



DoveTales

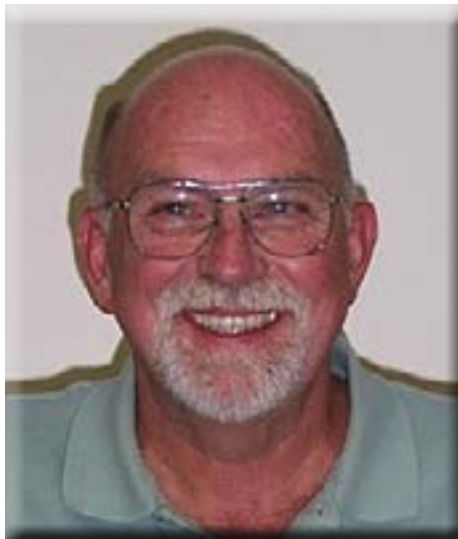
the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

July 2021

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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Dove, Inc.
302 S. Union
Decatur, IL 62522
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In Loving Memory of Ray Batman
July 16, 1944 ~ June 29, 2021

As we were finishing this July newsletter, we heard the news that our beloved Ray Batman had passed away on June 29. Ray had been the first employee of Dove and key to the process of working with the congregations founding this organization. Ray had retired from Dove in December of 2011.

As many of us now mourn our leader-boss-mentor-friend, we want to share of his passing and send our heartfelt prayers to Missy and his family. Board, staff, supporters and friends will come together to begin a process for memorializing Ray. But for now, we would like for you to consider sharing a remembrance of Ray; it may be a few lines or a few paragraphs. We will only be sharing stories in relationship with Dove. Some may be posted in an upcoming newsletter or on our blog.

Please send any submissions to dove@doveinc.org

Dove's Mission

Dove is an organization that engages religious institutions, volunteers, and advocates seeking to coordinate efforts to address unmet needs and social injustices. These needs are met through coordinated programs focusing on domestic violence, homelessness, education, volunteer and community empowerment, and individual emergency need fulfillment. Dove works for justice, equality, and understanding among all people.

Leadership Team

Tamara Wilcox, Executive Director

Barbara Blakey, Director of Volunteers & Community Relations

Teri Ducey, Domestic Violence Program Director

Darsonya Switzer, Homeward Bound Program Director

Program Leadership

BABES Program, Vacant

Children's Clothing Room, Vacant

Dove Food Pantry, Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Dove Financial Assistance, Shane Hartman, Program Director

Domestic Violence Program

Teri Ducey, Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

VACANT Piatt County Coordinator

Homeward Bound, Darsonya Switzer, Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program, LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

SCP • Senior Companion Program

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Christina Gillaspie, RSVP & SCP Program Director

Kimberly McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Kathy Walters, Senior Companion Coordinator

**In anticipation of the eviction moratorium ending soon,
the City of Decatur and Dove will host an
informational meeting between area landlords and service
providers to be better prepared for the upcoming evictions.**

Thursday, July 15 • 9:00 a.m. OR 5:30 p.m.

Decatur Civic Center Theatre, 2nd Floor, #1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza

If you have additional questions, please contact

Richelle Dunbar • 217.424.2864 • rirons@decaturil.gov

or Darsonya Switzer • 217.362.7200 • dswitzer@doveinc.org

Just Craftin Around

Wednesdays

5:30-7pm

Dove

No matter what your age, it can sometimes be difficult to put your feelings into words. Art allows them to flow freely onto the paper instead. The best part is--there is no artistic talent necessary to access these benefits! Come to group and express yourself through arts and crafts.

**This is one of
a couple new
support groups
being offered
at the Shelter!**

Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance
for families/individuals in need

Macon County Site:
Northeast Community Fund
839 N. MLK, Jr. Drive, Decatur

Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

DeWitt, Shelby, Moultrie and Piatt Counties
By appointment, can be reached at
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108

Help is available via phone, fax and email.
217.433.7435
DFA@doveinc.org
217.423.5025 - fax

If you'd like to make a donation to this emergency financial program,
please use mailing address:

302 S. Union, Decatur, IL 62522
or on Dove's website
doveinc.org

Please put DFA on check memo line or on the website comment box.

**Decatur residents who have verifiable lost income
due to the Covid Pandemic might be
eligible for the relief assistance via the City of Decatur
and DFA for rent, power and mortgage.**



**An APPLICATION can be
downloaded from the Dove Website.**

**Applications can also be picked up
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday,
Northeast Community Fund,
839 N. MLK, Jr. Dr., Decatur.**

**Questions about this grant and application can be
directed to 217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org**

News from Homeward Bound

Life Skills Employability:

The Life Skills/Employability Coordinator met with 16 individuals for the month of May. The following job linkages were made: Innovative Staff Solutions, Manpower, Caterpillar, Walmart, KFC, and a local construction company. The salary ranges for those positions were \$11/hr. to \$20/hr.

Coordinated Entry:

Dove-Homeward Bound, on behalf of the Macon County CoC, continues to provide services and have staff available 24 hours, to assist those in need of housing solutions. Please share the contact numbers with anyone you know who is experiencing housing instability issues, 217.362.7700 or 217.619.5742.

The staff have been working to engage and house 24 individuals who have been literally homeless (in a shelter, on the streets or somewhere unfit for human occupancy, such as an abandoned building) for 90-days or more. Four (4) of those individuals meet the chronically homeless criteria, which means they have a diagnosable disability AND have been homeless for at least 1 year or have been homeless 4 times in the past 3 years, totaling 365 days.

There are 376 total participants currently receiving housing and/or services.

The need for 1-bedroom units for single individuals is still dire!

Dove- Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for participants:

*Diapers (all sizes) and Baby Wipes
Personal Hygiene Items*

These donated items can be delivered to:

Dove-Homeward Bound
788 E. Clay, Decatur, IL 62521
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Move-In Starter Kits

Please consider donating items for move-in starter kits for individuals and families moving from homelessness to housing. Join the Macon County Continuum of Care in supporting this effort. Donations will be accepted at Northeast Community Fund (NECF) and distributed in "starter kits" to agencies serving those moving into housing.

- cleaning supplies
- paper products
- bath towels
- kitchen towels
- sheets/blankets/pillows
- plates/glasses/silverware
- kitchen utensils
- pots/pans

***These donated items
can be delivered to:***

***Northeast Community Fund
839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.
Decatur, IL 62521
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.***



Watch for monthly updates on the Basket Drive!

Considering the humidity and heat (and thunderstorms) we've been having the last few days, it's almost hard to believe that we're only six months away from Christmas, chilly weather and snow! But that is the reality of it – time goes by all too fast these days.

The Baskets Team is preparing for the program, working on revamping our referrals, and promotional materials, discussing how to make things run more smoothly and easily for the clients we serve. If you're wanting to help, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

We'd be thrilled to start scheduling volunteers to help, beginning December 3, through the 17 (except Sundays). If you're a planner, we'd love to have you on board the planning side of things, too. We love innovative ideas and brainstorming!

You could always collect donations of new items like hats and gloves, or stocking stuffers. If you're crafty, you could knit hats and scarves or make new stockings, or even kid-friendly pillowcases. You could make blankets, donate wrapping paper and tape, and be in prayer for the program and its members and the clients we serve.

A lot of stores will be having back to school sales soon, which is a great time to stock up on things like crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc. for stocking stuffers.

Program Needs:

- Large black garbage bags
- Large Ziplock bags
- New cosmetic bags for teen girls
- Stockings and stocking stuffers
- Hats and gloves
- Wrapping paper and tape
- Disposable tablecloths
- Monetary donations

If you have ideas or want to help, please reach out to me and we can discuss opportunities for involvement. I'd love to chat with you! You can reach me at 217.428.6616 or by email at awilliams@doveinc.org. Thank you so much.

Angie Williams , Baskets Coordinator

Please reach out to your church, social groups, and friends and consider volunteering. It's a lot of work but also a lot of fun!

Senior Companion Program

Will you be a friend?

The Senior Companion Program helps older adults maintain their dignity and independence while also assisting caregivers by giving them a break. If you are 55 and better, on a fixed income and would like to bring a spark into someone's life while making a small stipend, then call Kathy today at 217.428.6616 to get started. The next training is starting soon.

New Partner, New Journey

We are excited to announce our first Senior Companion partnership with Faith in Action. At Faith in Action, they provide free services to homebound elderly and disabled citizens in our community; from transportation needs to companionship. This program is possible because of compassionate and caring volunteers. Our senior companions help with companionship (in person friendly visit or phone call) and other quality of life activities. We loved having Sarah Sanchez, Faith in Action Coordinator, educate staff and volunteers on this wonderful program and helping to get our new companions started in service.



**Domestic Violence Shelter
Program Needs**

**PAPER TOWEL ROLLS
DISPOSABLE CUPS
PLASTIC EATING UTENSILS
DISPOSABLE PLATES**

**GAS GIFT CARDS
WALMART GIFT CARDS
ALDI GIFT CARDS
FAST FOOD GIFT CARDS**

***MUST BE NEW*
SIZE TWIN XL SHEET SETS
TOWELS/WASH CLOTHS
LAUNDRY BASKETS**

***ALL SIZES AND MUST BE NEW*
LADIES T-SHIRTS
LADIES SWEAT PANTS
LADIES NIGHT SHIRTS
LADIES SOCKS/UNDERWEAR**

*Your gift will ensure that services can
continue.*

Please give generously.

*Dove, Inc.
302 S. Union St., Decatur, IL 62522
or donate online at doveinc.org*

Outreach Programs Support our Families in Need

Children's Clothing Room

located inside
Prairie Avenue Christian
Church
2201 East Prairie Avenue

**Mondays and
Wednesdays**
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

**Guidelines posted on
website and
posted at church.**

doveinc.org

*If you or someone you know has a child in need of
summer clothing, we would love to serve them.
There is no cost to use our clothing room and
families may do so once every thirty days.*



Dove Food Pantry



Thursdays

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
803 W. Leander, Clinton

- This is a free service to anyone in DeWitt County.
- You can utilize the pantry once a month.
- When you arrive at the door, you will need to show your ID.
- Carissa and/or Jennifer will bring your food to the door.
- We also have diapers if you have a little one in your household - child must be living in the household.
- We do request that if someone is already at the door receiving food, you stay in your vehicle until it is your turn.
- We are doing all we can to abide by the social distancing guidelines.



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Senior Companion Program

Kathy Walters, Senior Companion Coordinator, on final day of training the first three Senior Companions.

These volunteers have completed their training and started giving back to homebound seniors in their communities.

Welcome and Congratulations Annie, Bianco, and Mary. We are excited to have you join the Senior Companion Program.





RSVP Volunteer Opportunities!

We are accepting new **Advisory Council** members. The new term starts this month. Are you a natural leader? We are looking for great leaders to help lead our AmeriCorps Senior Programs, Dove Inc.'s Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. Advisory Council members help us determine needed programming, gaps in services available in their communities, select how we participate in Days of Service, plus more. Having new people helps give us new perspectives and new ideas for events and more. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 in Macon County, Kimberly at 217.935.2241 for DeWitt County.

Scovill Zoo needs you! Do you want to go down the line or give a lift to children and their families? We are looking for volunteers to drive the train and run the carousel on Saturdays & Sundays at Scovill Zoo. Some carousel and train shifts are available through the week as well. There are two dif-

ferent shifts available daily, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 to 5:15 p.m. This is a great way to spend your day giving joy to children and watching their faces light up with pure excitement. Background check required. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 to get started today.

Faith in Action has an urgent need for drivers. Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in maintaining their independence, dignity, and quality of life. Transportation is crucial to the quality of life of older adults. Doctors' appointments, an errand or grocery shopping, or just a friendly face to escort them to a social event are ways to improve and maintain a senior's quality of life. Volunteers are needed to help local seniors stay healthy and active. A background check is required. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 to learn how you can be the hope for your neighbor in need.

Dove's Dewitt County **Food Pantry** needs assistance picking up donated bread from local establishments in Clinton. This task takes less than ½ hour and serves many families in the community. For more information, please reach out to Kimberly at 217.935.2241.



Dove's Dewitt County **Food Pantry** also needs assistance unloading food from Midwest on a monthly basis. This task takes an hour or less. Many hands make light work. For more information, please reach out to Kimberly at 217.935.2241.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

The Domestic Violence Program has certainly been busy going through many changes. We have implemented several staff promotions given the additional responsibilities that have been added to their job descriptions. Currently we have 3 openings: Piatt County Coordinator, 2nd Shift Shelter Specialist and Domestic Violence Shelter Maintenance Specialist. (see doveinc.org for job descriptions)

Request for shelter and orders of protection has significantly increased. The past 2 weeks the need for Orders of Protection has skyrocketed. A total of 18 Emergency Orders of Protection and 12 Plenary Orders were completed!

Teri Ducey, Program Director

The Family Violence Coordinating Council continues to move forward. The overall goal of this Council is to improve the criminal justice response to family violence in our community. Four committees are forming out of this full Council and are in the process of having their first meetings. These committees are:

Law Enforcement/Prosecution Lethality & Risk Assessment Committee

- Brings together professionals from law enforcement, State Attorney's Office, service providers etc. to address issues related to prosecution of perpetrators
- The intent of this team is to create annual goals and projects to achieve those goals. This year's project will include the creation and implementation of risk assessment tools geared toward identifying high risk perpetrators of family violence in our community

Rehabilitative Protected Service Committee

- Brings together professionals from State's Attorney Office, Public Defender's Office, Probation, private & government attorneys, services providers, etc. to address issues related to rehabilitation of perpetrators
- The intent of this team is to create annual goals to create successful methods of rehabilitating perpetrators of family violence in the community

Community Engagement and Training Safety Committee

- Implements grant required council training activities and promote awareness for family violence in the community
- Focuses on researching, developing, scheduling and presenting training for council members, first responders, and community outreach

Data Analysis Committee

- History has shown that childhood physical and sexual abuses were significantly associated with partner violence. Collection of reported family violence will help shed light on the prevalence, causes, and consequences of all types of family violence. Reliable statistics are essential in developing effective governmental responses and program service performance
- The intent of this team is to identify ways to improve data collection, reporting and sharing of data analysis with council members
- Collected statistics should include but not limited to: numbers of prosecutions, convictions, denials of prosecutions, orders for protection issued, and re-offense data

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Moultrie County Becky Comstock, Coordinator

The Moultrie County Dove Domestic Violence Program provides assistance and support to all victims of domestic violence. All services are free and confidential, designed to keep victims and children safe, and are offered in a non-judgmental atmosphere. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence and in need of shelter, legal advocacy, children's services, parenting education, teen dating violence education, information or referrals please contact 217.728.9303 or call our 24-hr hotline, 217.728.9334. Anyone interested in attending Moultrie County Dove Domestic Violence Group, Thursdays at 5:00 p.m., should call 217.72.9303.

Piatt County Liz Mackey, Coordinator

Dove Domestic Violence Program in Monticello continues to send our condolences to the Oberheim family and all those in the community that have been touched by this tragedy. Officer Oberheim was an outstanding member of our community and as Monticello continues to heal, it is important that we all take the time to care and seek out each other for support.

The Piatt County Office continues to operate Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is always available by hotline at 217.762.2122. Stay safe.

We also are looking for a Piatt County Coordinator for this office. See Dove's website for more information at doveinc.org.

Shelby County Susie Kensil, Coordinator

Thank you to the area United Methodist women for your generous donation of grooming items to our program. We are so grateful for your continuing support.

Congratulations and best wishes to Shelby County Sheriff Don Koonce on his retirement, June 25. Don has been in law enforcement locally for decades and richly deserves to fully enjoy retirement. Thank you for your support of our program over the years. Welcome to Sean McQueen, our interim sheriff. Sean has long been a friend of our Shelby County DV program; the department is left in good hands.

DeWitt County Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Ladies of Value Support Group is meeting again on Mondays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Ladies of Value Support Group is a group where ladies who have endured domestic violence can come together in a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere, to learn, discuss and share how domestic violence has affected their lives and those of their children. We also offer a children's support group during this time. Please call Jennifer or Carissa if you would like to attend.

We now also offer DV 101 classes. These classes are at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. This group is a 20-week curriculum-based group that is offered in more of a classroom type setting to be educated on the many dynamics that surround domestic violence, the different types of abuse, etc. This class is very informative and full of useful information. If you are interested in this free class, please call 217.935.6619.

We are still looking for more CADV (Committee Against Domestic Violence) members. If you are interested in supporting victims of domestic violence, please call Jennifer or Carissa at 217.935.6619.

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing news from the Neighborhoods!

Dove is so excited to announce that LeAnn Ellis has been promoted to the Neighborhood Services Program Coordinator. LeAnn has served Dove since August 2019, beginning in the Homeward Bound Program.

LeAnn will be reaching out to Neighborhood Groups soon to learn more about all you are doing to make Decatur great.

Neighborhood Groups,
please let us help share your activities.
Email us at dove@doveinc.org

CONO Meeting
Tuesday, July 20
Staley Room
Decatur Public Library
Downtown Decatur

2021 Clokey Park Neighborhood Group

July 11, Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.
July 17, Adopt-A-Street, 10:00 a.m. PACC
July 18, Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.
July 22, Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m., PACC
July 25, Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.

All Activities Subject to Change
due to COVID-19 Guidelines

BABES



We are seeking a Coordinator for this program.

Please check the website for more details

doveinc.org.

Please share this opportunity with

*those you feel might be interested in a creative, meaningful job that
can make a lasting impact on the lives of our area children.*

Contact Barb Blakey dove@doveinc.org

BABES Program Volunteer Training

Thursday, August 5, 2021

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

contact dove@doveinc.org, by July 29, to register!

Join our team at Dove!
Please review the most current
job openings listed on our website
www.doveinc.org



You can now support Dove by
participating with the Kroger
Community Rewards Program!

To use the Kroger Community
Rewards Program, simply visit
<http://www.kroger.com>

Once logged into your Kroger account
you can search for DOVE INC either
by name or DK772 and then click
enroll.

New users will need to create an
account which requires some basic
information, a valid email address and a
rewards card.

If you do not yet have a rewards card,
the cards are available at the customer
service desk at any Kroger.

News from RSVP!

Many of our partner stations are beginning to welcome volunteers back to the agency. If your station is still closed but you would like to return to volunteer service give Charlie a call at 217.428.6616. Many organizations are in need of volunteers to serve the increase of community needs.

Remember RSVP has personal protective equipment available to our RSVP and SCP volunteers, just call our office and let us know what you need. We will get things ready for pick up.

Coupons for Military Families Overseas • Volunteers and community members have officially helped collect, sort, and cut over 3 MILLION coupons - 3,013,487 to military families serving overseas and we have 2 more boxes ready to go out the door. If you want to get involved just give our office a call at 217.428.6616. We have several options available to volunteers who want to participate, including serving from home.



Join our team at Dove!
Please review the most current
job openings listed on our website
www.doveinc.org



The VOL is made up of volunteer coordinators from local agencies who know the value of a volunteer and their time.

The group meets monthly to share best practices, ideas, and successes to help ensure all volunteers are getting quality volunteer opportunities in Macon County.

**Our next meeting is
July 13, 2021, noon**

To get added to the email list call Charlie Gillaspie, Dove, at 217.428.6616 or Jenny Garver with Macon County Conservation District, 217.423.7708



Bill Payment Assistance Guidelines

Macon County:

Northeast Community Fund, 839 N. MLK, Jr. Dr., Decatur
Monday through Thursday • 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

DeWitt and Piatt Counties:

By appointment, can be reached at
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108

- Driver's License or other Photo I.D. and copy of current Ameren Illinois utility bill
- Applicant must reside at the address on the bill and have active service in his or her name
- Income eligibility, see guidelines in the box
- Applicant can receive WNCF assistance only once per heating season, which is 10/1 to 5/31 each year and once per cooling season, 6/1 to 9/30
- WNCF matches customer payments (within the last 45 days) up to \$350 during heating season and up to \$200 during cooling season
- Heating grants are based solely on income guide-lines while cooling grants are intended for seniors, disabled or those with medical conditions exacerbated by heat (with a doctor's letter)

Must show proof of
30 Day (GROSS) Income
Must be Between

Family Size	200%	350%
1	\$2,127	\$3,722
2	\$2,873	\$5,028
3	\$3,620	\$6,336
4	\$4,367	\$7,642
5	\$5,113	\$8,948
6	\$5,860	\$10,256
7	\$6,607	\$11,562
8	\$7,353	\$12,868



You shop.

Amazon gives.

**Amazon donates
0.5% of the price of your
eligible
AmazonSmile
purchases
to the charitable
organization of your choice.**

**We hope
you choose Dove!**

**just start shopping at
smile.amazon.com**