



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

April 2022

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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Dove, Inc.

302 S. Union

Decatur, IL

62522

217.428.6616

dove@doveinc.org



Dove Annual Meeting

At this meeting, we will share information about what has been happening at Dove and elect board members for the 2022-2024 term. Please join us for dinner and the meeting.

Monday, April 25, 5:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

204 West Prairie Avenue, Decatur

Please RSVP at dove@doveinc.org or 217.428.6616 by April 18, NOON.



National Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 17 to 23, 2022

Thanks to the many who volunteer with Dove and out in their community with the RSVP Program!
Our communities are so much better because of the dedication of the amazing volunteers we work with.

Thanks for all you do!

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

Darsonya Switzer, Assistant Director

Barbara Blakey, Director of Volunteers & Community Relations

Liz Mackey, Domestic Violence Program Director

Program Leadership

BABES Program, Sandy Laesch, Interim Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room, Kathy Walters, Coordinator

Dove Food Pantry, Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Dove Financial Assistance, Vacant

Domestic Violence Program

Liz Mackey, Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Piatt County Coordinator, Vacant

Homeward Bound, Darsonya Switzer, Assistant Director

Neighborhood Services Program, LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Angie Williams, RSVP Program Director

Kim McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator



A colorful poster for a 'Community Healing Fair'. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds and colorful triangular bunting flags. In the center, a large green sun-like shape contains the text 'YOU ARE INVITED TO A... COMMUNITY Healing FAIR'. Below this, it says 'Wednesday April 27th 2-6pm' and 'Old Kings Orchard 815 N. Church St. Decatur, IL'. To the left of the central text is a cartoon illustration of a young boy with dark skin and curly hair, wearing a yellow shirt and blue pants, jumping with his arms raised. To the right is a cartoon illustration of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a purple shirt and a red skirt, jumping rope. In the top right corner, it says 'Sponsored by... HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Decatur Memorial Hospital'. In the bottom right corner, there is a blue cloud-like shape with the text 'Join Us For:' followed by a list of activities: 'Dancing with TAT', 'Fun Games', 'Prizes', 'Food', 'Zoo Animals', and 'Bounce Houses'. In the bottom left corner, there is a red cloud-like shape with the text 'Families can...' followed by a list of services: 'Apply for LIHEAP' (with a sub-point 'Check Facebook Event for More Info'), 'Receive Kid's Dental Exams' (with a sub-point 'Call (217) 492-8206 to register'), and 'Organized by: Macon County HEALS, Old Kings Orchard, Baby TALK, MRI Kids/Bright Start, United Way, St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur Memorial Hospital & Empowerment Opportunity Center'. At the very bottom, in small text, it says: 'This project was supported by funds awarded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Points of view or opinion in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of policies of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.'

Sponsored by...
HSHS St. Mary's Hospital
Decatur Memorial Hospital

YOU ARE
INVITED TO A...

COMMUNITY
Healing
FAIR

Wednesday April 27th 2-6pm

Old Kings Orchard
815 N. Church St.
Decatur, IL

Join Us For:

- Dancing with TAT
- Fun Games
- Prizes
- Food
- Zoo Animals
- Bounce Houses

Families can...

- Apply for LIHEAP
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Organized by:
Macon County HEALS, Old Kings
Orchard, Baby TALK, MRI Kids/Bright
Start, United Way, St. Mary's Hospital,
Decatur Memorial Hospital &
Empowerment Opportunity Center

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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.

217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org

DeWitt County Site:

Dove Office

803 W. Leander, Clinton

Hours:

Wednesdays

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

217.935.2241 or kmccormick@doveinc.org

Shelby, Moultrie and Piatt Counties:

217.935.2241 or kmccormick@doveinc.org



Macon County:

Site: 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:

217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org

New Guidelines

Household Members

Monthly LIHEAP

Monthly WNCF

1	\$0-\$2,146	\$2,147-\$4,003
2	\$0-\$2,994	\$2,998-\$4,608
3	\$0-\$3,660	\$3,661-\$5,490
4	\$0-\$4,416	\$4,417-\$6,624
5	\$0-\$5,174	\$5,175-\$7,761
6	\$0-\$5,930	\$5,931-\$8,895
7	\$0-\$6,590	\$6,591-\$9,885
8	\$0-\$6,737	\$6,738-\$10,107

- 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)

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing News from the Neighborhood Activities!

It was refreshing to be out in the community this month, seeing familiar faces and meeting new folks while learning more about our city and the various activities and resources available.

Dave and Lethia Draves of Greenwood Neighborhood Association were one of the first encounters for the month. Among other community service, she is leading a program at Decatur Public Library called Real Talk On Race. The discussions are focused around race, acceptance of all as human beings, equity and more. Upon attending one of these sessions I found it to be enriching and plan to visit again in the future. Everyone is allowed to participate in the session at their own pace. This program meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month in the Staley Conference Room, Decatur Public Library in Downtown Decatur.

The city council meetings always bring new insights into the happenings in Decatur from a local government viewpoint.

At the Millikin Heights meeting this month, they shared potential of beginning a local TV program with focus on continuing the neighborhood revitalization plan they are working toward.

There were also meetings with the Torrence Park Neighborhood president and a local small business owner who both have a heart to see more community outreach in the Decatur area for youth and families. We will soon be meeting together with hopes of seeing this vision come to pass.

The April calendar is filled with more happenings around town including classes, visits and participating in this new semester of the BABES program!

Coalition Of
Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, April 19

5:30 p.m.

Staley Room, Decatur Public Library

Downtown Decatur

Clokey Park
Association Meeting

April 28, 6:30 p.m.
Prairie Avenue Christian Church

April 30, 10:00 a.m.
Adopt-A-Street

All activities subject to change
due to updated COVID-19 guidelines and
weather permitting.

*If we can share information on your
Neighborhood Group, please email info
by the 15th of the month
to dove@doveinc.org*



To learn more about becoming a
Dove Member Congregation,
please contact
Barb Blakey, Director of Volunteers
& Community Relations,
at 217.428.6616
or dove@doveinc.org

DFA Easter Exchange

Easter is a time for giving. This Easter Season and every season finds many in our area in need. We are asking you to help our Dove Financial Assistance Program to help others.

Some Easter Exchange ideas:

- Instead of purchasing more Easter flowers, consider donating to DFA
- Take a special DFA collection on Easter Sunday or any Sunday in April.
- Recognize members, in their honor or as a memorial

To make a donation - please send a check to:
Dove DFA

302 S. Union, Decatur, IL 62522

or on the website at doveinc.org
and put DFA in comment box

B A B E S



BABES classroom presentations for the Spring Semester are in Argenta/Oreana Elementary School, Sangamon Valley Primary School, and Meridian. Parsons School is doing a "hybrid" of videos with an in-person wrap up. McGaughy Elementary is participating with the in-person BABES Bridge Programming. And a few more things are in the works!

We are so grateful to these teachers who were able to work out a BABES presentation schedule. As with many things, it looks different after Covid, but adaptations were made to make things work.

We also understand those who need to wait until next year and look forward to reconnecting with them then.

Anyone looking forward to next fall? We will be offering Volunteer Training this summer! Watch for information on that!

For more information please contact:

slaesch@doveinc.org

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.
- We will bring your food to the door.
- We also have diapers if you have a little one

- The Methodist Church made a very large donation of baby items and diapers to our pantry!! Thank you!
- Thank you to Big D's for their weekly contribution to our food pantry!!
- The DeWitt Food Pantry is open to anyone who lives in DeWitt County and all are welcome to use the this service, regardless of income and family size.

- 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.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Piatt County **Liz Mackey, Program Director**

Piatt County Dove office continues to see an increase in services needed. Dove would like to remind Piatt County about the Dove Financial Assistance Program. Applications are available at the office. DV 101 class is still occurring every Wednesday in the Piatt County office.

Moultrie County **Becky Comstock, Coordinator**

Domestic violence is when one person in a relationship purposely hurts another person physically and/or emotionally. Domestic violence is also called intimate partner violence because it often is caused by a husband, ex-husband nor any ex intimate relationship one may have had. Women can also be abusers. Domestic abuse strikes couples of all races, religions, social economic status, and sexual orientation. Warning signs for individuals to consider if they suspect they are the victim of intimate partner violence includes feeling demeaned, assaulted, or excessively controlled by their partner. Domestic violence is a cycle with three phases. In phase 1 there is increased tension, anger, blaming and arguing (walking on eggshells). In phase 2 there is an explosion with hitting, slapping, and kicking, strangling, use of weapons, sexual abuse, and verbal threats. In phase 3 the abuser may deny the abuse and/or say he is sorry and that it will never happen again. Most victims do not recognize the cycle of abuse because they minimize and deny the abuse daily so they can cope. Statistics show that a victim may leave their abuser 5 to 7 times before they are successful at staying away. There are many

reasons for this including being sabotaged by the abuser, pressure from family and/or church, lack of finances, lack of support from the community, lack of accountability by the criminal justice system and hope. Hope that the abuser will change, hope that they can keep their family together and hope that the violence will stop. Domestic violence affects our whole community including our children. As a community we must take a stand and send the message that domestic violence will not be tolerated. That message then needs to be upheld by our criminal justice system including in our police department, sheriff's department, state's attorney, and our judges. Domestic violence is a learned behavior and without holding the abusers accountable and providing support and education to victims the cycle will continue.

If you or someone you know may be a victim of intimate partner violence or caught up in the cycle of abuse, call Moultrie County Dove's 24hr hotline at 217.728.9334. Our services are free and confidential and provided in a safe non-judgmental atmosphere.

Macon County **Liz Mackey, Program Director**

April is Child Abuse Awareness month, and it is important to acknowledge that Domestic Violence includes child abuse. In relationships where there is domestic violence and abuse, children witness about three-quarters of the abusive incidents. About half the children in such families have themselves been badly hit or beaten. Sexual and emotional abuse are also more likely to happen in these families. Although a man

abusing a woman is recognized more often, abusers may be male or female. Abuse can happen in any class, religion, ethnic group, occupation, or age. It may occur in all types of relationships, including same sex relationships. Children may also experience domestic violence and abuse, or, if they are older, be domestically violent and abusive. Children of any age are affected by domestic violence and abuse. At no age will they be unaffected by what is happening, even when they are in the womb. Remember, the most important thing is to keep yourself and your children safe. Domestic violence and child abuse is a crime, so don't hold back from contacting Dove for assistance.

New Voice on the Phone!
Welcome to Tiffany Wagoner, Dove's Domestic Violence Administrative Assistant. Tiffany, among other duties, just might be the new voice on the phone when you give Dove a call.

*Thanks to our friends
at the Decatur Public Library
who donated their
February "Jean Day" funds to our
Domestic Violence Program!*

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Shelby County Susie Kensil, Coordinator

On Tuesday, March 8, I was privileged to speak to the District Meeting of United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) at their spring meeting at Centenary Methodist Church in Effingham. The program focused on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on various issues which affect women. Although the central presentation was on video, it was refreshing to speak with a room full of women, and a few men, in person. The video addressed several issues that had an impact on women, including domestic violence. The people in attendance were interested to hear how the pandemic had affected women and children and how our services were affected by the interruption in normalcy. I spoke about Dove and the services we offer and gave a brief overview of what DV really is before I tackled the pandemic issues. The people in attendance had very insightful questions and compassionate comments. The ability to give and take with an audience not on camera, as well as to enjoy the refreshments provided was a welcome change from the way we have done business for the past couple of years.

Reflecting on the joy that this morning gave all of us, even in the discussion of unhappy topics, caused me to think about our current situation. The past two years have presented many challenges, much isolation and unnecessary bitterness and acrimony in our society as well as tragic losses of friends, family members and colleagues. As case numbers, deaths, and hospitalizations continue to decline, it is a good time to think about how we choose to embrace this change. I believe it is a good time to re-focus on meeting other people where they are with love, respect and joy. The last two years have been difficult for most people. The ability to look at people in most situations without masks is conducive, I hope, to more compassionate treatment of each other. It feels to me like we are coming out of a very long winter into sunnier days. Let's take advantage of it to treat others with the joy and respect that has seemed to be missing. And smile.... because everyone can see it now!!!

Hello! & Happy Spring!



My name is Jennifer Jostes and I started working at Dove at the end of February 2019 as the Receptionist at the Domestic Violence Shelter. Through lots of changes in the past 3 years of working here, I am now the Administrative Specialist and work a little more behind the scenes doing the paperwork side of things, data entry, running reports, etc. One of the new exciting roles I have is to work with our Domestic Violence Program's Volunteers.. So if we haven't met already, I would love for you to reach out, and we can have a chat and I can introduce myself!

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. I wanted to take a moment to let you know that we are so thankful for those of you who volunteer with us. You truly make a difference not only to our staff, but to our clients as well. Never forget the difference you have made.

If you are interested in volunteering in our Domestic Violence Program or any other program, please reach out to Barb Blakey and she can tell you how to get started on the process.. 217.428.6616.

DeWitt County Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

DeWitt County Dove is looking for individuals who are wanting to make a difference in their community to end Domestic Violence. We have openings on our CADV Committee!

Also, we would like to say how much we appreciate our CADV Committee and all the wonderful volunteers that help us out with our food pantry. We would not run as smoothly as we do without you!!

Domestic Violence Shelter Program Needs (see a detailed list on the website)

- Clorox Wipes
- Aerosol Disinfectant Spray
- Paper Towel Rolls
- Disposable Diapers and Pull-Ups
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- New Bath Towels and Wash Clothes
- New Women's Nightshirts, all sizes

Dove Financial Assistance

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

302 S. Union St.,
Decatur, IL 62522

or on Dove's website
doveinc.org

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

***Your help supports so
many families in need.***



At the January Decatur City Council Meeting, the council approved the recommendation to increase Dove's contract for COVID-19 rent and utilities assistance with an additional \$300,000. This funding from the City of Decatur is only available to residents and will be distributed through Dove Financial Assistance Program.

Through the end of 2021, Dove has expended over \$400,000, helping 160 families with rent and utilities. There is a particular need for the working family that must stay at home with their children because of COVID exposure or due to having COVID. We see families who live paycheck to paycheck so losing even a week's income puts them behind. For families who have multiple children this is particularly hard when you must take off work multiple times. We have talked to landlords who have also struggled during this pandemic but continue to try to work with their tenants to keep them housed. These funds can help ease this burden on landlords as well.

Program Guidelines

1. Eligible applicants may receive rental and mortgage assistance up to 14 months (includes 2 months paid forward).
2. Eligible applicants may receive power/utility assistance up to 12 months, excluding water.
3. Each eligible household may be funded not to exceed \$15,000.
4. Eligible residents must reside within the City of Decatur, IL corporate limits.
5. Eligible applicants may only receive assistance from one agency for one time period, other assistance can be received for other time periods from other agencies.
6. Eligible applicants must show proof of hardship.
7. Eligible applicants must not exceed the City of Decatur's FY 2021 Median Family Income based on statistical calculations by U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
8. Assistance must result in applicant staying in their housing for a minimum of 60 days.
9. Landlords are eligible to apply for assistance.

Required Documents

- I.D.
- Lease or mortgage statement
- Utility bill
- Landlord Certification (part of the application)
- Landlord Agreement (part of the application)

Applications may be picked up at DFA, located inside Northeast Community Fund, 839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Decatur.

RSVP Volunteer Opportunities

If you want to do some volunteering but aren't comfortable with getting out yet with Covid, we understand! If you can knit or crochet, you could use yarn to make 7" X 9" squares for Pieces of Love. The ladies at Pieces of Love put thousands of hours in every year making blankets for those in need in the community, and RSVP helps hand them out to those in need, such as patients at the dialysis centers, seniors in nursing homes, veterans in Central Illinois, and many others. There's nothing like having a new, soft, warm blanket when you're struggling.

If you are comfortable getting out, there are dozens of volunteer opportunities available.

If you're an outdoorsy person, you might think about volunteering with the Macon County Conservation District. Rock Springs has their Festival of Spring coming up, as well as the Rock Springs Ramble, both in April, that could use more volunteers.

If you'd like to make a homebound or nursing home bound senior's day, you

could become a friendly visitor through Faith in Action and go in and sit with someone once or twice a week and become that person's new best friend.

Central Illinois Christians in Mission could use more help in their warehouse, moving furniture and picking up donated items, as well as assisting clients.

With Spring here and things opening back up, there are plenty of ways and opportunities to get involved and we'd love to help you make some connections and stay engaged in the community.



I'm very excited to announce I have transitioned to RSVP Program Specialist.

Our RSVP Program at Dove, Inc. is filled with a lot of wonderful people 55 and older.

We have 73 stations where we utilize volunteers. I'm excited to go visit each one and add more as we go.

So many great volunteer opportunities offer seniors a chance to give something back to the community or make a difference for people. We know it also keeps our Seniors active and engaged in the community.

***Kathy Walters
RSVP Program Specialist***



News from RSVP!

AmeriCorps week was March 13 – 19. We celebrated by contacting some of our volunteers to thank them and we brought goodies to our advisory councils that met that week from DeWitt and Macon Counties to thank them for their service. Thank you to every individual and station who helps to make the community a better place by volunteering. We appreciate you!

We have spent most of the last couple of months visiting different stations and expressing our appreciation for all they do, and we plan to continue doing this. We're looking forward to meeting everyone and seeing what volunteer needs are in the community. If you know of a place that could utilize volunteers, please contact our office and we'll do our best to help.



If you are 55 or better and have not signed up for RSVP, please think about reaching out to us to sign up. We're happy to assist you in your volunteer efforts and would love to help you get involved if you aren't already. There are so many amazing opportunities to do good and make a difference in our communities.

Beginning in April, we're going to be pulling random timesheets from the month before and we'll have two winners a month for some small, fun prizes, just for turning in your volunteer hours. So, get those hours turned in each month!

We're happy to announce that as of 3/21/22, Mt. Zion District Library has signed on as an official RSVP volunteer station. They have a lot of exciting events coming up this summer so if you have any interest in helping to foster a love of reading, working with kids, or helping with special events, please let us know and we'll be happy to give you more details. You can reach Angie or Kathy at 217.428.6616.



***Your gift will ensure that
services can continue.
Please give generously.***



***Dove, Inc.
302 S. Union Street
Decatur, IL 62522***

***or donate online
at doveinc.org***



News from RSVP!

Macon County Advisory Council meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at Dove, Decatur.

DeWitt County Advisory Council meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Clinton office the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

We are seeking Macon County RSVP Advisory Council members to join our group. At our monthly meeting we discuss how the program is going, what is needed, and how we can help.

This is your chance to help plan things like Volunteer Appreciation events and Day of Service activities.

If you're interested, please contact Angie Williams by phone or email.
217.428.6616 or awilliams@doveinc.org

PLEASE, send in or drop off those timesheets!

Please be sure to turn your timesheets in each month! It is SO important that we can count your hours and be able to report to AmeriCorps and the Illinois Department of Aging how much work all of you are doing in our community. We want to remind those in charge about just how much our senior volunteers do on a regular basis!

Beginning in April, as a fun addition to our programs, we're going to pick two winners at random from the turned in April timesheets. If you're one of our winners, we'll reach out and let you know you won so you can get your prize!

Timesheets are available on Dove's website: www.doveinc.org

Or you can email your hours to awilliams@doveinc.org or kmccormick@doveinc.org

Timesheets are also available at your local RSVP office and have been included with this newsletter.



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 Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house 28 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. Six 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 747 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 housing. Join the Macon County

HOME 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 Job Club

The Life Skills/Employability Coordinator is scheduling by appointment only until further notice, for further information please contact Chalanda Woods, 217.362.7700, ext 125.

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday the Life Skills/Employability Coordinator is having classes on resumes and on-line job search from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Decatur Public Library, 130 N. Franklin St., Decatur.

The children's group is planning a "Paint with Liz" date in late April, more information to come. They also are planning on attending the 2022 Neuhoff Media's Kids Fest April 2, Decatur Civic Center, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

2022 Point-in-Time information

Millikin students, under the leadership of two MU professors, did an excellent job presenting information about the 2022 Point-in-Time Survey results at the Macon County Continuum of Care Community Breakfast. [Link above for the presentation .](#)

L to R - Mary Garrison, Rolande Umuttoza, Katie Yelaska, Amanda Noser, Shay Buchanan, RJ Podeschi



The Macon County Continuum of Care was able to host the Community Breakfast on March 10, after a 2 year pause due to Covid. After the great presentation of the Point-in-Time survey results by Millikin students, Darsonya Switzer, Fred Spannaus and Mary Garrison shared insights and perspectives on the results, answered questions and informed the group gathered on the Continuum's response to homelessness issues during the last two years.



Senior Companion Program Update

We're sorry to announce that after much consideration, we have decided to relinquish the grant funding for the Senior Companion Program. Whilst a wonderful program, the timing with Covid-19 has made it almost impossible to carry out the terms of the grant. The program ended on 3/31/22. We would like to express sincere thanks to those volunteers who participated in the program: Bianco Brown, Mary Rambo, and Annie Brady, as well as our volunteer station, Faith in Action, coordinated by Sarah Sanchez. Thank you for all you did to work with us and try to get this program off the ground, and thanks to everyone who supported the program in any way.

We would also like to give a huge thanks to Kathy Walters, who coordinated the Senior Companion Program from the onset, and continued in SCP until March 1 of this year. She did a phenomenal job of recruiting and training volunteers for the program, as well as keeping in close contact with Faith in Action. Kathy, thank you for all your hard work. You are appreciated, and we're thrilled to have you aboard as RSVP Program Specialist.

Angie Williams



a hat and warm gloves. We're also always happy to get scarves to pass out at the program.

Did you know that if you're also an RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) volunteer, you can count your hours for making stockings, hats, scarves, or anything else you make for Christmas Care & Share? Those hours count so please track them and turn them in!

Angie Williams

Are you looking for a project to work on at home? Can you sew? Our Christmas Care & Share program needs to replenish our supply of Christmas stockings. We ended up with approximately a hundred left at the end of the Christmas season last year, which means we need around 2400 more for this year. You can be as creative as you'd like – if you want to decorate them, you're welcome to. You don't have to use Christmas material; any kind of material works fine. And we'd be happy to send you a pattern if you're in need of one!

If you knit or crochet, we could also use warm hats, as we try to give every child in our program a hat and warm gloves. We're also always happy to get scarves to pass out at the program.

Did you know that if you're also an RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) volunteer, you can count your hours for making stockings, hats, scarves, or anything else you make for Christmas Care & Share? Those hours count so please track them and turn them in!

Angie Williams

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