



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February 2022

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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Dove, Inc.

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Dove's Madelyn Meyer, Education and Awareness Specialist, and Joyce Kirkland, Client and Family Services Coordinator, provide teen dating violence educational presentations in local schools and at community events. They also offer individual advocacy, support, and counseling to teens as well as support for the entire family. Throughout the month of February, Dove will highlight teen dating violence awareness on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. (See our Moultrie County Coordinator's article - page 8 - for additional teen dating violence statistics and warning signs.) Another great resource is Love Is Respect, the National Teen Dating Violence Hotline - www.loveisrespect.org - 866.331.9474 TEXT (Text 'LOVEIS' to 22522).

To schedule a Dove presentation
for your school or organization:
Madelyn Meyer, mmeyer@doveinc.org
217.428.6616
Joyce Kirkland, jkirkland@doveinc.org
217.428.6616

If you or a friend need help, call one of Dove's 24-hour hotlines:
Macon County • 217.423.2238 DeWitt County • 217.935.6072
Moultrie County • 217.728.9334 Piatt County • 217.762.2122
Shelby County • 217.774.4888

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, Vacant

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

Vacant, Piatt County Coordinator

Homeward Bound, Darsonya Switzer, Assistant Director

Neighborhood Services Program, LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

SCP • Senior Companion Program

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Angie Williams, RSVP & SCP Program Director

Kim McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Kathy Walters, Senior Companion Coordinator



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.

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, Shelby, Moultrie and Piatt Counties:

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

Dove Financial Assistance

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.



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:

217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org

Bill Payment Assistance Guidelines

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

- 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)

**To our Dove
Member Congregations**

**Please help us
make sure our
contact information
is up to date!**

**Please email us
with your staff
members
and delegate
contact
information:**

**dove@doveinc.org
or reply here!**



**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**

B A B E S



Plans are in the works for BABES classroom presentations for the Spring Semester.

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

We are also excited about the classrooms we can work with now.

For more information please contact:
slaesch@doveinc.org
or dove@doveinc.org

Children's Clothing Room

Due to the rise in Covid-19 cases and wanting to be extra cautious with everyone's health and safety, we are closing the Children's Clothing Room until at least the end of February.

We'll re-evaluate where things are then and decide if we need to stay closed or if it's safe enough to open once more.

Please watch our social media for updates.



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.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Shelby County
Susie Kensil, Coordinator

Our Shelbyville office is back to regular hours five days per week after a couple of months of sporadic hours due to a medical leave. We are here to assist with Orders of Protection, legal advocacy, counseling for adult and child victims of domestic violence, referrals and assistance with accessing all needed services for victims of domestic violence and their families to live a safe and secure life. Currently, we are unable to have support groups or meetings due to the Covid threat. Hopefully we can resume those in a few weeks or months. Our crisis line is available 24 hours per day at 217.774.4888. When our office is closed the phone is answered by trained staff at our Decatur shelter. Our office number is 217.774.3121; please call to schedule appointments or to learn more about our program.

Piatt County
Carissa Howell, Multi County Advocate

Piatt County continues to offer DV 101 classes on Wednesday mornings, although the time is flexible to accommodate client's needs.

Carissa attended the January ROSC meeting at the Piatt County Mental Health Center. The next meeting will be February 17, 2021.

DeWitt County
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Dove's Coalition Against Domestic Violence is looking for new members to join. This group of amazing individuals meets once a month for a regular meeting and helps with fundraising, as well as supports the DeWitt County Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering your time for a very worthy cause, please call Jennifer at 217.935.6619 for information.

The food pantry is in need of volunteers, if you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out to Jennifer, so you can get more information.

Food Pantry •

The food pantry is open on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You are also able to get diapers during this time.

Coats •

We have winter coats and jackets for anyone in need this winter season. Please call 217.935.6619 for more information.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Macon County
Liz Mackey, Program Director

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Americans are required to stay home to protect themselves and their communities. However, the home may not be safe for many families who experience domestic violence, which may include both intimate partners and children. COVID-19 has caused major economic devastation, disconnected many from community resources and support systems, and created widespread uncertainty and panic. Such conditions may stimulate violence in families where it didn't exist before and worsen situations in homes where mistreatment and violence has been a problem. Violence in the home has an overall cost to society, leading to potentially adverse physical and mental health outcomes, including a higher risk of chronic disease, substance use, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and risky sexual behaviors. COVID has created new barriers in families that experience domestic violence and it's up to us to be aware and reach out.

We must take action to alert victims of abuse that there is help available. Check on those we love that we have not heard from in a while. We are all in this together.

Stay Safe & Make Good Choices

Domestic Violence Shelter Program Needs (from our high need list)

DISPOSABLE 3 PLY FACE MASKS FOR CLIENTS
WASHABLE FACE MASKS
VINYL GLOVES (SIZE MEDIUM, LARGE, AND XL)
CLOROX WIPES
AEROSOL DISINFECTANT SPRAY
PAPER TOWEL ROLLS
BABY WIPES
DISPOSABLE DIAPERS
PULL-UPS
NEW BATH TOWELS
NEW NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMEN'S, ALL SIZES
NEW SWEATSUITS- UNISEX, ALL SIZES
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
HAIR GREASE
HAIRBRUSHES – NATURAL & NYLON BRISTLES
CONDITIONER
BODYWASH
DEODORANT (WOMEN'S)
DISPOSABLE CUPS, PLATES & EATING UTENSILS
PLASTIC (NOT DISPOSABLE) DRINKING CUPS

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

**Moultrie County
Becky Comstock, Coordinator**

During February, Dove's Moultrie County Office observes Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence: "Teen dating violence is defined as a pattern of actual or threatened acts of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse, perpetrated by an adolescent against a current or former dating partner. Dating violence is more common than people think, especially among teens and young adults. Statistics report that one in three teens in the US will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults, and nearly half (43%) of college women report experiencing violent or abusive dating behaviors. The danger of a teen domestic violence relationship is no different than an adult domestic violence relationship. However, they both face different challenges when trying to end the abusive relationship. Society, teens, and parents tend to downplay the seriousness of teen domestic violence relationships.

Many teenagers have less experience with relationships, they tend to equate love with jealousy and perceive possessiveness and abusive behavior as "normal" or even "cute" in intimate relationships, often due

to the influence of television, social media, and negative pop culture. It is important to understand that name calling, put downs, yelling, screaming, embarrassing a person in front of others, intimidation, spreading rumors, forced isolation, threats of violence, racial slurs, and making a person feel responsible for violence are all forms of verbal and emotional abuse, but happen often in teen domestic violence relationships. Scratching, kicking, pushing, choking, biting, slapping, shoving, punching, pinching, and pulling hair are all forms of physical dating abuse and any unwanted sexual behavior is sexual abuse. Technology, such as cell phones and computers are being used by adolescents to abuse and control partners in teen violence dating relationships. Some of the factors that influence teen dating violence include adolescents' inability to recognize a healthy vs unhealthy relationship, family, peers, and mass media.

If you are dating someone who is jealous and possessive, tries to control you and makes all the decisions, is scary, threatens you, is violent, loses their temper quickly, pressures you for sex, abuses drugs or alcohol and pressures you to use them, blames you when they mistreat you, has a history of bad relationships and blames it on other people, or makes your family and friends worry about you, chances are you're in an abusive relationship."

Ending a relationship is a difficult process as an adult. In a teen domestic violence relationship, it can seem almost impossible. Most teens are reluctant to tell anyone about it and do not realize there is help available. To reduce teen dating violence in Moultrie County and continue to spread awareness on the issue, Dove provides teen dating violence education, resources, and information on Moultrie County services to students at Sullivan High School.

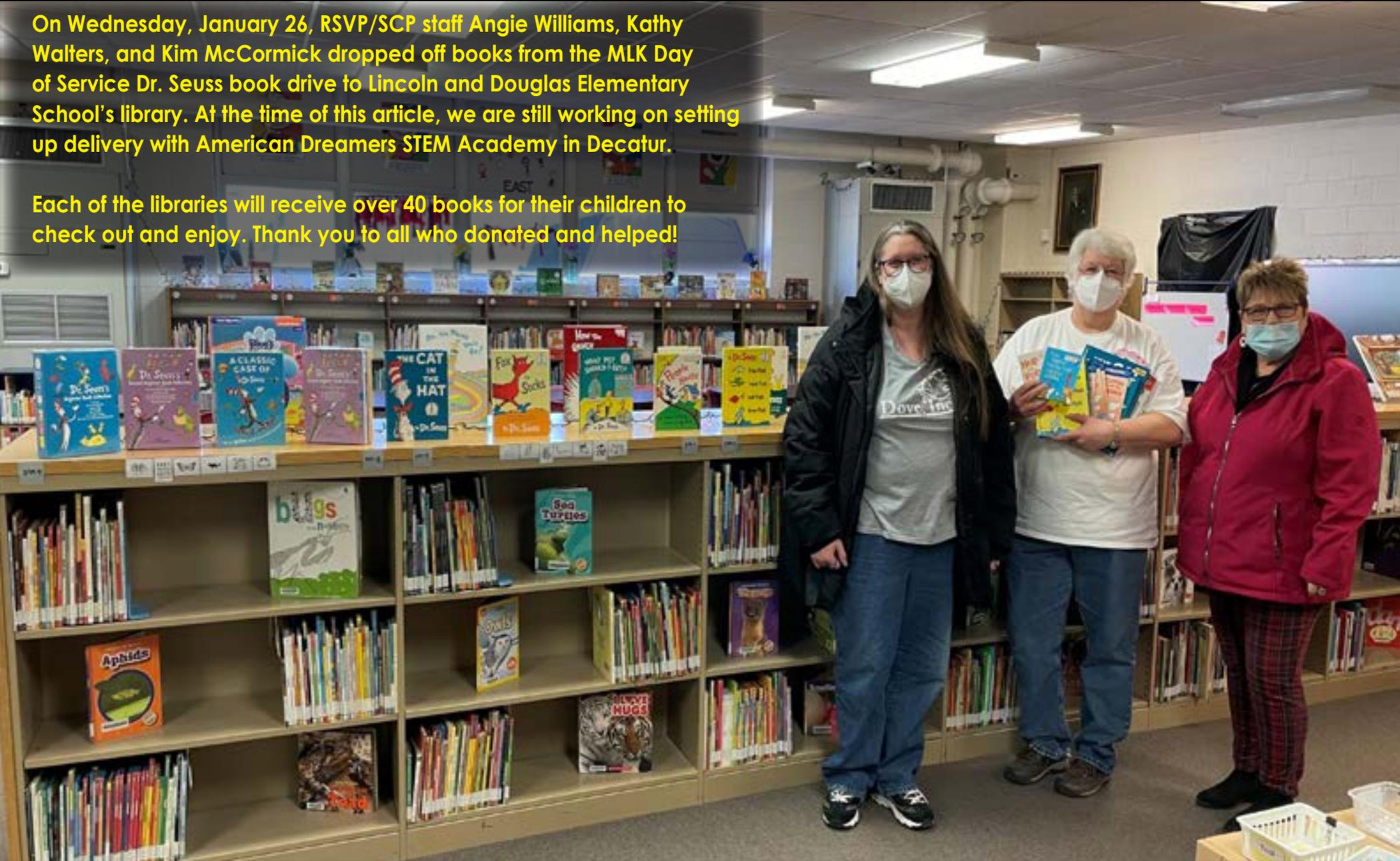
If you or someone you know is in a teen domestic violence relationship, help is available. Dove's 24-hour Moultrie County Hotline number is 217.728.9334.





On Wednesday, January 26, RSVP/SCP staff Angie Williams, Kathy Walters, and Kim McCormick dropped off books from the MLK Day of Service Dr. Seuss book drive to Lincoln and Douglas Elementary School's library. At the time of this article, we are still working on setting up delivery with American Dreamers STEM Academy in Decatur.

Each of the libraries will receive over 40 books for their children to check out and enjoy. Thank you to all who donated and helped!





News from RSVP!

RSVP/SCP staff are beginning to visit some of our volunteer stations to check in and see how things are going and see if we can assist in any way.

If you'd like for us to come and visit your station and volunteers, please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. We would love to come see you. If your agency, station or group is having an event that you would like us to attend, help with, or speak at, we would be happy to do that as well.

Just reach out to Angie Williams or Kathy Walters in Macon County at 217.428.6616.

Due to the upsurge in Covid-19, we are putting a gentle pause on accepting donations for our overseas coupon program. Please stay safe and we'll update you as soon as we know more.

Are you 55 or better, and enjoy volunteering? If so, are you signed up with Retired and Senior Volunteer Program? If you aren't, please call Angie to discuss the benefits of joining RSVP. We'd love to have you on board, and we have a huge range of volunteer stations, including things you may be able to do from the comfort of your own home. We know and understand the challenges and worries that come with living in a pandemic and we'd be happy to try and help you figure out ways to utilize your unique skills and talents for the betterment of our community.



Volunteer Organizational League
(V.O.L.)

The next virtual meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15 at noon. VOL members are using the Zoom platform for monthly meetings. Jenna Ward, U of I Extension 4-H Office, has graciously offered to host the meetings.

For more information or to receive a link on the VOL, call Jenny Garver at 217.423.7708.

News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house 17 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 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 809 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

HOME 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 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.

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.

*The 2022 Point-in-Time count
was conducted from*

*8:00 a.m. January 27 to 8:00 a.m. January 28.
Check back in March for the results.*

Senior Companion Program

A little Valentine for you....

*Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
is becoming a Senior Companion right for you?*

- ♥ If you have a big heart and want to spread a little kindness to a Senior or two...
- ♥ If you are 55 or better and on a limited income...
- ♥ Then the Senior Companion program may be a good fit for you.

Spread some kindness by

- ♥ reading
- ♥ making a short grocery list
- ♥ being a friend

Call Kathy Walters, SCP Coordinator, at 217.428.6616,
if you would like to learn more about becoming a
Senior Companion Volunteer.



AmeriCorps
Seniors

*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*

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing News from the Neighborhood Activities!

As is the case for many, the month of January is much quieter than December and Dove Neighborhood Services is no exception. There were some special highlights however, meeting with the new CONO Vice President to discuss, among other things, our neighborhoods and vision for the future. This was a very insightful meeting. Also, meeting with the founder of a new up and coming transportation business and discussing her vision for the Decatur area and beyond. This will potentially be a wonderful use for Dove clients in need of transportation to work, etc. soon. These are two passionate, hardworking ladies in our community who have a heart to see Decatur thrive!

The January CONO meeting, was a great success with engaging discussion of ideas on what we would like CONO to achieve on behalf of our neighborhoods. This was our first meeting with the new president of CONO, Alan Duesterhaus. We are all looking forward to what is in store for the future of Decatur.

Given the opportunity to meet with Shemilah Outreach founder, Shem Sanders, did not disappoint. His heart and passion for the youth of our community and a deep desire to see them become all they are meant to be, shined through in every word he spoke! Sharing with his heart on his sleeve of how the outreach began to the steppingstones of where it is today. Meeting with him in the Atrium of Stephen Decatur Middle School gave me opportunity to see his connection with the kids as they passed by us at different times and in between classes. I, along with many, am so grateful to Shem for answering this challenging call! This outreach is a much needed blessing in our community! Maddie Meyer, Education and Awareness Specialist is looking forward to collaborating with Shemilah Outreach in the near future.

There are more visits, meetings and potential collaborations on the calendar to look forward to in February!

LeAnn Ellis, NSP Coordinator

Coalition Of
Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, February 15

5:30 p.m.

Please check social media to see if it will be
an in-person or Zoom meeting.

Clokey Park
Association Meeting

February 24, 6:30 p.m.

At Prairie Avenue Christian Church

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



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



*The Christmas Care & Share
Committee members
have been taking a break
in January -- but planning
for the 2022 program
will get started again this month!*

*Watch in March
for the start of our monthly
updates on the program!*



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.

