HIGHLIGHTS



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Welcome Mike Bertrand!

As of October 19, I'm honored to officially join the Hesed House family as Executive Director.

My career first brought me to Hesed House in its earliest years. I often brought newly homeless families to the 659 building, and I came back again and again to sit with residents and hear their stories. Every time, I was struck by how much everyone here cared about our guests. That kind of compassion can't be faked.



Mike (center) serving lunch at the shelter

Almost forty years later, that same spirit is still what sets Hesed House apart.

Hesed House grew out of this community, and that remains today. Local congregations, businesses, and neighbors have made this work possible. These are people who simply want to help others in our community who are struggling. You are a big part of that story. With your support, our mission has grown in ways those early days could hardly have imagined.

Serving my home community, and especially here at Hesed House, means coming full circle. I'm grateful to be here, and I'm deeply grateful for each of you. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead and building on what we've accomplished together.

Blessings,
Mike Bertrand, Executive Director

A Nurse Gets Her Life Back

Beth spent her career caring for others. When she lost her home, you cared for her.*

Beth is an RN supervisor, the one her hospital colleagues turn to when things get hard. Then things got hard for her. Her apartment was condemned, and with nowhere else to go, she came to the Hesed House Women's Shelter, scared and unsure of what would come next.

You were there for her. Your gifts to Hesed House paid her first and last month's rent, keeping a crisis from becoming long-term homelessness.

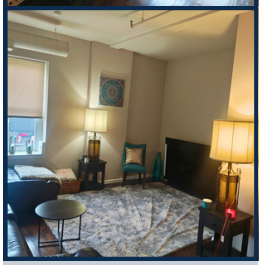
"The Rapid Rehousing Program saved me."

Before moving into her apartment, Beth visited the Move Out Ministry, a volunteer-run program that empowers guests to select a few pieces of furniture and decor. There, she found a brown leather recliner that has become her favorite furniture piece in her home.

Fifteen months later, she's overjoyed to be renewing her lease! Her experience with Hesed House even changed her nursing: she now meets patients right where they are and connects with them on a deeper level.

Her message to you: **"Please know how very thankful I am to you for giving me my life back! The sky is the limit!"**





Top: Beth's favorite furniture piece

Bottom: Her new apartment

*Name changed to protect privacy. Beth is one of 371 households in our programs that obtained or retained housing from January 1, 2026 to now.

Your Quarterly Impact

54 guests found homes. 5 guests bought their own homes! Regaining independence is the ultimate goal.

12 guests took steps toward recovery. Getting and staying sober is critical to keeping a job and a home.

23 guests got a job. 15 are full-time positions! A steady paycheck is often what makes housing possible.

Kids Experience a Halloween to Remember

30+ kids from Hesed House enjoyed trick-or-treating at Family Shelter's Trunk or Treat!

As the event began, each child was greeted with treat bags for candy and tubes of bubbles were given. Decorated trunks hosted by community members, like Aurora University, Scientel, AID, and AV Security, handed out candy and played games, creating special memories for each family.

Throughout the evening, many Spider Man characters, along with princesses, dinosaurs, pirates, and vampires visited each trunk.

Activities like carnival games, ring toss, and axe throwing (plastic, of course) were offered to each kiddo. Some even took time out to color! It was a fun night of music, laughter, and very full treat bags.

Evenings like this help children keep a sense of normalcy and ease anxiety often felt during uneasy times. Thank you, Hesed House community, for coming together to create childhood memories helping families to see a future after homelessness.



Kids dressed up as Paw Patrol characters



Marvel staff group who won best trunk by the families!



A mini construction worker collects candy with his mom



A little bee playing carnival games with her dad

The Power of Karma Yoga

Yoga creates space for Hesed House guests to take steps forward.

Every Wednesday, guests at the Adult Shelter can now join a yoga class led by volunteer Carly. Carly found yoga during a hard time in high school, and now she teaches to help others and give back. She calls it "karma yoga."

Michael, a guest in his 70s, came to the very first class. He loves staying active, goes to free yoga events across Aurora, and hopes more men at the shelter will join him. To him, yoga is a lot like life:

"If you go step-by-step, you are going to make progress."

Some guests come back every week, and new faces keep joining. "**People are getting curious, and that's very cool to see**," Carly says. She has seen how being part of a community helps guests feel more confident and move freely, without worrying about being judged. Each week, the class offers routine, calm, and connection, which supports guests' mental well-being as they work toward what's next.

Thanks to you and Carly, Michael and other shelter guests have a place to keep moving forward, one step at a time.





Top: Carly leading a yoga class

Bottom: Michael enjoying yoga

"It Changes Everything"

A lifelong supporter shares what decades at Hesed House's door taught her

In the 1980s, area churches took turns sheltering neighbors with nowhere to go. One father helped open those first doors. In time, those churches became Hesed House.

His daughter followed him. For decades, she made lunches, checked guests in and assigned beds. She got to know the people who came through the door.

"**They're people just like you, who have had a couple of bad breaks**," she says. Many are "**just a paycheck away from losing their apartment. All it takes is a medical emergency, a job loss.**"

"Get involved so you understand. It changes everything."

She's not able to volunteer anymore. "**I miss it. I really miss it.**" But she continues to donate, so the door stays open for the next neighbor. She sums up Hesed House in two words: "**loving care.**"

- **Give**: Your gift keeps the door open tonight and every night.
- **Volunteer**: Serve guests and see for yourself what she means.



Mantis Group serving a meal in our shelter

Current Donation Needs

- Cough drops, Cold & Flu Medicine (no alcohol)
- Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen (500 or 1,000 ct.)
- Diapers (sizes 6, 7) and Pull-ups (sizes 5T-6T and 6T-7T)
- 1 oz or less: Shampoo, Lotion, Bars of soap, and Deodorant

Current needs are always changing! Visit **hesedhouse.org/goods** to see the full list of donation needs.

Contact **drives@hesedhouse.org** to ask questions or organize a drop-off.



Small choices. Real change.

We are excited to announce that Hesed House is a featured organization in the Target Circle Campaign **now until December 31st**.

With Target Circle, when you shop, Target gives back to us on your behalf. It costs you nothing. Your everyday shopping can help a neighbor in need find their way to independence. Cast your votes today!

Step 1: Download Target app & create Target Circle membership
Step 2: Shop at Target to collect votes
Step 3: Cast your Target Circle votes for Hesed House

Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc., dba Hesed House is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN#: 36-3285644.
Please email donate@hesedhouse.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.