staff retreat
- **Jesus Freaks**, for assisting with an office project
- **Tony & Karen Bullock**, their planning committee, the bands, and the many sponsors & participants in the 2nd Annual Bullocks Rock Block Party Homeless Benefit Concert
- For contributions toward the strategies & projects of "Destinaion Home"--
  - **James R. & Adelaide H. Duncan Foundation** toward the PlayStations project
  - **Global Day of Prayer tri-state event** on June 4, 2006 -- half the offering was designated for Destination Home projects



## **OUR MISSION: Aurora exists to bring an end to homelessness in our community.**

*We have many faithful contributors that send us financial contributions! Some even make us part of their monthly giving. If that is you, we again thank you for your faithfulness to our mission! We know there are many worthwhile causes to support and we truly appreciate your interest in homelessness, your willingness to assist those in need, and for entrusting the receipt and use of these funds to our charge.*

*Your donations allow us to continue our Direct Services through the Homeless Outreach Team and Community Development work of raising awareness of homeless issues and the ten-year plan to end and prevent homelessness. If you are able to send a donation at this time, a remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience. We appreciate your financial partnership!*

Very soon, if interested, you'll be able to make donations via our website through a secure connection with PayPal. You'll be able to use your own PayPal account, a credit card or a debit card. Watch our website for this upcoming feature: [www.auroraevansville.org](http://www.auroraevansville.org)

