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**House Pins**<sup>®</sup>

... unique in design intent purpose



Just like the clients we serve, no two are ever alike.

They are attractive and conversation provoking.

House Pins support our mission by raising awareness about the need for housing & by providing funds for the services we offer.

**House Pins make great holiday gifts!**

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**Aurora News**

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Changed Lives through Housing Starter Kits

Imagine having lost your home and all your belongings. At the time of losing your home, if you have no storage options or funds, or if your items are seized by your landlord or mortgage company, you can end up with only what you can carry or maybe store in your vehicle... IF you have one.

For many of the families and individuals our Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) serves, those scenarios are realities. That's why we consider the donated basic, practical household items that come from members of the community of such value!

Earlier this year, Sr. Mary Ann Woodward, our Community Liaison, had an idea. She manages the donated items that are stored in a limited area in our basement at the office. Having noticed the time spent by the H.O.T. members in finding basic items to give to clients who are be-



Ronnie Black (right) has been the second of Jill Miller's (left) clients to receive a Housing Starter Kit since the event that created 12 complete kits.

coming housed, she birthed the Housing Starter Kit idea. By pre-packaging many of the basic essentials, staff could easily pick up a Kit, check its contents, add to or alter as needed, and then take it to a client as they move into a new place to live.

On July 20, twelve complete kits were created with the help of over 35

volunteers! Since that time, two of our male clients have become housed, assisted by Jill Miller, one of our Outreach Coordinators, and each received one of the new Housing Starter Kits. Upon seeing the contents, Ronnie Black said, "I think it's a real blessing."

Contact us to learn more about helping with Housing Starter Kits for our clients or visit our website [www.auroraevansville.org](http://www.auroraevansville.org)



Leo & Joan McGregor, RSVP volunteers, were part of 18 volunteers who assembled & 18 who set up for the first Housing Starter Kit assembly project

From the Executive Director

"I have a college education and had no idea what to do... I didn't even think to take money ... How did you know you needed your ID?"

These were some of the responses after our board participated in two different homeless simulations last month. The activities put the participants into the position of dealing with losing their homes. The questions of what do I do?, where do I get help?, what do I take with me?, who do I trust?, all became realities, if only in theory, for them in a very short amount of time.

Unfortunately, for those that actually experience the trauma of losing their home, their belongings, their identity, and their dignity, it takes finding the answers to these questions and many

others to help them re-establish their lives.

If you have never needed a hot meal, or a shelter bed, or mass transit to get to an appointment, how would you know who does what at what time and who could best help you meet your needs?

Every program has eligibility criteria, hours of operation, required documentation for each service, etc. Some need an appointment. Some take walk-ins. Some have different locations determined by the day of the week. Many programs are in the downtown area but are miles apart. Some need a referral from another program for a person to be seen or served ... and the list goes on and on.

Service providers constantly joke with one another that we have difficulty

keeping up with new programs or changes in programs, and that just when you put it in print, it's already outdated. Can you imagine what's it like to try to figure out this system of assistance if you've never had to use social services before?

This is just one of the reasons our Homeless Outreach Team is so vital. Our outreach staff helps clients navigate the maze of resources. They assess the strengths of the individual or family, help them make a plan, and help identify priorities for the magnitude of needs: food, shelter, ID, getting to work, getting a job, getting to school, enrolling the kids in school, keeping appointments or applying for housing, going to work or keeping a health or court appointment.

Your support of our various programs through your time, talent and treasure, help us both provide these direct services and to work together with many others in this community toward ending homelessness.

Thank you and please continue to help us make the experience of homelessness a little easier until we can actually prevent it from happening in the first place.

*Luzada Hayes*



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Support Aurora through the annual SIMON EVENING OF GIVING™**  
 a national fund-raising shopping event  
 features great deals from retailers, entertainment,  
 & thousands of dollars in door prizes  
**Sun., Nov. 18, 2007 6:30 - 9:30 pm Eastland Mall**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Housing Matters! T-Shirts**



**Order yours today!**

**\$ 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

**Adult sizes only**

All shirts are navy with white print

Contact us for details!

**YOU'RE INVITED TO PLAY**  
*Trivia Tonight*  
**Fri., Nov. 9, 2007**  
**Evansville Country Club**  
**3810 Stringtown Rd.**  
**6:30pm**

6:30	Cash Bar	<b>\$75.00 per player</b>
7:00	<b>Play Begins</b>	(charitable donation \$50)
7:30	<b>Dinner</b>	Game is played by teams of 4 to 8 members
9:30	<b>Winner's Circle</b>	<b>1st Team Prize—\$500</b>
10:00	Cordials	<b>2nd Team Prize—\$300</b>

Your check, payable to "Aurora," is your reservation  
 Mail to or drop off at 1100 Lincoln Ave., Evansville, IN 47714

Reservations close Nov. 12, 2007  
 Business Casual Dress – No Ties required

For more information, email [info@auroraevansville.org](mailto:info@auroraevansville.org) or call 812.428.3246 x 29  
[www.auroraevansville.org/Events/trivia.htm](http://www.auroraevansville.org/Events/trivia.htm)



## —Donation & Volunteer Opportunities

Each Friday morning, the Aurora van is packed with a variety of basic items -- nonperishable foods, personal care items, blankets, sweat-shirts, socks, t-shirts, underwear, jackets.

When it returns later, it is depleted of most items. The Aurora Homeless Outreach Team will have distributed those items during its weekly outreach trip to our clients who are homeless and are finding shelter in places not meant for human habitation.

However, who replenishes the outreach supplies at Aurora?

Throughout the year, many wonderful volunteers and generous donors--people just like YOU--assist us with supplies that stock the van

for each week's trip.

Last year, we began a new project called *Outreach Ornaments* in which we decorated our office Christmas tree with paper house tags.

Each tag notes a specific item needed by our homeless clients we serve all year long.

If you would like to make a difference this holiday season in a way that can have an impact throughout the year, consider participating in our *Outreach Ornament* project or adopting one of our clients.

### WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

**Donate Items.** To obtain tags or a list of items needed or requested, please visit our office, our website ([www.auroraevansville.org](http://www.auroraevansville.org) & click on "Outreach Ornaments"), call 428-3246, or begin with the list on

this page to choose something to donate that can practically help someone to survive until he/she can be housed.

**Host an Outreach Ornament tree.** Contact us for ornament originals to use in creating a tree or other means for your group, church, staff, etc. to select from at your place of gathering.

**Adopt an Outreach Client for Christmas.** Contact us if you'd like to purchase & wrap practical Christmas gifts for our clients who are living out (streets, alleys, cars, abandoned buildings, parks, etc.)

*We ask that donated items be brought to our office by Fri., Dec. 14, so that those that are used for Christmas can be prepared for delivery in time for the holidays.*

## Outreach Ornament List (underlined items are in GREAT need)

The following lists contain items that can be found on Outreach Ornament tags.

### Clothing, Protective Items, Personal Care Supplies

- Men's underwear (packages of M, L, XL sizes)
- Men's crew socks (packages)
- Gloves (warm, heavy)
- Coat or jacket
- Hat
- Sweatshirt
- Blanket
- Sleeping bag
- Personal care items (small sizes)

### Food

- Protein sources (canned meat, peanut butter)
- Bottled water
- Gift cards for Aurora to purchase food (Schnucks, Buehler's, Wesselman's, Wal-Mart, Save-a-Lot)
- Easy-opened canned food (fruit, vegetables, soup)
- Restaurant gift certificates

- Cash donations for Aurora to purchase food for outreach

### Transportation Assistance

- Bus tokens (\$85 = 100 tokens)
- Bicycle
- Bike lock & chain
- Cash donation for gas & upkeep of Aurora vehicles, which are used to provide transportation for clients to appointments

### Storage/Moving Assistance

- To provide agency storage for items donated on behalf of our clients who are becoming housed
- To assist homeless clients with storage of their personal items after losing their home
- To help with the coverage of moving someone in or out, whether a donation of funds or volunteering time or vehicles

### Other

- Gift Cards from area department stores e.g. Wal-Mart, Target, Big Lots, Dollar General, Family Dollar, etc. to purchase items for clients starting in a new apartment or house, e.g. lamps, pillows, iron, etc.



## Outreach Supply Projects

When we're asked by community members who'd like to help us do what we do and help our residents without homes, one of the most tangible ways is through supplying items that are given to individuals with whom our Homeless Outreach Team is weekly building relationships.

Some of those donations have come to us by individuals and others by groups. Some come as a few items brought in, while others have been assembled in some way.



Nathan Stabenfeldt presents David T. with one of the 30 backpacks he created as his Eagle Scout project

Earlier this year, a Central High School student, Nathan Stabenfeldt, contacted us about an idea for his Eagle Scout project. By June, he had delivered 30 backpacks filled with many of the items from the list below. Nathan was also able to go with our outreach team to deliver some of the backpacks to individuals in the community.

Other groups such as St. Mary's Breast Center staff, a group of USI students, Marci Hitchcock & her Deaconess lab co-workers have

## Special Thanks

We extended thanks to the following:

- **Nathan Stabenfeldt** for his Eagle Scout project that created 30 outreach-supply-filled backpacks
- **St. Mary's Breast Center** staff for creating outreach supply bags
- **Schnucks--Newburgh location** for outreach supplies
- **Daughters of Charity** for outreach supplies
- **Cammy Ricketts** for computer maintenance assistance
- **Matt's Lawn Care**, for keeping our grounds
- **Vectren** for assistance with *Aurora News*
- Donation sorting & organizing helpers: **Lindsay Jessup, Matt Motycka, Kerri, Logan & Megan Postlethweight**

created outreach bags for our team to take out during the weekly trip on Friday mornings.

If you'd like to contribute toward these bags or if you'd like to volunteer time at our office on Thursday afternoon to package the items, please contact us.

### WEEKLY OUTREACH BAG CONTENTS

#### Food/Beverage Items:

(all canned goods need to be easy-open cans)

- Bottle water (more than one per bag in summer)
- Protein source:
- Meat or tuna (small cans)
- Peanut butter (small jars)
- Crackers with cheese or peanut butter
- Nuts (small packages)
- Protein bars
- Soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Vegetables (small cans)
- Fruit & juices (small cans or containers)
- Cereal (small packages)
- Crackers, chips, cookies, granola bars (individually packaged)
- Napkins
- Plastic eating utensils

### Hygiene/Personal Items:

- Toilet Paper (individually packaged)
- Socks (men's sizes)
- Seasonal Needs:
  - Winter: Lip balm/Chapstick; Hand warmers
  - Summer: Insect repellent

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sep 29**—Destination: Home booth at Praise Fest, Boonville City Park 12:00—7:00 pm

**Oct. 11**—Commission on Homelessness 10:00 Mayor's office, Civic Centre

**Oct. 16**—Bridges Out of Poverty Day 1 training - For pre-registration info, call 428-3246 x 30, email [bridges@destination-home.info](mailto:bridges@destination-home.info) or visit [www.destination-home.info/bridges.htm](http://www.destination-home.info/bridges.htm)

**Oct. 17**—COCOA (Community of Concerned Outreach Agencies) meets at 11:00 at YWCA

**Oct. 22**—Homeless Youth Council meeting 12:00 at Old National Bank downtown

**Oct. 11**—Commission on Homelessness 10:00 Mayor's office, Civic Centre

**Nov. 9**—Trivia Tonight 6:30 pm Evansville Country Club - call Sherrie 428-3246 x 29 to register your team

**Nov. 10**—Patchwork Central Holiday Sale 9:00 - 3:00 (House Pins will be on display/for sale)

**Nov. 18**—Evening of Giving-Eastland Mall 6:30 - 9:30 \$10. tickets - call Sherrie 428-3246 x 29

**Nov. 19**—Homeless Youth Council meeting 12:00 at Old National Bank downtown

**Dec. 13**—Destination: Home 3rd Anniversary Celebration 10:00 am - Central Library, Browning Events Room

**Dec. 20**—Homeless Memorial Service—10:00 am at Trinity United Methodist Church, 216 SE 3rd



BELOW: "New-to-us" Chrysler Town & Country mini-van for which we're so thankful to the anonymous donor!

ABOVE: Last year's Outreach Ornament tree in the lobby at the Aurora office



- **Anonymous Donor** for a van
- Bulk Mailing helpers: **Carol Gainey, Jerry Tucker, Linda Housman, Linda Gottfried, Ernestine Graves, Mary Ruthenburg, Megan Miller**
- Housing Starter Kit event help & supply donors: **Keith Nelligan, Kerri, Logan & Megan Postlethweight, Mike Wargel, Diane VanCleave, Cindy Wolf, United Methodist Youth Home girls & staff, Patsy Sproatt, Jill Schell, Mary Ruthenburg, Emily Baxter, Ocean Bias, Adrian Rocca, Josie Schneider, Amy Brown, RSVP volunteers: Leo & Joan McGregor, Linda Brown, & Judy Hodoval; Signature School students: Evan Brizius & Chris Pratt; host site: Eastminster Pres-**

**byterian Church; additional donors: Laura Paglis, Marilyn Hunt, Forrest & Ruth Orr, Seek & Find, Just Consign It!, The Turning Pointe**

- **University of Evansville** Freshmen Service Project helpers: **Mary Dial, Aaron Anger, Andy Balczo, Brittany Dutton, Sophia Galati, Ariza Miyagi, Morgan Roos, Christin Spurlin, Shannon Walden, Cali Westrick, Aaron Wilson**



Christin Spurlin, University of Evansville freshman, helps clean the kitchen at Aurora's office