



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

September 2021

Barbara Blakey  
Editor

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Dove, Inc.  
302 S. Union  
Decatur, IL 62522  
217.428.6616  
dove@doveinc.org



**With caution and care, Dove staff members are making plans for a few events this fall and joining in other public events. We will adapt or postpone if situations change. Please watch for updates on these and other plans we are excited to be a part of:**

### **Nelson's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser for all Dove Programs!**

Thursday, September 23, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
see page 3 to order your dinner!

### **Seniorama**

Thursday, September 9, 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.  
Decatur Civic Center, Downtown Decatur  
Neighborhood Services Program,  
Senior Companion Program and  
RSVP will be attending this annual event.

**"Meet a Hero, Be a Hero"  
RSVP / SCP 911 Day of Service**  
see page 2 for information

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Coats for Kids Drive**  
mid-October through November

### **Neighborhood Groups Volunteer Recognition Event**

hosted by CONO - Tuesday, October 19

**Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training**  
see page 13 for more information

### **Candlelighting Ceremonies in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Shelby County - Thursday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.  
First Assembly of God Church, 108 S. Oak, Shelbyville

DeWitt County - Thursday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.  
Presbyterian Church, 402 N. Center St., Clinton

Macon County - Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie, Decatur

Moultrie County - Thursday, October 21, 6:00 p.m.  
First Christian Church, 1357 DR 1200 E, Sullivan

Piatt County - TBD

### **Kirby Foods: Cookout Fundraiser for RSVP**

Friday, October 29, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
220 E. Van Buren Street, Clinton



### *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, Sandy Laesch, Interim Coordinator

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

# Meet a Hero, Be a Hero

**SEPTEMBER 10**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 W. Decatur Street  
10a.m.-3p.m.



Join us for our 9-11 Day of Service and  
Remembrance Blood Drive with Impact Life!  
Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 to reserve your spot to donate blood.



Meet heroes,  
Amy Patient and Roger Troxel,  
who traveled to NY to help,  
and meet our local heroes from Decatur  
police, fire and other first responders.





**Nelson's**<sup>TM</sup>  
FUNDRAISING

TICKETS AVAILABLE AUGUST 9  
CHICKEN DINNER • DRIVE-THRU

**FUNDRAISER**

*benefiting*

**DOVE, INC.**

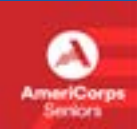
Plan now to support our Nelson's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser! This is a fantastic way to support Dove. Thursday, September 23, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

You can order online, **OPEN NOW**, or purchase tickets from our Dove offices.

Dinners are only \$10.00 for **HALF** a chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and dinner roll.

All brought to your car for safe and easy pick up!  
Drive through pick up at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 250 W. Decatur Street, Decatur.

You can  
**ORDER**  
now!




# News from RSVP!



## RSVP and SCP 9-11 Day of Service

Please link below to schedule your donor appointment or call Charlie at 217.428.6616

[https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/108210](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/108210)




Donors get their choice of a 1/2 zip performance pullover **OR** a gift card **AND** the chance to win a \$500 gift card!

### **DOVE INC. BLOOD DRIVE**

*Retired Senior Volunteer Program & Senior Companion Program*  
Friday, September 10th from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 West Decatur Street

**You can also call 1-800-747-5401 to schedule or scan this code:**



Appointments & masks are required.  
Want to make 2X the impact? Donate Double Red!  
Click [here](#) for more details how 1 donation can do 2x the good!

**Please bring photo ID. COVID19 vaccines are acceptable for all procedures**

# **Macon County Continuum of Care**

## **Homeless Advisory Council Meeting**

**Thursday  
September 9, 2021**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Decatur Public Library  
Elizabeth Madden  
Auditorium**

**Please plan to attend!**



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.



# **Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations**

## **CONO Meeting**

**Tuesday,  
September 21,  
5:30 p.m.**

**Staley Room  
Decatur Public Library**

# News from Homeward Bound

The staff have been working to engage and house 23 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 (3) 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 789 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. - 4:00 p.m.

## Move-In Starter Kits

Additionally, please consider donating items for move-in starter kits for individuals and families moving from homelessness to

# HOME

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. - 2:00 p.m.

## Life Skills and Employability

The Life Skills/Employability Coordinator held 6 job skills classes and met with 15 individuals for the month of August. One client was able to gain employment through Manpower. The Homeward Bound clients have been asked to participate in the upcoming Farm Progress show.

## Back to School Update

Homeward Bound Children Specialist planned a Back-to-School event to on August 13. There were 9 parents and 17 kids who attended. Three school bags with supplies were given to the children in shelter.

## Coordinated Entry

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 who know is experiencing housing instability issues, 217.362.7700 or 217.619.5742.



Well, August has certainly been a busy month here at Dove. I hope all of you are staying healthy and safe and that you're staying cool in the heat.

We may be amid a heatwave, but I'm thinking cool thoughts and dreaming about Christmas.

The first piece of news regarding our baskets program is that we have both a new name and a new logo! The logo debuted in last month's newsletter, created by Dove's Director of Volunteers and Community Relations, Barb Blakey. It really highlights our partnerships with Northeast Community Fund, Salvation Army, and the community who is so generous with their donations of time, money, gifts, and food.

The new title, Christmas Care and Share, gets right at the heart of what we aim to do with the program – care about others and share our resources, share our love of people – with as many others as we can.

After meeting with the planning committee for the program, and meeting with Salvation Army and Northeast Community Fund, we decided to give gifts once more to kids up to age 17. We are also going to give away some of the bigger ticket items (such as bikes, scooters, riding toys, and hoverboards) in a lottery to make sure everyone has equal opportunity at those items. We always want to be as fair as possible, and this feels like the best way to go about it with those gifts.

As for location, we don't know for certain yet where we will be assembling and distributing baskets this year. Last year as most of you know, we utilized the former Kroger in Fairview Plaza, which worked out great for multiple reasons, but it also came with a hefty

price tag that none of our agencies can afford to pay again. Our tentative plan is – we are hoping to utilize the gymnasium at Salvation Army. However, now, there is construction going on at their shelter and their clients are sleeping in said gymnasium. The construction folks are hopeful that construction will be done by October, but with the struggle to get supplies, workers, and the ongoing pandemic, they just don't know for sure at this point.

So much of this month has been dedicated to trying to find a Plan B. There are a few things up in the air as possibilities, but nothing concrete yet.

Initially we were set to meet with agency and school representatives on September 13 to give them their referrals to take back to their agencies and schools to decide which of their families needed assistance the most. We like to give them ample time to do that, and to contact their families and distribute the information and get it back to us before crunch time (when we make the move from working in the office to working wherever we're setting up for assembly and distribution). We have now pushed that meeting date to October 6, and made it a Zoom meeting, both for convenience's sake and to give us more time to see if construction will be finished up at the Salvation Army. Please say a prayer that it is, as it really is our best option at this point.

As every year, we have quite a list of outside agencies and schools that we give referrals to. So far those who've decided to participate in 2021 are below:

#### Agencies:

- Anna Waters
- Baby Talk
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Cancer Care
- Child 1st Center
- Decatur Rehab
- Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center
- Macon County Health Department
- Heritage

- MRI (Macon Resources)
- Old King's Orchard Community Center
- Webster Cantrell Youth Advocacy
- Youth With a Positive Direction

#### Schools:

- American Dreamer Academy
- Decatur Christian School
- Harris School
- Holy Family
- Hope Academy
- John's Hill
- Meridian
- Milligan Academy
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Parson's
- Richland Community College
- Robertson Charter
- South Shores Elementary School
- St. James/St. Pat's

We're confident that we'll have others coming aboard to give referrals to their families in the next few weeks, as we've been reaching out to a lot of new entities we haven't worked with before, for this purpose, trying to catch as many people who might otherwise fall between the cracks and not receive needed help.

We're always in need of homemade stockings and warm items for kids (hats, gloves, scarves), and also would love to receive rolls of tape for wrapping gifts. One area we struggle in is stocking stuffers for pre-teen and teen boys. Something that's right around the corner is Halloween and those giant bags of mixed candies make GREAT stocking stuffers for kids of all ages – so if you wanted to grab an extra bag when you grab one for the kiddos in your neighborhood, we'd appreciate that very much.

Though there's a lot up in the air, the process is still very exciting. If you're wanting to get involved or help, please don't hesitate to reach out to Angie at Dove, Inc. at 217.428.6616 or by email at awilliams@doveinc.org. There's a great deal to be done.

# Senior Companion Program

As a senior companion, you'll instantly join a network of more than 15,000 people with similar interests and values.

You'll help other adults live fuller, more independent lives.

Your time and companionship will enable older adults to remain in their own homes longer, prevent feelings of loneliness and isolation, while improving self-esteem, and give time off to family caregivers.

Call Kathy Walters at 217.428.6616 to see how you can make someone's day a little brighter.



**AmeriCorps**  
Seniors

*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](http://doveinc.org)*





# NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

Iwakuni Office - PSC 561 Box 870, FPO/AP 06310 0000 | [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org) | 011 81 827 796311

08/03/2021

Greetings from Iwakuni, Charlie and the RSVP Volunteers!

On behalf of our military community, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of coupons. Coupons help our military families save thousands of dollars a month. My volunteers thoroughly enjoyed going through the box you sent. Being a small military base overseas, we often don't have the items in the coupons sent, but your box was filled with SO many that we could use! We immediately went to the commissary and taped them on the items so service members and their families could start using them ASAP.

We greatly appreciate your efforts in collecting, cutting, and sorting coupons and are so grateful for your continued support of the coupon program and our military families serving overseas. If you are able and willing, we would absolutely love to continue to receive coupons.

Respectfully,

Marlene M Staley  
Director, Iwakuni  
**Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**  
[iwakuni@nmcrs.org](mailto:iwakuni@nmcrs.org)

Stay connected with NMCRS:



Stay connected with NMCRS Iwakuni:



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SAILORS, MARINES AND THEIR FAMILIES

## Coupons for Overseas Military Families

To date, volunteers and  
community members have  
helped collect, cut, sort,  
and ship  
3,087,650 coupons to  
military families overseas.

We wanted to share  
a thank you  
from one of the  
bases in Japan.

# 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.**  
**217.619.9108**  
**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**



# RSVP Volunteer Opportunities!

*CHHELP would love to have a volunteer once or twice a week for a couple of hours for essential clerical work such as filing, etc. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 if you would be interested in helping an organization that helps to stabilize, maintain, and improve the home environment of Macon County residents through education and direct social services.*

*Receptionist needed for Dove's Children's Clothing Room. Mondays and Wednesday's from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Duties include answering call button from the desk in the church office. This is great for someone who loves to knit or read in-between clients. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616.*

*Dove's Dewitt County Food Pantry also needs assistance unloading food from Midwest the first Thursday of each month at 11am. This typically takes an hour or less. Many hands make light work. For more information, please reach out to Kimberly at 217.935.2241.*

*You can create change as fast as the leaves do for fall. Become a senior companion volunteer and change someone's life with companionship or give a much-needed break to a caregiver. Volunteers on fixed or limited income can earn a tax-free stipend of \$3.00 per hour. Call Kathy at 217.428.6616 to get started helping our local seniors.*

*Dove needs volunteers to help with meal distribution of our Nelson's Chicken Dinner fundraiser on September 23, 2021, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Dinner pick up runs from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Call Charlie or Kathy to volunteer. Volunteers 10 years old and greater welcome.*

Looking to learn more about our Senior Companion Program or Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

Charlie Gillaspie, RSVP/SCP Director and Kathy Walters, SCP Coordinator would love to come share with your group about National Service with AmeriCorps Seniors.

Call to schedule a speaker for your group today.  
217.428.6616

Come see us at this year's  
**Seniorama**  
Thursday, September 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
at the Decatur Civic Center

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## DeWitt County • Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Hello! As you know, it's that time of the year! The end of summer is approaching and October is just around the corner, and it is nationally known as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year we are having our annual Candlelighting Ceremony at the Clinton Presbyterian Church on Thursday, October 14th at 6:00pm. If you have ever attended one of our Candlelighting Ceremonies, you know it is a powerful and moving event. We hope to see you there.

We have started doing DV101 informational classes; if you are interested in attending, please call 217.935.6619 and we can get you registered.

## Shelby County • Susie Kensil, Coordinator

Congratulations to Chad Brachbill who was selected to be Chief of Police in Shelbyville. Chad is a long-time veteran of the department and will do a great job. Our program looks forward to working with him. Thank you and Happy Retirement to our former Chief, Dave Tallman. Dave spent his entire career in the department and leaves Chad big shoes to fill.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Dove Candlelighting Ceremony as we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month and honor victims and survivors of domestic violence. We will also pay tribute to community members who have assisted in the fight against domestic abuse in our community. Our service this year is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak Street (corner of West Main and Oak) in Shelbyville. This year we will be lighting a special candle in memory of Sherry Hubbartt who lost her life to domestic violence in the spring. Please join us for this meaningful ceremony.

## Piatt County

August in Piatt County has been great and the warm temperatures are much welcomed!

This month continues to mark a transition in the Piatt County Office. Coordinator Liz Mackey has left, and a new face will be in the office. Dove's Multi-County Rural Advocate, Carissa Howell, is in the Piatt County Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

We also offer DV 101 classes every week! Our 24-hour hotline is available at 217.762.2122.

## Moultrie County • Rebecca Comstock, Coordinator

Moultrie County Dove Domestic Violence Program provides comprehensive assistance and support to all victims of domestic violence. All services are free and confidential. The program is designed to keep victims and children safe, and all services are offered in a non-judgmental atmosphere. We provide emergency shelter, legal advocacy, children's services, parenting education & teen dating education. Crisis support information and referrals are given to those who call the office and the 24-hour hotline. Services are provided to victims in Sullivan, Bethany, Lovington, Dalton City, La Place, Kirksville, Allenville, and Arthur. The Support Groups is Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. If you know someone who would benefit, please call Becky, 217.728.9303, for more information.

We accept donations of new toiletries and hygiene products, such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, & toothbrushes. Victims of domestic violence are often forced to leave their home due to the violence and have no choice but to leave all their belongings behind. We also accept new baby items such as diapers, baby powder, baby wash & wet wipes. Baby items can often be expensive, and victims of domestic violence often rely on their abuser's income, especially after just having a baby. Things like finding employment, getting court ordered child support or getting TANF can take some time, and SNAP benefits will not cover the cost of these items, so we keep them on hand.

In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness month, our Candlelighting Ceremony will be Thursday October 21, 6:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 1357 CR 1200 E, Sullivan.

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Our next Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training is set for October 25 – November 10. Times will be Monday through Thursday, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., with the last day of the training on Wednesday, November 10.

Registration is now open through October 8 at noon. Contact Barb Blakey, Director of Volunteers & Community Relations, if you or someone you know is interested. To start the registration process, please give us a call at 217.428.6616.

Teri Ducey  
Domestic Violence Program Director



*Choosing*

the right Volunteer Opportunity can make all the difference in your life and in the lives of those you serve!

## Dove's Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.

Please call between now & October 8, NOON.

217.428.6616

Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur  
Monday - Thursday, October 25 to November 10, 2021

5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Fee for this ICADV Certified Training is \$200.

*Meet our Certified Trainers*



217.428.6616  
doveinc.org



Joyce Kirkland  
Lead Facilitator



Liz Mackey

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Transition continues to take place in the Domestic Violence Program. We recently filled 2 positions - Ashley Murphy began on 8/19/21 as the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Shelter Specialist and Aimee Findlay begins on September 7, 2021, as a Legal Advocacy Specialist. Welcome to the Dove family! We are happy to have you as part of our Domestic Violence Team!!

Many of you may already be aware that after careful consideration, I have announced my decision to retire from Dove at the end of this year. It truly is bittersweet, but I have done lots of praying and talking, and many have told me "you will know when you know" and that is so true. It has been my honor to have worked with the domestic violence program for 31 years, come October.

I will always love my Dove family. They have been with me through some of the very hardest times in my life! I have learned so much. I will be forever grateful to all my special mentors over the years who guided me, trusted me, and supported me along this journey.

I will also be forever grateful to every single client I have come in contact with over the years. They have taught me so much!

Survivors of domestic violence are some of the strongest individuals you will ever meet.

We do still have openings for the following positions:

- Piatt County Coordinator
- Shelter Maintenance
- Domestic Violence Program Director
- Shelter Specialist, 3<sup>rd</sup> shift

If you know of anyone who would fit well into any of these positions, please direct them to Dove's website at [www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org).

Plans have begun for all the program's annual Candlelighting Ceremonies in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please see each county's report for the details of their event.

Decatur's event will be on Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 204 W. Prairie, Decatur. Masks will be required inside the Church.

Teri Ducy  
Domestic Violence Program Director

- •
- **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** •
- •

# Neighborhood Services Program

## Sharing news from the Neighborhoods!



Please reach out to LeAnn at  
[lellis@doveinc.org](mailto:lellis@doveinc.org)

This month has been another eye-opening experience to the city I grew up in. It has been exciting to be allowed the opportunity to find these new sights of Decatur as a collaborative, rich in resources community and not just a, too often-times, passing down the city streets commuting from destination to destination place to live. Decatur is my home and a place I've always loved, but now even more. Thank you Dove, Inc. for allowing me this view of our community and the opportunity to do what my heart has always longed for. My hope is so many more will find this view, also, if they haven't already!

It was fun and informative to be allowed to sit in with Millikin Heights and Clokey Park for their monthly meetings. The folks were enthusiastic and open in sharing the vision and heart for each of these neighborhoods.

We had another informative CONO meeting as Angel from NECF shared, as well as others. There are great things going on in our city!

Looking forward to the upcoming Millikin Heights Social in Lincoln Park on September 18, 2021 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.! This event is set to bring something for all ages while inviting the community in and showing off the newer playground equipment for the area!

It seems the doors are beginning to open for the BABES Program to be re-introduced to a couple of our neighborhoods and schools! This after Covid19 halted things the last year and half or so. The BABES Program, if you are not familiar, is a wonderful opportunity for outreach to our K-3 and now 4-6 graders. This program offers education, tools and support for our young ones who will potentially one day be our city's leaders.

Looking forward to meeting new people, sharing and learning at Seniorama on September 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Decatur Civic Center, along with RSVP and Senior Companion staff and volunteers!

LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

# B A B E S



*Sandy Laesch*  
*Interim BABES Program Coordinator*



A couple BABES volunteers met with Sandy and I to talk about plans for this school year and the BABES program presentations. Thanks to Kim Stahl and Janet Lyman for dropping by for coffee and conversation. We hope to catch up with other volunteers in the near future.

The next part of the plan is to make contact with schools where BABES presentations have been made in the past.

Decatur Public Schools have made many changes since our last presentation in March of 2020 and we look forward to connecting with the classrooms.

We are also reaching out to our many parochial schools where we've had presentations in the past.

BABES presentations are so needed in this time of change and uncertainty. As we can and as it is safe to do, we can hardly wait to be able to bring the BABES puppets, volunteers and their wonderful stories to the children.

Barbara Blakey  
Director of Volunteers and Community Relations



# Outreach Programs Support our Families in Need



## Children's Clothing Room

located inside  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church  
2201 East Prairie Avenue, Decatur

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

Guidelines posted on website and  
posted at church.

[doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org)

*If you or someone you know has  
a child in need of back to school  
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.*

## Food Pantry

If you would like to donate items  
to our food pantry,  
we always greatly appreciate  
your donations.

Items needed at this time are:

- spaghetti and sauce
- side dishes -boxed potatoes,  
boxed stuffing, etc.
- canned meats such as tuna and  
chicken
- canned fruits and vegetables
- cereals
- toiletries (shampoos, soaps,  
toothbrushes/toothpaste, and  
deodorant)

## 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.



## 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



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It really is hard to put into words what an impact Ray Batman has made in my life. Words that jump out that make it very easy to describe the kind of man he was – Genuine, Honest, Trustworthy, Wise, Compassionate, Integrity, Respectful, Witty – I could go on and on – you get the picture. I am blessed with so many fond memories, some of which make me laugh and others that bring tears. I will name a few:

Just prior to 2000, I recall Ray approaching me about the idea of the domestic violence program expanding further into 3 additional counties – Piatt, Moultrie and Shelby. DeWitt had been open since 1990. With only 2 years being the director of the DV Program, I had lots to learn. It was a very busy time, finding locations for the 3 new county offices, hiring 3 new County Coordinators (I recall us receiving hundreds of applications/resumes), hiring of a Multi County Rural Manager, first being Jean Wood, later being Vivian Reed. Ray had such great vision; I will always miss his guidance.

2003 was a very difficult year for me personally. On April 11th, my Mom passed away after only being diagnosed with cancer for 3 weeks. She had been healthy and just thought she may have had a cold – but obviously it was way more than that. The day after we buried her, my youngest sister died at the age of 39. Funerals for both my Mom and my sister – all in the same week. But Ray. Ray was there. He brought me more strength during this time than I can begin to say. And – given the kind of good man that he was, as everyone agrees, Ray had just lost his dear wife, Nancy Jo, 3 months before. He was still grieving.....but he was there for me. I am so thankful I was able to share with him many times just how thankful I was to him during this most difficult time in my life. He was a pillar of strength to me – loving, supportive, and one of the best listeners I will ever meet.

In 2007, I recall just walking through the hallway in our old shelter at 788 E. Clay, passing Ray, and him stopping me and out of the blue asked “what are your thoughts about moving the domestic violence shelter?” WHAT!?!? This wasn’t even on our radar. We had been in this building since 1987 and we were very comfortable there. But once again – Ray’s vision. We had many meetings and made it all happen – we survived the move – it was a huge undertaking – but what a blessing our current facility at 302 S. Union has and continues to be for us! Again – Ray’s vision – his connections.

Another sad time – 2010 – when I lost my husband, Bill, after his 4 year fight with cancer. Again – Ray was there – I remember expressing to him my concern about me missing some work (Bill had been put on hospice on January 21st, 2010, and died on March 8th) and Ray’s response was “take care of Bill, he comes first”. Bill and Ray had a great friendship. Many times Bill would just “pop” in to Ray’s office when he was over on E. Clay St. I think maybe Bill thought Ray had all the time in the world, because he would just go in and make himself comfortable and start telling stories. I am sure that when Ray would see Bill pulling into the parking lot he probably said something like “oh no.....here comes Ducey!”

And then there is the April Fools stories!! LOL This is one of my favorite days and the staff at Dove all know that. Ray was often one of my favorite people to “trick”. My favorite story is the one in April of 2010. Honestly, I wasn’t even going to do anything that year, because my Mom was not doing well – but something inside me wouldn’t let the day go by without doing something. So....on my lunch hour one day when we were having our monthly all Dove Staff Meeting, I stopped into Dominos Pizza and asked if one of their workers would like to make a little extra money that day? So....I arranged for this worker to show up at Dove, at a certain time, shortly after our Dove staff meeting had began. He showed up and came downstairs to the room full of Dove staff, carrying about 4 “pizzas”, still in their warmers, and said “I have the pizzas for Ray Batman” and Ray looked up, rather confused, and told him he was Ray, but that he didn’t know anything about any pizzas. The worker said “well, are you Ray Batman, at 800 E. Clay and is the phone number here 428-6616?” Ray, still confused, answered “Yeeessss....but I still don’t know about these pizzas.” He asked him how much they were and as the Dominos worker was telling him the cost, Ray started to actually reach for his wallet. At this point – I am sitting about 3-4 seats from him on his left and I knew I had to step in – at this point – so I interrupted and said “Um....Ray....April Fools!!!!” The entire room broke out in laughter – by the way – the “pizzas” inside the pizza warmers were actually empty pizza boxes!!

Another April Fools Day – when Ray arrived at his office, he was surprised to find probably at least 100+ paper cups full of water – all stapled together – some on the floor – all over the top of his desk – making it pretty tricky on how he was going

to undo this contraption without spilling the water! I never did hear how that turned out!

Ray did not like rats – at all!! Another April Fools Day – I put a large ugly rubber rat, that is attached to a big rat trap, inside his desk drawer. I arranged it just so-so – so that when he opened the drawer – it would set this thing off – and sure enough it did – I heard him open the drawer only to hear that big ugly rat squeaking loudly and flopping around inside his drawer! (I’m pretty sure Ray might have had to use the restroom after that one!!) LOL

But the April Fools was also on me a couple times – when Ray arranged to cover my entire vehicle with saran wrap!!!! So when I went out to go get in my car after work, all ready to end my day and head home – only to find my “gift wrapped” vehicle – which I will admit took me quite awhile to remove all the saran wrap so I could leave!!! Another car story – is the year he hid my car on April Fools Day – don’t have a clue to this day how he got my keys – but when I left work, my car was gone! I found it all the way in the back of the church next door at the back lower end of their parking lot.

Ohhhh the memories....I have so many. I am grateful for every one. Thank you, Ray. You were my mentor, my confidant, my friend. I will always treasure our conversations. I will always cherish every dinner at the Wagon with you and Missy. What a beautiful love story you shared with her. I am so thankful for all the times you listened to my silly questions; for all your wise advice over the years; you were there to offer any support I needed – in many challenging times over the years, even after you retired from Dove – but I always knew I could come to you – to talk about things – get your input – your advice – you had so much knowledge – and I knew you were one who I could trust – you proved that. You are now walking those streets of gold – and our community – our Dove family – is in a better place – because of you. Fly high with the angels, my friend.....on the wings of a Dove.

Teri Ducey, Director  
Dove Domestic Violence Program

*Teri shared these comments after the passing of  
Ray Batman in June of 2021.  
Thanks for sharing Teri!*