

AURORA

Giving light to the homeless

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MISSION

Aurora exists to bring an end to homelessness in our community.

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Special Events & Projects



Thurs., Sept. 10, 2008
Eagle Valley Golf Course
10350 Petersburg Rd.
Evansville, IN

For more info, contact Sherrie at
812.428.3246 x 29 or sbias@auroraevansville.org



Sock Drive

See details inside!

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
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Aurora, Inc.

June 2009

Aurora News



Changed Lives

Our choices can send us in many directions. Some send us off track, while others move us back onto a more successful route. The choices of others affect us too. When positive choices connect, lives can often be changed for the good.

Heather's previous choices led her on a route that put her into prison, her 9-year-old daughter with her parents, and her 11-year-old son (who has autism) into a center in Indianapolis.

Last November, Heather's release from prison to a local shelter put her on a course to encounter Jennifer Smith, the newest Case Coordinator on our Homeless Outreach Team.

Jennifer's work with Heather included transportation to obtain identification, to meet with her probation officer in Boonville, to apply for jobs and housing, and later, to get to work on occasion. As needed, Jennifer connected her to community resources, such as a Tenant Education class (to create understanding of leases and tenant/landlord rights and expectations) and bus tokens (to aid in getting to work before her first paycheck).

After submitting thirteen job applications in various places, Heather was hired at a locally-owned food chain within two and a half weeks of her arrival at the shelter. Within two months of being hired, she began

training to be a night manager, which increased her pay. Five months now, since being hired, she is being trained to run her own restaurant, which will more than double her pay.

As Heather's job and paycheck were growing, she was able to find an apartment she could afford by early March. Aurora gave her a Housing Starter Kit and some furniture as she left the shelter after three and a half months.

"Heather has been very focused on making sure she got her life on track," observes Jennifer, who related more about Heather's hard work to better herself. She kept in close contact with her case coordinator, getting her identification the day she first spoke to Jennifer. Heather looked for jobs

consistently, putting in applications for a week until she received a call on a job. She's been paying down debt that she had accrued prior to prison. She's received custody of her children, including working on transitioning her son out of the center and into her home.

Within six months, Heather's choices for herself, her family, her support system, and her community connected with the choices of community agencies and an employer to change her life and set her on a better course.

YOUR SUPPORT helps us end homelessness one household at a time for people like Heather ... and many, many others! THANK YOU!

From the Executive Director

*"When the night has come,
and the land is dark
And the moon is the only
light we'll see
No, I won't be afraid,
Oh I won't be afraid,
Just as long as you stand,
stand by me."*

~Ben E. King

This popular song describes some of the feelings that sometimes creep into my thoughts. The uncertainty of the economy, the weight of homelessness, decreases in funding, increased needs, all of this makes the night seem dark. But

in the midst the darkness, there is a light that drives all the fears away.

That light is you.



Each of you who stands by us, whether you are a volunteer, a community partner, a sponsor, an

advocate, an ambassador, a donor, a believer that this community can end homelessness — each of you, standing by us, dispels the night.

Please know that with each person that moves from homelessness to being housed, each new housing unit that is brought on line, each new solution to homelessness that is developed, each new collaboration that is created ... YOU are a part of it, standing by us.

Thank you for your faithfulness in standing by us. Particularly in these uncertain days, we need you more than ever. You make our light shine brighter.

With a grateful heart,
Luzada Hayes



U-Donate (Universities Donate) Nets Needed Items

As a semester winds down, the students at local universities prepare to pack up their belongings to leave campus. Often, not all of those items are wanted and are either left or placed in the trash.

For the past five or more years, Aurora has been partnering with the local universities to glean from those discarded "treasures."

U-Donate has grown into a valuable collaboration among campus staff, Aurora staff and volunteers, and a local congregation and youth group.

The 2009 U-Donate project was a partnership with University of Southern Indiana (USI), East Side Christian Church (and its After-School Presence youth program), and volunteers

from Christian Fellowship Church, Crossroads Christian Church, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, St. Agnes Catholic Church, St. Mary's Medical Center, and others in the community.

35 volunteers invested 100 hours to load, transport, unload, sort, load, and unload many helpful donate items.

Donations included 1,229 food & drink items (with 407 packages of Ramen noodles!), 39 paper goods, various cleaning supplies and clothing, and several household appliances, e.g. lamps, small vacuums, CD player, etc., two microwaves, one TV, two small ironing boards, one futon couch, etc.

Items that Aurora is not able to use or store were given to an area shelter

and other nonprofits.

The following individuals served: **Pauline Allen, Lori Berry, Janet Best, Joyce Bircher, Mary Ann Collins, Corey Dillon, Matt Ford, Carol Gainey, Karen Green, Travis Hacker, Anthony Hayes, Janet Hoehn, Chris Hoehn, John Humerickhouse, Jacob Jones, Jalen Klinger, Jacob Loveridge, Sandy Marlow, Darlene Martin, Tim McCandless, Marlow McKinney, Mindy Niehaus, Jordan Pegue, Sparky Perette, Susie, Jeff, & Jeffrey Phillips, Nathan Presley, Dee Russell, Sandy Simms, Lindsay Smits, Patsy Sproatt, Susan Steinkamp, Dave Thompson, Camille Verkamp, and Sarah Wolf.** Each person contributed to the event's success! We appreciate each one!



Community Connections

Destination: Home

Aurora is highly involved in the work of the city-county ten-year plan to end homelessness called *Destination: Home*. The plan is in its fifth year of implementation. *Destination: Home* is overseen by the city-county Commission on Homelessness.

Homeless Youth Coalition

The next full HYC meetings: June 29 12:00 noon at Boys & Girls Club, 700 Bellemeade; Aug. 24 12:00 noon at United Way 501 NW 4th St., with the Awareness and Prevention subcommittees meeting at 10:30 on the same days at the same sites.

Discharge Planning Coalition

The DPC has applied for the Second Chance Act grant, seeking to create a Prevention Coordinator position to aid those about to be released from jail/prison to connect ahead of time with needed community resources and housing in order to avoid release into homelessness.

Housing Committee Intern

Aurora staff will be participating on two of three teams from this area that will be part of the Permanent Supportive Housing Institute in Indianapolis this year. The teams will learn and work toward developing housing projects.

Prevention Committee

This group has been working with other community groups to create recommendations for federal stimulus funds for homeless prevention

Bridges—a Community Response to Poverty

Remaining 2009 training events:
Day 1: July 16, Oct. 6, Nov. 14
Day 2: July 29
Register at website below or call for more info.

Learn more about these & other projects & strategies by visiting www.destination-home.info or by calling 812.428.4975

Housing Support

At its core, Aurora exists to end homelessness. Ending homelessness involves housing those who are homeless or keeping at-risk households housed.

Here's how we're working on those issues:

Transitional Housing Contracted Services

Gary Austin serves as Case Coordinator with the United Caring Apartments by providing support to assist with enhancing adult daily living skills, self-confidence, and interpersonal communication skills to improve personal income level and to become housed again. As of mid-May, 17 units were filled and at least two individuals have exited the program into permanent housing since Aurora has been partnering with United Caring Shelters.

Permanent Supportive Housing Shelter Plus Care

Serving as Housing Specialist, Patty Pyle works with our partners, AIDS Resource Group, Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, and local landlords to house individuals with specific disabilities (chronic mental illness, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse). Since this type of housing was created 11 individuals have been housed.

New Start

Bethany Brazzell, Case Coordinator with Aurora, provides supportive services for individuals and families who are part of this permanent supportive housing that's coordinated by our partner ECHO Housing Corporation. Participants are people who are homeless with a disability. As of mid-May, Bethany is serving 11 individuals who are housed in 9 units.

Homeownership Home4Good

Amanda Sartore, our Housing Specialist, who is shared with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville, has been working with families in Goodwill Family Center and Lucas Place to navigate the process of moving from homelessness to homeownership through Habitat's program.

In addition, Amanda works to prevent homelessness among families who are already homeowners with Habitat, who have been struggling to sustain their homes.

Homeless Prevention

Aurora was recently voted by the Homeless Services Council of Southwest Indiana to serve as the Single Point of Entry for the region, which will be receiving stimulus funds for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing from Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

Wish List/Seasonal Needs



For clients living out (not sheltered/not housed)

Lip balm, insect repellent, sunscreen, hand lotion (small containers), bottled water, hooded sweat-shirts, men's t-shirts & sweatshirts (XL & larger) men's socks & underwear, , flash lights, rain/wind garments, sleeping bags, wind-up & battery-operated alarm clocks, batteries, individually wrapped toilet paper rolls, tents, non-perishable food especially protein sources (easy-open, individual-size cans)

For clients re-entering housing

30 gal. plastic tubs with lids (for Housing Starter Kits), kitchen items (especially silverware, cooking utensils, pots, skillets), cleaning & laundry supplies, basic furniture

Special Thanks ~ We extended thanks to the



- Buy-U-Boutique, Margaret's Resale, Second Harvest & many individuals – Housing Starter Kit supplies and much more!
- St. Mary's Breast Center & Daughters of Charity for outreach supplies
- Matt's Lawn Care – grounds keeping
- PennyJohn's for selling House Pins
- Christian Fellowship Church – Emergency Housing & Compassionate Connections partner
- Alpha Graphics for envelopes
- St. Mary's Health System—office furniture for Annex
- Trivia Tonight sponsors & participants
- Monetary gifts in memory of Nancy Lehnus (a volunteer spring '08-'09)
- PRSSA-Greek Life from USI for donations from clothing competition
- Chi Omega from U of E for food items donated
- Vectren for Aurora News assistance
- Lieberman Technologies for storage space
- Volunteers who've served with us since March: Brett Ackles, Amanda Alexander, Paul Greenlee, Beth Heisler, Trudie Helmrich, Sparky Perette, Kerri Postlethweight, Patsy Sproatt, Scott Sublett, Camille Verkamp, Jimmy Wilson, Jeff York; Sr. Sharon Tenbarge of Daughters of Charity



clip ~ save ~ share ~ give

AURORA Sock Drive



your sock donations can help someone in our community keep feet dry & protected while surviving on the streets

new, white men's crew socks
(packages or singles)

Donations may be dropped off at Aurora, Inc. 1100 Lincoln Ave. Evansville Mon - Thu. 8:00 am - 5:00 pm or Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Monetary donations made payable to "Aurora" may be sent to Aurora, Attn: Sock Drive, PO Box 74, Evansville, IN 47701-0074

For more information, call Sr. Mary Ann at 437-2756 or email bealight@auroraevansville.org