

# Hidden Homelessness

~ raising awareness and promoting change

OCTOBER 2022

# 1



## Lived Experience Voice

"It wasn't home, it wasn't my own. At any point they could kick me out. When I got into my own place, it was different. I had freedom."

*~ Formerly doubled-up single mother raising a child with significant health needs*

## Getting to Know You:

**Andrea  
Gaines**



**What is your job, and how long have you been in it?**

I am the coordinator/case manager of the Family Housing Stability (FHS) program at the YWCA. I assist families that are doubled up or self-paying in hotels find and maintain housing. I have been at the YWCA for 3 years. This year the YWCA has partnered with MMSD to expand the program. This expansion would allow the FHS program the ability to serve more families, specifically those with children in the Madison School District, with referrals coming from the school social workers.

(Continued on page 2)

## What's on Deck...

# 3

### November is National Homelessness Awareness Month

Join us for the Wisconsin kickoff event of National Homelessness Awareness Month 2022 on November 2, at 11:30AM in the Capitol Rotunda. Speakers will range from state representatives addressing the concerns of homelessness in Wisconsin to individuals with lived experience of homelessness. The event will also feature a Ribbon Tree that will showcase and measure the different types of homelessness experienced in Wisconsin.

Alongside the tree, there will be information about programs and services across the state that assist families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The tree and information will remain in the rotunda for the month of November.

Please email [wisconsinhomelessnessawareness@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinhomelessnessawareness@gmail.com) if you would like to feature your organization's outreach materials on the event's Facebook page or if you have questions about the event. Please send the information no later than 10/28/2022.

Community groups, schools, and churches are also encouraged to build their own awareness locally during the month of November. Here are some examples of ways to do that:

- Create your very own Ribbon Tree
- Hang or tie ribbons on trees outside to create awareness in the community
- Volunteer and/or raise money for local homeless services
- Advocate for public policies on a local, state and federal level

\*For more information about the event or to connect with local homeless service providers or school homeless liaisons, please follow this link:

<https://fb.me/e/35FD1Ip4H>

# Uncovering Hidden Homelessness

~ raising awareness and promoting change ~

# 4



## Ways to Help...



Here comes the season of cold and snow...

Let's help each other through Winter Glow!

Help keep our community warm this season by donating your previously loved winter coats! Winter Glow helps provide coats to those who need them. To find out more, please click the following link:  
[CAC Winter Glow 2022](#)

# 6

This newsletter is brought to you by the Doubled Up Workgroup.

Since 2019, we have been working to raise awareness about doubled up homelessness in our community and advocating for resources to support this population.

Questions or comments?  
Email us at [doubledupworkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:doubledupworkgroup@gmail.com)



Introducing **Andrea Gaines** (Continued from page 1)

### What does a typical day look like?

A typical day for me consist of assisting families with connecting to resources, completing housing applications, advocating. Basically, anything a family would need to sustain housing, I would be able to assist with.

### What is the best part of your job? The hardest part of your job?

The best part of my job is helping individuals who normally would not qualify for services. The hardest part of my job is assisting individuals through systems that are not meant to assist with growth.

### If you could change one thing about the service system, what would it be?

One thing that I would change about the service system is to have the services be on a time frame (a individual can have services for a certain amount of time). Also open services to not only low-income families.

### One random fact about you!

One interesting fact about me is that I love to decorate and create things.

### One thing you want people to know about doubled up homelessness in our schools/community?

One thing that I want people to know is that the Doubled-up population is as vulnerable as the population that are considered category 1 or category 3 homeless.

# 5

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

## Have You Heard...

Steps to Stability (S2S), a new program through the YWCA, is a tenant-education program for families experiencing housing instability. Participants in the program complete a class that covers various topics related to renting: finding and maintaining housing, learning landlord/tenant and fair housing laws, financial planning, communicating with landlords, and understanding notices and contracts associated with renting. The program aims to build relationships with landlords in the community and support participants in obtaining/maintaining housing through short-term supportive case management services and a small amount of rental assistance.

### To be eligible, families must:

1. Reside in Dane County
2. Have a minor child in the household
3. Be experiencing housing instability in one of the following ways:
  - o Currently staying in emergency shelter
  - o At imminent risk of entering emergency shelter
  - o Recently moved into housing

For more information or to request an application, contact the Steps to Stability Coordinator, Katey Nelson at (608) 257-1436 option 2, or [knelson@ywcamadison.org](mailto:knelson@ywcamadison.org)