

DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

2022 has started, not as we hoped, but we are making changes to services to keep clients, volunteers and staff members safe. Please see our temporary updates to service.

January 2022

Barbara Blakey Editor

Issue 2022 • 1 Published Monthly

Dove, Inc. 302 S. Union Decatur, IL 62522 217.428.6616 dove@doveinc.org As of January 1, three staff members have been promoted to new leadership positions within the agency. Congratulations to all! We have moved a scheduled 'meet and greet event' from January to a later date (hopefully February!) But we can't wait to share these exciting changes!

And as excited as we are about the opportunities of 2022, we cannot move forward without sending our sincere thanks for the support of the agency in 2021. We met challenges while supporting many members of our communities with life changing support.

As we thank you, we also want to encourage your continued engagement with Dove! We need and so appreciate your help!



Dove's Board of Directors is pleased to announce Darsonya Switzer's promotion to Dove Assistant Director.

Darsonya has been with Dove since 2004, serving mainly with the Homeward Bound Program and has been on the Dove Leadership Team for more than 10 years.

Along with her new duties, Darsonya will continue her leadership of the Homeward Bound Program and in her role as the Chair of the Continuum of Care. Congratulations Darsonya!

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, Program 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



Angie Williams began as the RSVP/ SCP Program Director on January 1. Angie has been with the agency since 2004, working most of her tenure with the Domestic Violence Program. Hear more from Angie on the RSVP News Page!

Congratulations Angie!

Liz Mackey officially began her tenure as the Domestic Violence Program Director on January 1. Liz has been with the agency since 2018, starting as the Piatt County Coordinator. Liz then began working in the Shelter and was promoted to the Interim Program Director as Teri Ducy announced her retirement for the end of 2021.

Congratulations Liz!



At the January 3, 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 DFA, 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.

CLFRF 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 \$15,000.00.
- 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:



Macon Countys

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 Platt Countless

By appointment, can be reached at At the January 3, Decatur City Council Meeting, the

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

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.

- 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)

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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

30th Annual Coats for Kids!





Donated, cleaned and distributed for selection by families in need.

6



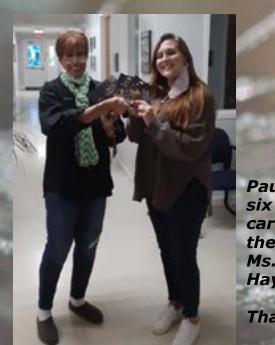






Thanks to Coziahr Harley-Davidson who, once again, included collecting items for Dove during their 2021 Black Friday-Weekend **Event!** Thanks so much for your faithfulness and for the thoughtful items you collect each year for the Shelter.

(L-R) Tim Coziahr, Sterling Taber, with Angie Williams, Teri Ducy, and LeAnn Ellis! Thanks CHD!





Paulette and T.J. Jackson donated six \$15 and six \$20 Kroger gift cards in December for families in the Domestic Violence Program, Ms. Jackson is seen here with Hayley Nash.

Thanks for this generous donation!



Dove's Domestic Violence Program would like to extend our gratitude for the VERY generous donation from Mueller for the food boxes and Christmas Cookie Making Kits.

The four food boxes were from Heinkel's Packing Co., Inc. with an assortment of meats! And the thirteen cookie decorating kits were from Giggles.

Your generosity and ongoing support to our program is very much appreciated. May each of you have a very blessed Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year!!

Sara Mulligan from Mueller with Joyce Kirkland and Teri Ducy.



A very warm thank you to Janet Miller, Jane Schanefelt, Sharon Ramey and all the Southside Country Club ladies for your overwhelming generosity in filling up two cars full of toys for the children we serve!! Once again, it was a wonderful afternoon sharing this special time with all of you! The food was delicious as always, and the presentation was perfect! And ohhhhhh that yummy ice cream!!! It is the perfect festive flavor for Christmas!!

You ladies are the best. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for putting a special smile on the faces of so many children!! May you all have a blessed Holiday Season and a New Year full of God's blessings!!

Sincerely, Teri Ducy and Liz Mackey



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.

BABES



Plans are in the works for the spring school semester for the BABES Program!

We are still hoping for in person presentations and finalizing plans for if we need to also offer the presentations in a remote learning setting.

We do want to thank the volunteers who made presentations in the fall and the schools which were able to open their classrooms to our volunteers.

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 January.

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.

Hello everyone! We here in DeWitt County are eagerly looking forward to a new and exciting year!

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, 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, for additional 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.

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

Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Moultrie County Dove office held its annual client Christmas party on December 16. Every year at Christmas we are extremely humbled by the amount of people throughout the community who reach out in efforts to provide victims of domestic violence and their children with a Christmas they deserve. We would like to send a very heartfelt thank you to: Monical's Pizza of Sullivan for providing pizza, Jonathan Creek Church for providing gift bags, Sullivan FCCLA Club for organizing a drive and delivering donated items, Nadler Electric for providing cookie decorating kits, The Sullivan Area Ministerial Association for providing IGA Vouchers, and Moultrie County's: Treasurer's Office, State's Attorney's Office & Supervisor of Assessments' Office for providing gift boxes and the Moultrie County Sheriff's office for delivering them. We would also like to thank **Country Financial, Moultrie County Farm** Bureau, and all of those who provided monetary donations for the Christmas Holiday. You all went above and beyond to help provide a wonderful fun-filled Christmas party this year.

We would also like to remind you Law Enforcement appreciation day was January 9, 2022. Moultrie County CADV members have worked very hard on treat bags to show our appreciatio, and were scheduled to deliver the bags to our local law enforcement agencies on January 7.

Rebecca Comstock, Coordinator

All of us at the Domestic Violence Program were once again humbled by the generosity of our community during the holiday season. We are truly blessed with the help of all our supporters. Christmas was a joyous time for many families in Macon County. Thank you.

Wishing everyone a very safe, healthy, and happy 2022!

Liz Mackey, Program Director

Please Note:

Due to the surge in Covid-19 cases, we are having to make some temporary changes to operations. Effective immediately, there will be no more domestic violence groups until further notice. We'll keep you up to date as things change and we're able to start providing these services again.

NEWS from the Domestic Violence Program

Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 2022 from the Shelby County Domestic Violence Program. A new year is a brand new, clean slate of days for us to work with. Many of us make resolutions to make our lives better at this time of year.

If you, or someone you know, has issues, past or present, with domestic violence, please consider reaching out to our program for assistance. We offer counseling, legal advocacy, assistance with Orders of Protection and many other services to make a positive difference in your life. We can be reached at 217.774.3121 or on our crisis line 24 hours a day at 217.774.4888. We would love to work with you to increase your sense of safety and help give you peace of mind.

Our office has operated on a part-time basis since early November due to a medical emergency. As of January 5, 2022, we are back to five days per week. My thanks to my co-worker, Carissa Howell, who covered my office during my medical leave. I am excited to be back to offer full-time services.

Susie Kensil, Coordinator

Piatt County Dove still has office staff available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. And as always, the hotline is available 24/7.

I would like to thank Tony Kirkman from the Piatt County Mental Health Center for inviting me to be a part of the ROSC council. Rural counties seem to have similar struggles and I know that anything that I can gain from attending these monthly meetings can also be utilized in other rural areas that Dove services!

I would also just like to thank the Piatt County Circuit Clerk's office, as well as our Judges for their continued support and their work in supporting victims of Domestic Violence.

Carissa Howell, Multi-County Rural Advocate

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



2021 has come and gone and in some ways, it feels like a whirlwind and in another it feels like it lasted forever.

It was another rough year

for so, so many, for a myriad of reasons, the ongoing pandemic obviously one of the top ones. Financial difficulties, increases in crime and domestic violence, anxiety, depression and other mental health issues, social isolation, and loss are just a few examples of things that have impacted everyone in the last couple of years.

Christmas is always a challenging time for many and when compounded with all these other factors, is extra trying. We had more people signed up for Christmas assistance this year than ever before. Still partnering with Northeast Community Fund, Salvation Army and Toys for Tots enabled us to serve 836 families with toys for their children in 2021, which equaled 2,458 children receiving toys and gifts.

None of us could have pulled that off without the generosity of every single person who donated toys, wrapping paper and tape, hygiene items, money, stockings, hats and gloves, and the gift of your time for those who volunteered. We had 79 individuals who volunteered their time to help with Christmas Care & Share, who spent nearly 800 hours of time in the two weeks we were there. There are not enough words to express my sincere gratitude to every single one of you, as well as every single person from Dove staff who came and helped.

The counting and sorting of toys and items are time-consuming and sometimes tedious but you answered the call. Helping man the toy stations and help the families shop is another big job – and you answered that, too. Thank you.

A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for being gracious and thoughtful hosts who went well above and beyond answering the call when it came to helping, providing lunch for staff and volunteers one day during distribution, preparing and passing out snacks and drinks for staff, volunteers, and people receiving gifts for their children throughout distribution week, and greeting and guiding people around the church to help them find their way. An extra big thanks to Mick who was our point of contact from St. Paul's who helped us get set up and organized, many times going as far as to help unload and haul donations around to get them where they needed to go.

I would be remiss in not mentioning Pawprint

Ministries for bringing several of their comfort dogs through to mingle with staff and individuals who were there during distribution week. It was a huge success, and they brought Santa Claus with them to visit with folks, as well. Thank you to all of



you for your kind spirit and generosity!

I wish I could mention every single person who helped and donated but there are so many people and I don't want to forget anyone, so please know we appreciate you!

I also want to thank our Care & Share Committee for all their hard work going all the way back to April of 2021 when we began planning and organizing things: LeAnn Ellis, Kathy Walters, Jennifer Tolladay, Diana Guidebeck, Patty Cain, Melissa Girardi, Daciena Simmons, Maddie Meyer, Brandy Robinson and Joey Skelton. You are all amazing and we could not have pulled things off without you. I thank God for you all every day.

Always thanks to our partners: Northeast Community Fund, Salvation Army, and Toys for Tots.

My heart is full the way it is every year when the community turns out and goes beyond themselves to serve those who are most in need in Central Illinois at Christmas time. Bless you all.

Thank you for making the holidays better and brighter for so many people. May 2022 treat us all a little more gently and kindly.

> Angie Williams Christmas Care & Share





What's almost as good as Santa in his sleigh? Brandy and her cart! Thanks to Brandy Robinson who donated lunch to those helping out at the last day of CC&S!

> Brandy, Jeremy Morris, owner of The Box, Decatur, and Tammy Wilcox.



ICE MOUNTAIN



News from RSVP!



Dr. Suess Book Drive

Our focus for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service every year is education. This year we are hearing that our younger children are struggling with reading. As remote learning left our children with virtual instruction, which was very different and new to children and parents alike. Additionally, families had limited access to materials like books because of library access limitations due to COVID. This year RSVP and SCP MLK Day of service includes a Dr. Suess book drive for children in grades 1st through 3rd. While out shopping, we would be grateful if you can pick up one or two Dr. Suess books to donate to children as part of our day of service. For questions, please call Kimberly at 217.935.2241 or Angie & Kathy at 217.428.6616. Books are accepted at our office now to January 19, 2022.

Macon County books will be donated to the American Dreamers STEM Academy while DeWitt County donations will go to Douglas Elementary.

Meet Angie Williams RSVP/SCP Program Director

There are so many transitions happening at Dove right now. It's a season of change, and change can be hard, scary, and overwhelming. Change can also be good even if it still feels uncomfortable and if it produces anxiety.

I won't lie and say I'm not a little anxious about my change in positions at Dove, from Domestic Violence Administrative Coordinator to RSVP/SCP Director. But



mostly I'm excited about possibilities and the chance to work in another program at Dove.

I started out here in 2004, right out of college, working with the Domestic Violence Program. In the fall of 2013, I transitioned to the community services program for almost two years before returning to the Domestic Violence Program but in a different position from before. In 2015, I began coordinating the Christmas Baskets program (now known as Christmas Care & Share) in addition to my responsibilities in domestic violence.

Dove has a piece of my heart and soul, and so do the people that we serve, and the people that we serve with, especially the volunteers. I am very much looking forward to getting to know the ins and outs of this position, meeting people I haven't already met and working together to continue making the communities we serve stronger.

Please know if you need to reach me, you can call me at any time at 217.428.6616 or email me at awilliams@doveinc.org.

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 825 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

HOME homelessness to housing. Join the Macon County

Continuum of Care in supporting this effort.

Donations will be accepted at Northeast Community Fund (NECF) and distributed in "starter kits" to agencies serving those moving into housing.

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

These donated items can be delivered to:

Northeast Community Fund 839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.

Decatur, IL 62521 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Life Skills and Job Club

The Life Skills/Job Club Classes available upon request, for further information contact Chalanda Woods, 217.362.7700.

Upcoming Events

Point-in-Time count Thursday, January 27, 2022 for further information please contact Darsonya Switzer, 217.362.7700

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.

Macon County Continuum of Care Homeless Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2022, 1:30 p.m. via zoom. For further information contact Ashley Garner, 217.362.7700, or email dove@doveinc.org for a zoom link by end of the day on January 12.

Senior Companion Program

Want to make a difference in the New Year? Need a New Year's Resolution?

Join the Dove Senior Companion Program!

Make that resolution happen, plus earn a nontaxable stipend to use after the holidays, if qualified. The Dove Senior Companion Program (SCP) is seeking volunteers 55 years of age or better to share their friendship with homebound adults. Companions might do friendly phone calls, help make a grocery list, read, or reminisce together about the New Years past and present.

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



Bianco and Kathy preparing items to be donated to local seniors at 2021Christmas Care and Share. 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

AmeriCorps

Seniors

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing News from the Neighborhood Activities!

This past Christmas with Dove was a wonderful experience, all the while being yet another real eye-opener! Working with Angie Williams and the team for Christmas Care and Share is a truly exciting, exhilarating and an exhausting feat to say the

least! Having never been a part of this amazing community outreach from start to finish, this year being allowed the opportunity offered insight into a whole other world that can only be imagined. When so many toys began being delivered that first day and seeing it from the perspective of OH MY! Where do we go from here! Angie was there with patience, insight and clearly defined organizational skills to calmly explain the next steps and/or what we will accomplish at this given time as items continued to be delivered throughout our couple of weeks there. Thank you, Angie, for all you do!! And the heart in which you do it! With many kudos to a great team of volunteers and

workers, also!

It is unanimously understood that St. Paul's Church was a total blessing in every way possible! It began with our first meeting with Mick, the Facilities Maintenance Supervisor. It was obvious to Angie and the team that the space was going to be a definite great fit and that Mick who had a vision from the onset, was completely committed to help in any way possible and gave opportunity to every occasion of the process in this manner. By the time the week of distribution arrived, as promised, several members of the church

were enthusiastically involved in serving with hospitality and caring for the clients as well as the staff! Words cannot thank all of these volunteers for all they have done to show themselves kind and loving in the process of Christmas Care and Share 2021. I'm already looking forward to next year!

There was also an eventful time had in the schools with the BABES Program, finishing up for the season. What a wonderful program Dove offers as another way to care

and share in the community throughout the school year with puppet lessons and discussion! It's a joy to be a part of this program.

Looking forward with many meetings; neighborhood, city council and more on the agenda in January!

> LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator Neighborhood Services Program

Coalition Of Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, January 18 5:30 p.m. Decatur Public Library Staley Room

Clokey Park Association Meeting

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

January 27 , 6:30 p.m. Prairie Avenue Christian Church corner of 22nd and Prairie, Decatur





Thanks to HSHS St. Mary's and their family of employees for making this generous donation of items to share with our clients. Thanks to all who donated to their Angel Tree!

