

GRACE HOUSE



2025 Board of Directors

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Finance, Tom Fasteland
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Building & Grounds, Andy Morgan

Staff

Executive Director, Ron Oleheiser
Program Director, Dustin Wikofsky
Outreach Director, Julie Jackson

Admin Asst., Jessica Kujala

Housing Res. Director, Elizabeth Johnson

Site Supervisors

Joan Jewett, Leana Pereira,
Robert Finke, Blake Bailey
Grace House of Itasca County
Phone: 218-326-2790

Face Book Page

Grace House of Itasca County
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GRACE HOUSE



2024 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."*

• Our Building Project

In last year's annual report, we mentioned that we had rec'd a Shelter Capital Grant. Our project was to remodel our current facility and build a new addition, which will double our capacity all in private rooms providing additional safety and security for all guests, staff and volunteers. The original plan was revised significantly after the first of the year and a draft was approved by our Board of Directors. We contracted with HAWK Construction as the general contractor and construction started officially July 1st. The project is getting closer to completion, and we expect to be in our shelter by March 1st of this year.



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 2024 we served:

- 91 overall guests
- 2,111 bed nights
- 3,253 meals served
- 88% Itasca County residents
- 7% from adjoining counties
- 5% others,
- 135 turned away

These statistics are much less for 2024 due in part to our statewide reporting tool being down for an update starting in July. As of the end of the year, we were still not able to get the stats we normally report. We apologize for this!

• Our Volunteers

Volunteers are extremely important to the overall success of Grace House. In 2024 over 75 volunteers provided 2,464 hours of service. **Thank you!**

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. We have immediate openings for people for this overnight sleep shift.

Call today, 218-326-2790 if interested.

Give Hospitality
Rest & Renewal
Access to Resources
Compassion
Empowerment for the future

- 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 2024 HPF assistance was \$20,817.

Churches provide volunteers, general operation funding, food items and they help to keep our closets full of personal care items, quilts, bedding, and pillows.

- 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.

2025 “Home Is Where the Heart Is”

19th Annual Dinner Fundraiser

Thursday, December 4th

TimberLake Lodge

- Shelter Work**

Our shelter was busy in 2024, we fulfilled our mission by serving 91 people with 2,111 bed nights.

We welcome a new employee, Jessica Kujala, our Administrative Assistant. All staff are critical in fulfilling our mission and serving our guests.

All Staff - Thank you so Much!

Our **Housing Resource** program continued in 2024 with support from DHS-CLI funds and Blandin Foundation for the first and second quarters. These funds were used to provide Direct Assistance with items related to and for rental assistance.

The funds supported many families in Itasca County with over \$90,000 and we also partnered with Leech Lake Housing to support families with an additional \$46,000.

A Rapid Rehousing HUD grant was received in 2024 through September 2025 to continue our work of supporting families with rental assistance and case management services.

Our **Outreach Program** started in late 2022, below are the 2024 Statistics:

Total number of community members

reached at events: 1,052

Total households reached needing help with housing: 161

Total number of referrals provided: 161

Outreach included all rural communities in Itasca County and Hill City & Remer.

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.

2024 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,

GR Area Community Foundation
Diocese of Duluth,

Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless

Over 500 Local Individuals = \$122,000

40 Local Churches = \$17,000

Over 300 In-Kind donations = \$82,000.

Local businesses, Civic & Service Clubs
\$50,000

4U Home Health Care, Acheson Tire,
Anchor Inn Resort, Affinity Plus Credit Union,
American Legion Post 60-GR,
American Legion Post 122-Deer River,
American Legion Riders-Deer River,
American Legion 301-Taconite

American Legion Post 340-Hill City,
American Legion 452-Keewatin

Arrowhead Promotions/Thousand Lakes Sports
Barney’s Resort & Lodging, Beaudry Oil Co.

Bloomers Garden Center,

Cap Baker Lions Club,

City of Calumet, City of LaPrairie,

Crystals Salon Inc, Cut Foot Sioux Resort,

Davis Chiropractic,

Deer River Coop Credit Union,

Deer River Lions Club,

Deerwood Bank, Diocese of Duluth,

Edward Jones, Essentia Health,

First National Agency,
First National Bank-Coleraine,
Fraternal Order of Eagles & Auxiliary
GR Area Community Foundation,
GR Area Freethinkers, GR Chiropractic,
GLJK’S, Grand Dental Center,
Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital,

Grand Rapids GM, Greenway Lions Club,
Hawkinson Construction,
Hibbing Chrysler Center

Hill City Lions Club, Jack’s Auto Center
Jacobson Community Center,
L & M Supply, Lakehead Constructors,
Lawrence Lake Liquor, Leech Lake Gaming,

Leino’s Riverside Pub,
Mr. Furnace, Mary Ives, Max Mini Store,
Members Cooperative Credit Union,
Minnesota Energy Resources Corp.,
Minnesota Power, Move It Real Estate,
Nelson Wood Shims, North Homes, Inc,
North Star Women’s Club,

Oak Hills Assisted Living, Park State Bank,
Paul Bunyan Communication,
Peterson Funeral Home

Polar Insulating, Providence Financial Advisors
Ray’s Sport & Cycle, Sandstrom’s Company,
Star of the North Lions Club,

Super One Food Stores,
Timberlake Lodge, UPM/Blandin Paper Co,
VFW Post 1720-GR,

VFW Post 2720-Deer River,
Walmart Super Center,
Williams Septic & Electric, Woodland Bank.

All businesses, organizations & individuals who
donated 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 eighteen years of providing services to
people experiencing homelessness would not
have been possible without your support.*

Thank You!