



Affordable Housing Update

Affordable housing is one of the cornerstones of the ten-year plan, both in terms of the prevention of homelessness and in securing the destination of home for all our residents.

Housing Trust Funds

Provisions in the new state budget provide an ongoing source of revenue to the state Affordable Housing and Community Development Funds through an increase in the tax on tobacco products (such as smokeless tobacco). In addition, another new law gives local governments the opportunity to create their own funding stream through additional recording fees. 60% of the monies collected will be deposited in the local fund, and the remainder sent to the state fund.

The budget prohibits use of the state housing trust fund for rent subsidies, but that restriction does not apply to the local funds. Funds can be used for the creation of supportive housing units that combine affordable housing with access to needed services.

Creating Affordable Housing Locally

Aurora continues to work closely with Frank Hagaman, President of Partners in Housing Development Corporation.

Luzada Hayes originally met Frank in 2001 when she arranged to tour the Blue Triangle in Indianapolis. Frank purchased an old YMCA building that had been vacant for 28 years and converted it into 96 single room apartments. Today he is affectionately known as the "guru of supportive housing" in Indianapolis. The units of the Blue Triangle are just 96 of the 350 units Partners in Housing has renovated and manages today.

Frank has an unwavering passion to provide housing for individuals and families with special needs or with the lowest income. We are fortunate that Frank and Partners in Housing has decided to expand their interests to Evansville. Site selection and negotiations are moving forward. We hope to announce the partnership of a 60-unit supportive housing project in the near future.

Aurora News

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Changed Lives

'Ever been on a journey and come to a detour that led you along a path you'd never imagined and weren't prepared to navigate? What kind of support systems helped you along? Signs, map, GPS, someone giving directions or leading the way, or something else?

Denny, age 46, grew up in the Evansville area, nearly finishing high school. He worked 25 years in heavy equipment tire service. In 2001, his detour began as an ATV accident that crushed neck vertebrae. Along his new route, he tried to work again, yet couldn't find enough odd jobs to sustain himself. His housing became unstable.

Nearly two years ago, our Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) met Denny while on weekly outreach trips near an abandoned building where he often stayed. In this part of his journey, he turned to alcohol, other homeless buddies,

and a few basic supplies he'd accept at times from H.O.T.

During 2006, his conversations with H.O.T. slowly increased. Twice the team saw him after he'd been badly beaten.

In December, Susan Steinkamp, an Outreach Coordinator, offered Denny a thought: "You don't have to do this. You can do something different." At the time, Denny agreed verbally but not in action.

Near Christmas, to Susan he said, "I need to get off the streets. Can you help me?" Susan impressed the reality, "You'll have to work it. It won't be easy."

Susan came alongside Denny as he allowed her. She advocated for him with connections to community resources and family members.

He traveled through detox, being released back to the streets, found drinking again,

back to detox, then staying sober on his own for a week in order

to enter an inpatient treatment center. When treatment ended, no shelter bed was available for three days. On the street on a -9 degree February night with blankets and two bus tokens, Denny's determination got him through the night and to Day Treatment by 8 a.m. the next day!

Learning of Denny's changes through Susan, one of his sisters paid for two nights in a motel. By the next night, he was in shelter and continuing his treatment.

Last month, he entered transitional housing. With Susan's help, he has applied for Medicaid and disability income. As his



Denny enjoys fixing bicycles that help others get along their way

income increases his opportunity for permanent housing can become a reality.

Do you see yourself in either Denny or Susan?

Any of us can end up on a detour with the need for determination, information, and resources to get back on a route that we'd rather travel.

Are you or someone you know homeless and interested in some support along your journey back to stability? Contact us.

Also, any of us can step up to come alongside someone and patiently offer a different path, supporting, connecting, encouraging and celebrating steps along the way.

Would you like to learn more? Contact us.

Housing Matters! T-Shirts

\$ 7.00 ea. short-sleeved

\$ 9.00 ea. long-sleeved

Add \$1.50 for each additional "X" in size, e.g. 2X short-sleeved = \$8.50

Pre-paid orders only

SAMPLES available of S, M, L, XL (all shirts will be white print on navy)



Order yours today!

Adult sizes only

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Organization (if any): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

| Quantity | Size | Type (Short or Long) | Price Ea. |
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Sizes: S, M, L, XL (Adult sizes only at this time) (add \$1.50 for each additional "X" in size)
Prices: \$7.00 short-sleeved
\$9.00 long-sleeved

Make checks payable to **Aurora**.
Mail to: Destination: Home, PO Box 74, Evansville, IN 47714
or drop off payment (check or cash only) at Aurora, 1100 Lincoln Ave.

You will be notified when your order is ready for pick up. (Each printing must consist of a minimum of 25 shirts, so delivery dates may vary.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!

TOTAL # Shirts

TOTAL Amount Enclosed

From the Executive Director

I have often stated that homeless advocates have to be housing advocates, but not all housing advocates are homeless advocates. The very definition of homelessness implies that housing is lacking. Any thoughts about ending or preventing homelessness, therefore, must include housing. I guess this is so firmly planted in my resolve because I have seen the toll

that living without adequate housing takes on individuals and families.

Have we lost the understanding of how important housing is to who we are and to all that we achieve in life? Without housing, it is more difficult to stay in school, participate in civic affairs, maintain employment, attend to health issues, be involved in your children's education, or

maintain hope that tomorrow can be better. **Would you be able to do what you need to do tomorrow if you didn't have a place to call home?**

When you think of the "problems" that our community needs to address, is housing on that list? If not, we need you to join the ranks of homeless advocates to voice our concern that Housing Matters!

Housing alone is not the ultimate solution to all our problems, but it is certainly a first step toward building a stronger, more stable community.

Luzada Hayes



Housing Starter Kits – Volunteer & Donation Opportunity



Meghann Kulenkamp & Susan Steinkamp work together to prepare bags of food for a weekly outreach trip.

When our Homeless Outreach Team assists individuals into permanent housing, quite often clients have nothing to start setting up housekeeping or to furnish a home. We have created a list of items that can be helpful contents of **Housing Starter Kits**.

Kitchen

Silverware—knives, forks, spoons
Cooking Utensils—large spoons, knives, spatula
Dishes—plates (large/small), cereal bowls, cups, glasses

Wish List

ITEMS FOR CLIENTS

For persons living outside:

Sleeping bags, mosquito repellant, bicycle locks & chains, batteries, flashlights, 1- or 2-person tents, bottled water and juices, hand wipes, anti-bacterial hand cleanser, backpacks, sunscreen, foot powder,

Misc.—can opener, aluminum foil, sandwich bags

Linen

Sets of sheets, Pillows, Blankets, Bath towels, Shower curtain & rings, Dish towels & cloths/sponges

Cleaning Supplies

Broom, Dust pan, Waste basket, Cleaning solutions (toilet, kitchen, window, dusting, dish, etc.), Toilet brush, plunger, Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex), Laundry Basket/Detergent, Trash bags

Personal Supplies

Soap, Deodorant/antiperspirant, Shampoo, Tooth paste, Tooth brush, feminine hygiene products

socks & underwear (men's sizes), light-colored t-shirts, canned meats, deodorant/antiperspirant

For persons establishing a home after being homeless for a time: (see *Housing Starter Kits* article above)

Containers

72 qt./18 gal. plastic tubs with lids and sturdy handles

If you have items to donate, please drop them off at our office at 1100 Lincoln Ave. (8-5 Mon. - Thu.; 8-4 Fri.).

We'll be hosting a Volunteer Day on Fri., July 20 to assemble these kits from items that are donated.

If you'd like to volunteer on that day, please contact Kat or Sr. Mary Ann at 428-3246 or send email to connect@destination-home.info

Thanks ahead of time for helping your neighbors start or re-start in housing!

ITEMS FOR AURORA

Good, used passenger or mini-van;
Free storage space for donated furniture and household items



funds raised: Aurora, CAPE, ECHO Community Health Care, ECHO Housing, Outreach Ministries, and Tri-State Food Bank. Aurora raised over \$8,000 of the more than \$14,000 brought in by the event.

Bullocks' Rock Block Party

For the third year in a row, Bullock's Tavern hosted a homeless benefit event in mid-May. This year, in addition to the nighttime concert with area bands, the local business sponsored a poker tournament and family fun fair. Nearly \$2,000 was raised to benefit four area homeless service providers: House of Bread & Peace, Ozanam Family Shelter, United Caring Shelters, and Aurora.

Homeward Bound

This annual 5K Walk was held in Garvin Park at the end of April. Six service providers benefited from



Logan White receives his prize from Maxine Coleman, Office Manager, as one of the winners in the "Draw Your Dream Home" kids' activity at the Home Show booth.

Destination: Home

In recent months, Aurora's **education committee** has focused on raising awareness of *Destination: Home — A Ten-Year Journey to End Homelessness in Evansville and Vanderburgh County* through a range of public presentations and participation in local events.

In part, the committee focused its efforts on presentations to area members of the Indiana General Assembly at "**Meet Your Legislators**" sessions held prior to and during this year's legislative session.

Thanks to "**Housing Matters!**" **sweatshirts** worn by many of our staff, board members and others with area homeless service providers, we were clearly identified as advocates of affordable housing and the supportive services needed by individuals and families who experience homelessness.



"Housing Matters!" shirts made their debut at several *Meet Your Legislators* events in early 2007. (far left seated) Luzada Hayes, Sammie Rutherford, Patty Avery of Aurora; Nickey of House of Bread & Peace; & Kevin Groves of United Caring Shelters

Special Thanks

We extended thanks to the following:

- **USI - Resident Life & U of E - Center for Student Engagement** for end-of-year donation coordination
- Donation hauling helpers: Jared & Jay, **North Park Baptist Church**; Dale & Mike, **Christian Fellowship Church**; **Cameron Pfaffman**, & **Mary Ruthenburg**
- **Schnucks--Newburgh location** for outreach supplies
- **Cammy Ricketts** for computer maintenance assistance
- **Daughters of Charity** for outreach supplies
- **Carolyn Franklin & Evansville Courier & Press** for Home Show booth
- **Auto Mission** for van repairs

To enlist the support of organized labor, committee members presented the ten-year plan to the local Building Trades Council, which then voted to **endorse the plan**.

A Network of Evansville Women (ANEW) hosted a late February presentation on the plan, which led to the donation of space at the 2007 Home Show.

In April, Kat Isbell, Education Specialist, facilitated teams of other staff and/or area homeless service providers to lead three different presentations with faith-based groups. These incorporated two of our **Housing Matters! homeless simulation** activities, which allow participants to experience some of what occurs when families and individuals lose their homes.

An envisioning meeting was held with area congregations who are active or interested in creating "**compassionate connections**" among homeless service providers, congregations, and people who are homeless, near-homeless and formerly homeless.

- Donation sorting & organizing helpers: **Grace House** ladies, **Ocean Bias**, **Ernestine Graves**, **Sharon Hafer**, **Rob & Yolanda Tapp**, **Carolyn Willis**, **United Methodist Youth Home**, & **Lisa Reising & Tracy Martin** with the **Junior League of Evansville**
- Outdoor & basement clean-up helpers: **United Methodist Youth Home**, **Amelia Krohn**, **Adrian Rocca**
- For making *Homeward Bound* a great success: **Vectren**, **Deaconess**, **Peabody Coal Corp.**, **Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market**, **Wal-Mart #1263**, **Curves** (East & West), **Pigeon Township Trustee**, **Gammon Realty**, **New Hope Music Academy Boom Squad**, **Red Bull**, & **River City Clowns**

Along with four others, Kat has been certified as a **Bridges Out of Poverty community trainer**, having led/co-led two all-day seminars and overviews this spring. This curriculum is part of a strategy in the ten-year plan aimed at increasing the understanding of generational poverty throughout this community.

The project, **Bridges—A Community Response to Poverty**, is overseen by the Bridges Collaborative Group of Southern Indiana. For more information on Bridges, visit www.destination-home.info/bridges.htm

If you'd like to **schedule a speaker**, a Bridges presentation, or Housing Matters! simulation for your group, please contact Kat at 428.3246 x 30 housingmatters@destination-home.info



Zach Gamblin created this image at the "Draw Your Dream Home" activity at the *Destination: Home* booth during the 2007 Tri-State Home Show



Mike & Dale of Christian Fellowship Church, & Jay from North Park Baptist Church help load donations from University of Evansville