



2023 Board of Directors

President, Megan Hilback
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Fundraising, Tom Fasteland
Finance, Hugh Quinn
Board Development, Sandy Sampson
Building & Grounds, Open
Strategic Planning, Lorna Mix

Staff

Executive Director, Ron Oleheiser
Program Director, Dustin Witkofsky
Outreach Director, Julee Jackson
Volunteer Coordinator, Open

Site Supervisors

Joan Jewett, Leana Pereira,
Robert Finke, Emily Heinzer

Grace House of Itasca County
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2022 Annual Report

**A homeless shelter for Itasca County
Area individuals, families & others
experiencing homelessness needing
temporary, safe housing
and other support.**

Our Mission:

*“To provide safe, temporary shelter for
individuals and families who are
experiencing homelessness and connect
them to community resources.”*

Give Hospitality

Rest & Renewal

Access to Resources

Compassion

Empowerment for the future

• **Shelter Work**

Our shelter was very busy in 2022 and there are many statistics in this report. We fulfilled our mission by serving 184 people with 3,783 bed nights.

We welcomed three new employees. Robert Finke, Site Supervisor, Dustin Witkofsky, Program Director, and Julee Jackson was hired for a new position of Outreach Director. All staff are critical in fulfilling our mission and serving our guests.

All Staff - Thank you so Much!

Our Outreach Director started in July through a Community Living Infrastructure grant in collaboration with Kootasca and Northland Counseling. We receive assistance & support from Itasca County Health & Human Services and our regional partner, NE Continuum of Care.

Outreach Statistics:
84 households reached,
52 referrals to outside agencies = 62%
Outreach included all rural communities in Itasca County and Hill City & Remer.

The Outreach Program has served individuals who may have too high of a need to be in shelter or have backgrounds which would disqualify them from shelter. The Outreach worker will meet the person where they are at, assist them with applications/referrals, and provide Coordinated Entry Assessments. Our outreach worker has also met with outside agencies to help develop stronger relationships with other service providers.

Grace House began as a grassroots effort to assist and provide support to individuals and families in Itasca County experiencing homelessness. We have held steadfast to this effort and our mission for the past seventeen years.

In 2022 we served:

- 184 overall guests
151 Adults, 33 Children
16 Families
75 Females, 109 Males
Ages: up to 17 = 33
18 - 24 = 22 25 - 54 = 98
55 - 61 = 19 62+ = 12
11 Veterans
72% Caucasian
10% American Indian
3% Black/African American
15% Multiple Races
- 68% Itasca County residents
14% from adjoining counties
18% others
- 3,783 bed nights, 104% full,
(includes 166 motel nights)
- 6,018 meals served
- 142 turned away
- 20.5 days avg. stay
- 56% found permanent or temporary housing
- 15% employment @ intake
- 16% employment @ exit

- **Our Church Partners**

Churches continue to provide funding for our Homeless Prevention Fund (HPF) along with several other organizations. This fund assisted over 200 people, including guests and others needing help with gas cards, identification cards, rental application fees, transportation, and motel & camping vouchers.

Total 2022 HPF assistance was \$32,000.

Churches provide volunteers, general operation funding, food items and they help to keep our closets full of personal care items, quilts, bedding, and pillows. We tried something new this year with our church partners, Homeless Awareness Sunday, November 13th. It was to help raise awareness about homelessness in congregations.

- **Our Service Provider Partners**

A part of our mission is to connect our guests to resources and services they need and want. The following partners are extremely important in that effort: Kootasca Community Action, The Salvation Army, Northland Counseling, AEOA, Itasca County Health & Human Services, First Call for Help/CRT/211, North Homes, Advocates for Family Peace, Circles of Support, Itasca County Veterans Service Office, Itasca County HRA, MACV-Duluth and others.

**2023 “Home Is Where the Heart Is”
Dinner Fundraiser
Thurs, Dec 7th @ TimberLake Lodge**

- **Our Volunteers**

Volunteers are extremely important to the overall success of Grace House. In 2022 over 75 volunteers provided 4,018 hours of service. **Thank you!** This equals two full-time employees. **Your service is very much appreciated!**

Volunteers help in preparing and serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals to our guests. They serve as the overnight on-site hosts for our guests and assist with chores inside and outside the building.

A testimonial, “I would tell anyone who considers volunteering, it is a good choice. When you give of your time or money close to home, you know what it goes for. GRACE House helps people get back on their feet and become responsible, hardworking members of the community. What is required of the volunteers is so little but helps so much. “As a volunteer, I can give back!”

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please call our office today at 326-2790.

Grace House is an independent 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. As a nonprofit, Grace House depends on foundation and government grants; donations from individuals, service clubs, local businesses; gifts from faith-based organizations; and special fundraising events.

2022 Funding Partners

MN Department of Human Services
Blandin Foundation
Itasca County Health & Human Services
United Way of 1000 Lakes
Northland Foundation
Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Lake Country Power-Operation Roundup
Enbridge Energy, Diocese of Duluth
GR Area Community Foundation
North Itasca Electric-Operation Roundup
Second Harvest Food Bank, Hunger Solutions
Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless

Over 1,000 Local Individuals = \$128,000
45 Local Churches = \$19,000
Over 400 In-Kind donations valued at \$76,000.

Local businesses, Civic & Service Clubs

2care4u LLC, Acheson Tire
Affinity Plus Credit Union,
American Legion Post 122-Deer River,
American Legion Riders-Deer River,
American Legion Post 340-Hill City,
American Legion Post 60-GR,
Arrowhead Promotions/Thousand Lakes Sports
Bar Bell Bee Ranch, Beier’s Greenhouse,
Bigfork High School, Bloomers Garden Center,
Cap Baker Lions Club, City of LaPrairie,
City of Calumet, Crystals Salon Inc,
Dairy Queen-GR, Davis Chiropractic,
Deer River Coop Credit Union,
Deerwood Bank, Diocese of Duluth,
Edward Jones, Essentia Health,
First National Agency,
First National Bank-Coleraine,

Fraternal Order of Eagles & Auxiliary,
GLIK’S, Grand Dental Center,
Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital,
Grand Rapids BPW, Grand Rapids GM,
Great River Energy, Greenway High School,
Greenway Lions Club,
Hawkinson Construction,
Hill City Lions Club, IM Care-Itasca County
Itasca County Bar Association,
Jess Dental Office, Kiwanis Day Breaker Club,
L & M Supply, Lakehead Constructors,
Lawrence Lake Liquor, Leino’s Riverside Pub,
Leino’s Riverside Resort,
Mr. Furnace, Max Mini Store,
Members Cooperative Credit Union,
Minnesota Energy Resources Corp.,
Minnesota Power, Nancy Kurtz Agency,
North Homes, Inc, Northview Bank,
North Star Women’s Club, Park State Bank,
Paul Bunyan Communication,
Polar Insulating, Range Bottle Gas Co.
Ray’s Sport & Cycle,
Rowe Funeral Home, Sandstrom’s Company,
Star of the North Lions Club,
Super One Food Stores,
Thrivent Financial/Nelson & Weerts,
Timberlake Lodge, UPM/Blandin Paper Co,
VFW Post 1720-GR,
VFW Post 2720-Deer River,
Walmart Super Center, Wayne’s Automotive,
Williams Septic & Electric, Woodland Bank.

All businesses, organizations & individuals donating items for our annual fundraiser!

The GRACE House Board of Directors, staff and most importantly our guests appreciate the generous support of our donors. The past seventeen years of providing services to people experiencing homelessness would not have been possible without your support.

Thank You!