



DIGNITY

Aiding and empowering people experiencing extreme poverty, especially hunger and homelessness

Beacon Center Construction Starts This December!

We have exciting news: **construction on the Beacon Center will officially begin this December.**

In early June, we shared an update on an unexpected funding challenge. Shifts in federal funding priorities meant that \$4 million in anticipated New Markets Tax Credit financing was no longer available, requiring us to rethink our path forward.

Rather than delaying the entire project, our board, partners, and advisors developed a **phased construction plan**. This strategy allows us to break ground this winter, preserve key grant funding, and maintain project momentum on much-needed supportive housing while we continue raising the remaining funds needed to complete the project.

The Beacon Center will now be built in two phases:

- **Phase 1 (Beginning December):** Construction of 20 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) apartments and two work exchange apartments (the west wing), providing stable, long-term housing for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. During this phase, fundraising for Phase 2 will continue.
- **Phase 2:** Construction of the day center, kitchen, and overnight shelter (the east wing), upon completion of additional fundraising.

Because of your generosity and belief in this vision, we have already secured much of the funding needed to complete this transformational project. Your support has brought us to this important milestone, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

While there is still work ahead, we are confident that this phased approach is the right path forward. It allows us to begin serving our community sooner as we work toward fulfilling the complete vision for Beacon Center as a comprehensive resource for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Because of supporters like you, Beacon Center is becoming a reality. We look forward to sharing construction updates and funding opportunities in the months ahead and celebrating each milestone with you as we bring this vision to life.

With gratitude,

Forrest Gilmore,
Executive Director

Melanie Vehslage,
Board President

Amy Kendall,
Development Director

From Survival to Stability

"Beacon helped me when I had nothing." -Aaliyah

Before Beacon, Aaliyah was in crisis. Homeless with her seven children and carrying the trauma of domestic violence, she was doing everything she could just to keep them safe. They had no real home; only temporary places, constant judgement from others, and the heavy fog that comes from living in survival mode. Poverty and instability affected everything: her mood, her mental health, and her hope for the future. People saw a mom with children and no home, but they didn't see the barriers she faced or how hard she was fighting for her family.



Aaliyah

"We had nowhere to go."

Aaliyah was then connected to Beacon through a local family shelter, and that connection changed her life. Beacon was able to help with her security deposit, deposits for utilities, and the practical steps needed to move into stable housing. With that support, her children were able to move into a safe home in a good neighborhood. For the first time in a long time, she could breathe. Now free from constantly worrying about where they would sleep, she could focus on work, school, and being there for her kids.

"Beacon connects with you on a personal level. They don't look at you to judge you. They're very supportive."

Over time, Aaliyah's new home has become a place of healing and dignity. As a survivor of domestic violence, living in a safe location means everything to her. Because of Beacon's support, she has been able to focus on school so she can graduate and break the cycle of poverty for her family. After experiencing homelessness, she is grateful for every little thing. Everyday moments; taking her kids to the pool, going out to eat, or just having fun together, now feel precious.

"When you experience homelessness, it makes you value life and the things that you have a little bit more."

Aaliyah has several dreams for her future. She wants to deepen her faith, finish school, and own a home of her own so that her children will never have to face homelessness again. She dreams of sending her kids to a faith-based school and seeing them thrive in sports. She wants them to have opportunities she never had; to be safe, supported, and free to dream big.

"I'm just so grateful for the program."

Because of you, families like Aaliyah's can move from crisis to stability through Beacon's programs. Your support makes it possible for parents and children to find safety, housing, and hope when they need it most. Thank you for being a vital partner in creating a future rooted in dignity, security, and new beginnings.

JOIN US FOR BEACON'S 2026

HALLOWEEN BASH

OCTOBER 30TH

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

THE WOOLERY MILL

VISIT [BEACONBASH.COM](https://beaconbash.com) FOR
TICKETS AND MORE INFO!



FOOD | COSTUME CONTEST | MUSIC

Questions? Contact Isabella Frieze at isabella@beaconinc.org or 812-496-4734



THE BIG THREE IMPACTS



served 36,395 meals



provided 7,526
nights of shelter



housed or prevented
homelessness for 343 people

Jan - July 2026

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You Make a Difference

When you make a monthly gift to Beacon, you provide a sustainable future for people experiencing homelessness

Sign up for a monthly gift at beaconinc.org

or mail a check to:

Beacon, PO Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402



\$10 a month provides 60 hot, nutritious meals for people experiencing food insecurity



\$50 a month pays the security deposit for a family moving into a new home



\$25 a month shelters a person facing homelessness for nearly two weeks



\$100 a month covers a month of rent and supportive services for a person experiencing chronic homelessness due to a disability

Contact Amy Kendall at amykendall@beaconinc.org or 812-334-5734, ext. 123 to talk about the power of your gift

Monthly gifts can be changed or stopped at any time

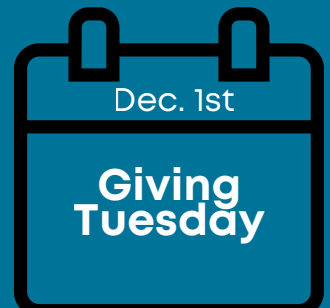
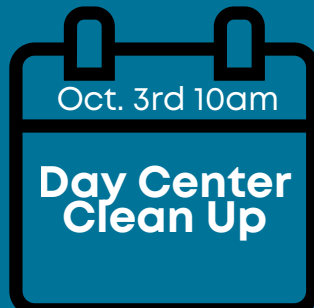
Help Us Be Good Neighbors!

At Beacon, we value our neighbors and want to maintain a safe, clean environment for our community. Join our volunteers and guests on Saturday, October 3rd from 10 am to 1pm to be a part of the beautification of our neighborhood surrounding our Day Center.

We will have a variety of inside and outside opportunities for all skill levels, from lawn care to trash pick up, to deep cleaning and more!

Lunch will be provided, so please let us know if you have any dietary needs and/or restrictions when you RSVP no later than September 25th to tory@beaconinc.org. We hope to see you there!

COMING SOON



beaconinc.org



812-334-5734



**PO Box 451
Bloomington, IN 47402**