

Laura Gundlach-Heiman
Executive Director of Neighborhood House Community Center



Laura Gundlach-Heiman, MS. Ed, is the current executive director at Neighborhood House Community Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Laura has worked with youth, families, communities, and at-risk populations for nearly 15 years. She began her career in youth development and community programs by working with aquatics and adaptive programs at Madison School and Community Recreation and taught elementary school at a public K-8 charter school in New Orleans, Louisiana.

After moving back to Madison, Laura worked with 4-H Youth Development at the University of Wisconsin. While at 4-H, Laura planned and facilitated statewide youth-adult programs, coordinated adult volunteers, supported staff professional development, and worked on equity and inclusion efforts.

Laura came to Neighborhood House in 2018 where she began as the Youth Program Director and moved into the Executive Director role in 2020. In this role, Laura facilitates and oversees a variety of programs and services, including year-round youth programming, community events and classes, older adult programs, services for adults with disabilities, enrichment and wellness classes, community food programs, basic needs services, and access to resources. Since 2020, NHCC has quadrupled its program offerings.

In addition to running programs and services, Laura prioritizes collaboration and connections and has fostered formal and informal partnerships with a number of social service agencies, businesses, community groups, and neighborhoods. Laura oversees all administrative functions at Neighborhood House including management of staff and volunteers, facility use, grant and donation development, and manages the operations and financial oversight of the organization and has increased annual revenue by over 120%.

In 2023, Neighborhood House began to undertake an ambitious and exciting redevelopment, which Laura has spearheaded. The redevelopment will quadruple the size of Neighborhood House and offer four stories of much needed affordable housing.

Laura attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison where she received her Bachelors degrees in Human Geography and Environmental Studies. She received her Masters of Science in Education - Curriculum and Instruction from University of Wisconsin - Superior.