



The Burlington Area Homeless Shelter emphasizes human dignity and promotes responsibility in order to achieve lasting success. BAHS provides temporary housing combined with personalized case management to assist individuals and families in reaching self-sufficiency and housing security in order to overcome barriers to stable housing. BAHS actively collaborates with community partners to make the dream of housing stability a reality.

## Updates

- We're well into 2026, but if you haven't seen our [2025 Annual Report](#) take a look! It overviews how many we served, funding, and more data in two pages. Let us know if you have any questions.
- In 2025, BAHS had an average of 67% Success rate, 17% higher than the national average! This is the first time in BAHS history that our calendar year average Success rate has been this high! Two out of every three homeless individuals who came into BAHS secured safety, security, employment, savings, and housing within three months!
- Our new Executive Director Jennifer has revamped [our website!](#) There's tons of information, success stories, and more. About 171 people visit our website each month! In March, 64 people were searching Google for a homeless shelter in Burlington. With that search, 68 people called us, 77 asked for directions, and 44 went to our website. <https://burlingtonareahomelessshelter.org/>
- We're continuing our community garden this year. If you like to garden and have time, we'd love to have your help in providing fresh produce for our residents and neighbors. The hours are flexible. Give us a call to arrange a time that works for you.
- Donate online! We now have [PayPal/Venmo](#) set up so you can support this good work with just a few clicks! You can easily set up a recurring donation if you'd like. It is also linked on our [Donate Webpage](#). Finances for daily shelter operations is our biggest need.
- As of September 2025 we have a [new brochure!](#) Check it out on our [About Us Webpage](#) or request copies to hand out from the shelter.



## Monthly Numbers

### December 2025

- 244 nights of service
- 45 homeless assistance bags/items provided
- 32 inquiries about staying at our shelter

### January 2026

- 208 nights of service
- 52 homeless assistance bags/items provided
- 45 inquiries about staying at our shelter

## February 2026

- 140 nights of service
- 53 homeless assistance bags/items provided
- 35 inquiries about staying at our shelter

## March 2026

- 140 nights of service
- 41 homeless assistance bags/items provided
- 29 inquiries about staying at our shelter

## Successes

- Left without money or hope after their significant other took everything they had, \*Joe had no where to go and felt broken. After a stay in a mental hospital due to declining health, he reached out to BAHS. We were happy to bring \*Joe in and provide safe housing in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Unfortunately, another mental health episode lead him back to the hospital early on. However, he was stable enough to return to BAHS and then found multiple community partners to help him stand strong. Local churches, education groups, and other resources helped. Burlington stood beside him and gave this individual the community he needed. After a few months of trials, attempts, failures, and successes, \*Joe saved his money and was able to secure his own stable housing.
- Being a single mother with two children under the age of three is tough. Losing your housing is even harder. \*Sarah reached out to BAHS seeking safety and help. We were able to provide a family room just for them. \*Sarah found reliable childcare, resources, and then was able to get better hours at work. With the help of local resources like [Hetta Gilbert](#), [Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa](#), and [Community Action of Southeast Iowa](#) \*Sarah's hard work and determination, combined with local support systems, helped her secure safe housing for herself and her two little ones in only 9 weeks.
- Here's a review a resident recently wrote: If you're ever needing to get on your feet in a positive environment I highly recommend coming to BAHS. Me and my boyfriend are 19 and 20 years old with no where to go and quite frankly no one to care where we went. The staff here are very motivating people. Very respectful of your privacy, and overall just some of the nicest people I've met. It was nice to have people who believe in us even when they don't even know us. And they care about us more than most people in our lives. And if you're ever worried about being judged for any reason at all you don't need to worry about that because they are very welcoming people and if you need counseling of any sort from mental health to addiction they offer resources and they will even offer a listening ear themselves! We are now in our first ever apartment and we couldn't have done it without God and the kind people at BAHS. I can't thank you guys enough!"

\*Names changed for confidentiality.

How does success happen? Take a look at our handout that details the [Pathway to Success at BAHS](#).

Learn more about [our intake process or our success numbers](#).

## Current Needs

- For the house and residents:
  - Paper towels
  - Hamburger
  - Toilet Bowl Cleaner
  - Gallon freezer Ziplock style bags
  - Sugar
  - Flour
- For the Homeless Bags we give out:
  - Bottled Water
  - First aid kits and lip balm
  - Can Openers and shower curtain liners
  - Canned hearty soup and fruit
  - Cans/pouches of meat (chicken/tuna/other) We prefer pop top cans that don't need a can opener
  - Granola bars/snacks

Take a look at [our Amazon Wish](#) list to purchase needed items online and have them sent directly to us: <https://a.co/88xpNdn>

## Learn: Homelessness at an All Time High

From a post from [Community Action of Southeast Iowa February 24, 2026](#):

Nationally: The number of people experiencing homelessness hit an all-time high in 2024 at over 770,000 people. This was up 18% from 2023, and up 32% from 2022. Several possible factors, including the resuming of evictions that had been paused during COVID-19 and limited availability of affordable housing, could have contributed to this increase. -[USA Facts](#) - <https://usafacts.org/reports/state-of-the-union/standard-of-living/>

We see this locally as well. As of 2/24/2026 there are 123 people on the coordinated entry housing waiting list in southeast Iowa that are living in a place not meant for human habitation (living in their vehicle, on the streets, etc). There are 552 people currently with a roof over their head who are in jeopardy of losing it within the next 30 days (couch surfing, have an eviction notice, etc). There continues to be a large need for resources to help people find housing and stay in housing in our area.

There are a few housing programs at Community Action, there's the [Burlington Area Homeless Shelter](#) and [Transitions DMC](#), the Emma Cornelius Hospitality House in Fort Madison, and the Keokuk Homeless Alliance is working hard at getting their shelter started. There are sober living homes, transitional living homes, subsidized housing, school homeless liaisons, [United Way of Southeast Iowa](#) and the [United Way of the Great River Region](#) that support housing programs, and there are other programs who do things affecting homelessness and the prevention of homelessness.

...But we need MORE! With homelessness up 32% from 2022 we need more money, more people, more prevention programs, more recovery programs, more support, more funders, donors, compassionate caring people, more affordable housing, more case management, more connection, more... at least 32% more of all the good and helpful stuff too.

## Donations

In December 2025 we had 59 financial donors and 59 in kind donors.

In January 2026 we had 22 financial donors and 244 in kind donors.

In February 2026 we had 19 financial donors, 28 in kind donors, and 9 volunteers.

In March 2026 we had 16 financial donors and 18 in kind donors.



- Sunnyside Elementary Leadership team collected donations, came by for a tour, and asked excellent questions. School personnel said the students had a meaningful experience that helped them see the impact of giving back and supporting community. Thank you students!
  - Thank you to the West Burlington [Southeastern Community College](#) Student Nurse Association for your donation of water bottles, paper products, and canned goods!
  - We received a funding for New Life Starter Kits from the Community Foundation of Des Moines County
  - Thank you to Farm Credit Services of America for funding food and resident meals.
- Thank you to our many individual and group donors! Finances for full time staffing continues to be our

biggest need. See more details about our finances in our [Annual Reports](#) or contact us with questions.

You can financially support us by mail or stopping by our location at  
123 North Marshall St, Burlington, IA 52601 or by donating online through [PayPal/Venmo](#)

## Get Involved

- Like our page and posts on [Facebook](#). This boosts our algorithm to help us raise awareness.
- Gather a group to put together Homeless Supply Bags.
- Host a fundraiser; in person or on social media. Consider asking friends and family to make a donation in your honor to the shelter as your birthday gift.
- Contact us if you're interested in having us come speak to your group or coming to the shelter for a tour: [assistantdirector.bahs@gmail.com](mailto:assistantdirector.bahs@gmail.com)
- Talk about us. Come visit us. Share this newsletter. Advocate for the houseless.
- Organize a supply drive. This can be as simple as a bin with a list we can provide. You set it up at your business, place of worship, for a birthday party, or notify friends and then drop items off to us when your time frame is over.
- If you have some mechanical or handyman (or woman) skills let us know. We regularly seem to have some repair, painting, or small fix it things we could use help with.
- Volunteer to man a table at a resource or community event. We will provide all the materials and give you some pointers on talking with people about the shelter.
- Tell leaders in your community, city officials, elected officials from local offices all the way up to the national level, that you care about homelessness and why. City council members, your pastor, the mayor, district representatives, and others need to know you care. Talk to them, show up at meetings, write letters, leave voicemails. Your voice matters. You're a part of this community. You have something to say.
- Sign up to get this newsletter in your email or read past editions here:  
<https://burlingtonareahomelessshelter.org/get-involved/>

## Resources

- Housing Resources: <https://caofseia.org/resources/#housing>
- One page listing of homelessness resources in and around Southeast Iowa: <https://caofseia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025-12-07-Homeless-Resources.pdf> (Updated 12/7/2025)
- Community Action of Southeast Iowa's webpage for Homeless Assistance:
  - <https://caofseia.org/services/adults/homeless-assistance/>
- Des Moines County Resource Guide: <https://caofseia.org/resources/#resourceguides>

# Burlington Area Homeless Shelter



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Office Hours: Monday - Friday from 9am-Noon & 1pm - 4pm

Donation Hours: Everyday 10am-7pm

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/burlingtonareahomelessshelter>

Website: <https://burlingtonareahomelessshelter.wordpress.com/>