



DoveTales

June 2022

Barbara Blakey
Editor

Issue 2022 • 6
Published Montly

Dove, Inc.
302 S. Union
Decatur, IL
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217.428.6616
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promotion was effective Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Darsonya has her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is a lifetime resident of the Decatur/Mt.Zion area. Her endeavors have allowed her to previously work for Heritage Behavioral Health Center, Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation and the Decatur Housing Authority.

Congratulations Darsonya!

Dove, Inc.'s Board of Directors is pleased to announce Darsonya Switzer's promotion to Executive Director. Darsonya has been with Dove since 2004, serving mainly with the Homeward Bound Program, as well as the Chair of the Macon County Continuum of Care and on Dove's Leadership Team. Darsonya was asked to be Dove's next director after the May Director's Meeting. Her



Best Wishes to our outgoing Executive Director Tamara Wilcox. Tammy will be leaving Dove at the end of the June for a position with Macon County.

Tammy began with Dove in 1997 in the Finance Department, became the Finance Director, the Assistant Director and in April of 2019, the Executive Director.

As we will miss Tammy, we wish all the best for her in her new endeavors.

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

Darsonya Switzer, Executive Director

Tamara Wilcox, Outgoing Executive 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 Financial Assistance, Molly Tenuto, Program Director

Dove Food Pantry, Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program

Liz Mackey, Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Andrea Kocher, Piatt County Coordinator

Homeward Bound, Vacant

Neighborhood Services Program, LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Angie Williams, RSVP Program Director

Kim McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Ray Batman Center for Social Justice

Justice, Equality and Understanding
Among All People

Please join us as we dedicate
Dove's 788 E. Clay Building
in a naming event,
Saturday June 11, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Ray was the first employee of Dove and leading force
for the agency for more than 30 years.

Ray's family, along with Dove's Board of Directors, Staff,
and Volunteers, invite the public to join us on this special day.

Please RSVP if you are able to attend.

Dove, Inc.
302 S. Union, Decatur, IL 62522
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We are reaching out, to join together, to fund this memorial signage in Ray Batman's honor.

This naming of Dove's 788 E. Clay building will be a lasting testament to the huge impact Ray made on central Illinois.

We feel this Memorial will do justice to Ray's guidance of Dove, from its inception through many years of growth and many challenges.

If you would like to be a part of this special memorial, please consider sending a donation or by making a donation on-line at doveinc.org.

Along with the signage, there will be needed improvements including safety lighting and fencing. Signage inside the building will reflect those who joined together for this memorial as of June 30, 2022.

Donors will be recognized at a new National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week event to be held in the fall of 2022.

Thank you for your consideration.

News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house 32 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. Seven 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 667 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.

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

*Next meeting is schedule for the 2nd Thursday of July, 1:30 p.m.
Watch back for additional information.*

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.



Plans are moving forward for this year's Christmas Care & Share!

St. Pauls' Lutheran Church has agreed to be our distribution site again this year! They have been so generous with their space and staff and members have supported us in many ways.

It looks like the need will be great again this year. Watch back for needed items as we head into the fall months.

Looking for a new challenging and rewarding job opportunity?

Dove has 4 open positions - one might be just right for you!

For additional information, please check out our website for the most up to date information:

[New Job?](#)

**Attention RSVP Volunteers:
Please Save the Date
of August 25, for what we're
hoping will be our return to an
in-person appreciation event!**

Watch for more information in your mailbox as we get closer to August!

You shop. **amazon smile** *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

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing News About The Neighborhoods!

With the beautiful weather, Neighborhood Services has been busy with all the usual happenings and then some. Below are just a few.

I had a great time this school year as we finished up the BABES Program for the season in May. The kids gave insight as they shared their takeaway from the presentations and asked some really good questions letting us know that this program is making a difference in our community!

The Greenwood Neighborhood (GANO) "shows up" for their meetings at Coates Park! Good things have been happening and they have more exciting plans ahead as they wait to hear back from the city on some awesome and hopeful projects for their area.

There was a prayer walk in the GM Square Neighborhood where I got to meet wonderful folks and hear their vision and hearts for Decatur. Also, someone from the neighborhood came alongside and joined right in as we walked. We hope to see more and more of this coming alongside in our community called Decatur.

SIA Neighborhood is ever busy in the John's Hill area, Millikin Heights is planning an Amazzzzing Social coming up later in the summer! More to come on this and the Torrence Park happenings to look forward to!!

We have some busy and active neighborhoods and some that we have yet to see re-awaken after resting from the pandemic. This re-awakening continues to be a work in progress. However, there is still much to look forward to in June to include some Park City events and more with Adopt-A-Street in a couple neighborhoods including Clokey Park (CP) where Sunday walks will soon begin, as well. This association spends an hour or so on Sunday afternoons and walk the neighborhood engaging with any neighbors who may be out and about along the way as well as Jason, the neighborhood president, shares history of the houses and more! Makes for enjoyable exercise! Looking forward to seeing you CP residents on the walks this year!

**Coalition Of
Neighborhood Organizations**

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, June 21

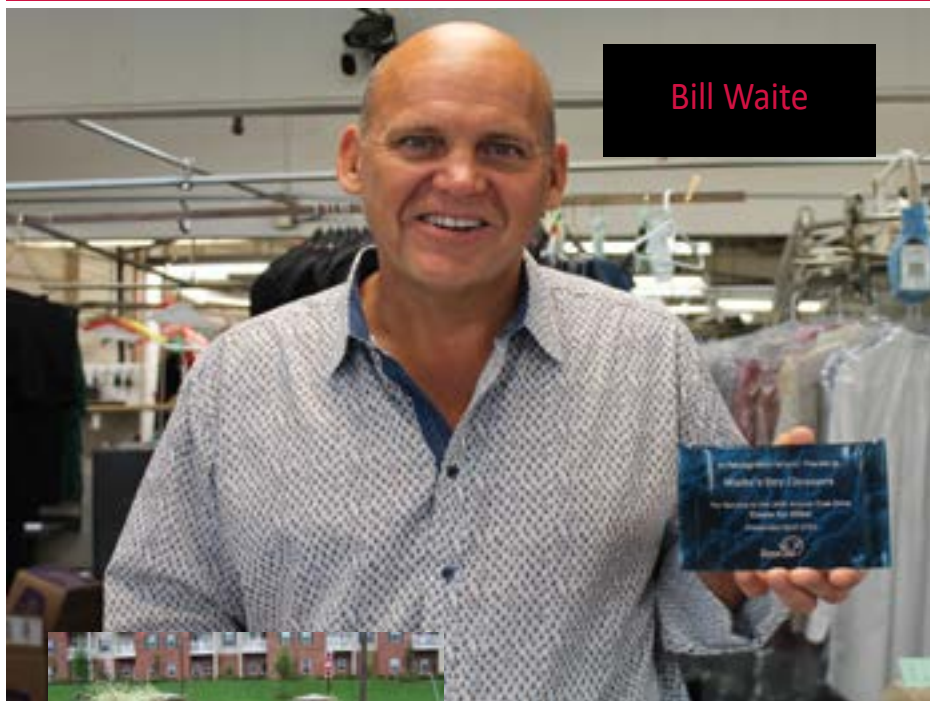
5:30 p.m.

Staley Room, Decatur Public Library

Downtown Decatur

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

Celebrating our 30th Annual Coats for Kids Drive!



Bill Waite



Mr. Johns has helped with the drive since the beginning!



Denea Fane



Our sincere thanks to the families of cleaners for their service to the 30th Annual Coats for Kids Drive last fall. Their work makes sure that the donated coats are clean and ready for families to select at a distribution site!

We recognized them for their work with the 30th Annual Drive, but want to thank them for the YEARS of dedication to the Program.

Working together, this annual program serves so many families in need!

Thanks to WAND and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Works, Local 146, for the \$1000 donation to Dove as part of WAND'S 3 Degree Guarantee!

We so appreciate this donation to Dove, to support the many programs we have!



Thanks to the members of the The Kappa Zeta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Millikin University, who made a generous donation of items to the Shelter!

B A B E S



Offering Volunteer Training this summer!

Help us provide pro-active programming to help school children develop positive living skills that will be a foundation for future choices they will make as adolescents and adults.

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 • 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
302 S. Union, Decatur

Pre-registration is required by NOON, Wednesday, August 10. Please contact Barb Blakey at 217.428.6616 or at dove@doveinc.org to register.

For more information please contact:
slaesch@doveinc.org

Thanks Volunteers!

For all the students you reached out to this 21-22 school year!

*It was a difficult year, but you made a difference in
the lives so many students!*

Dove Food Pantry



Thursdays

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

803 W. Leander, Clinton

The Dove Food Pantry in Clinton is in need of volunteers with trucks to drive to Bloomington once a month to help get the food and transport it to the food pantry. We also are in need of volunteers to help unload the trucks and organize and put the food away. Here are the dates we need drivers for the remainder of the year:

- August 4
- September 1
- October 6
- November 3
- December 8

If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Jennifer Tolladay at 217.935.6619 for times and further details.

Thank you!

- 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 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

Macon County Domestic Violence Program **Liz Mackey, Program Director**

With June upon us it brings to the forefront truly what is at the core of our mission, and that is to love ALL. Last week we lost 19 kids and 2 teachers to the senseless violence that seems to be plaguing our society. And it is getting worse. It's to the point now that we are not worrying about if another event will take place, its just a matter of when. We all see this, and we all feel this. But we need to remember that these small things we do matter, and they are a piece of what it is going to take to push through and be resilient to what is next, and that piece is love. Dove will continue to be that piece to those who come to us hurting and powerless, providing a safe place when home is not that place; warmth, food, a person who cares and is on your side. It's these small things that mean the most in all of our lives, myself included. So take care of each other and lean into what ever it is that gives you strength and know every small piece or gesture matters.

Happy Pride Month!!



*Thanks to Millikin Students
who donated two big boxes
full of personal hygiene
products and toiletries along
with \$100 to the Shelter.*

*(R) Molly at Dove with
representative of Kappa Zeta
Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority, Inc.*

Our Sincere Thanks!

Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

Fall 2022 Schedule

Monday through Thursday Evenings

5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

September 19 through October 5

at our

302 S. Union offices, Decatur

Registration opportunities will open on July 11, 2022. To start the registration process, please call Barb Blakey, Director of Volunteers and Community Relations at 217.428.6616, between July 11 and September 9.

Following the registration interview, needed forms will be sent to participating individuals. Class size is limited and slots are filled as the needed paperwork and training fee is returned. But all forms and training fee of \$200 need to be to Dove by September 12.

*Start considering the good you can do
by becoming a Certified Volunteer.*

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Shelby County Program **Susie Kensil, Coordinator**

As I write this, the weather outside is more like late April than late May. These last few days follow a week or so of temperatures more like July than May, but at least we were luckier than our neighbors to the west who had twenty-four inches of snow over last weekend. Change, as in the change of seasons, has seemed to be incredibly difficult for Mother Nature lately. This suggests the idea that change is difficult for all of us, even when we desperately want things in our life to be different. Anyone who has ever started a diet or tried to quit smoking can certainly attest to that.

When many people think of Dove's Domestic Violence Program, they consider us an agency that deals with crisis situations. We certainly do that, and we pride ourselves on doing it well. It is only one of the things we are trained to do, however. An incidence of domestic violence is a crisis that needs to be resolved quickly to ensure safety for all those involved. After the initial episode there are often feelings and issues that need to be addressed as well. There are staff in all our offices who are eager to help victims and their family members address issues and feelings that remain after the initial crisis is over. Post-crisis feelings run the gamut from euphoria

to anger to helplessness and many others. No feeling is wrong, and though they may seem overwhelming, most are normal. We are here to listen, to offer suggestions for change and to cheer you on as you go through the process of building a better life. Please call our office at 217.774.3121 (our business line) or 217.774.4888 (crisis line). Our crisis line is answered 24 hours every day; our business line has voice mail for messages when we are away from the office. Do not let your past stand in the way of a brighter future.

Moultrie County Program **Becky Comstock, Coordinator**

I will be traveling to Champaign on June 30, to attend Land of Lincoln's Eastern Regional Office partnership meeting. Dove

often does VOCA legal referrals for clients to help get them legal representation for plenary orders of protection, family, and divorce cases. We look forward to meeting with Land of Lincoln staff, reviewing current and future changes to Family/DV LOLLA Referral, and discussing Case Acceptance Policy (CAPS).

Group will continue through the summer months and is currently held on Thursday nights, 5:00 p.m. in the Moultrie County Farm Bureau Building. Dinner and childcare are provided.

We are needing donations of fabric for baby blankets and quilts, cups, bottled water, size 3, 4 & 5 diapers, and 2t-3t pul-lups.

Piatt County Program **Liz Mackey, Program Director**

There is great news for Piatt County Dove! A full time Domestic Violence Coordinator has been hired and has started serving clients of Piatt County in May. Please be on the lookout for events as new Leadership takes over and Dove's Mission grows in Piatt County. DV 101 class is taking place every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Piatt County Dove Office, 100 W. Washington, Monticello.

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



Please note, DFA's distribution of this City funding is ending on June 30, 2022.

Thanks to the City of Decatur for entrusting DFA to distribute these funds.

So many have been helped, in these difficult times, by these funds. We are grateful to have been a part of the solution for many.

At the January 2022 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



RSVP staff have been busy, continuing to visit our volunteer stations, learning what their volunteer needs are and how we might be able to assist.

Kathy and Angie with Lizzie Van Ert of the Zoo!

Here are some of our biggest volunteer needs in Macon and Dewitt Counties:

Food Pantry

Volunteers are needed in Dewitt County at the Dove office to help with the unloading of a food truck and to assist with the food pantry on the following days from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

Thursday, June 9
Thursday, August 4
Thursday, September 1
Thursday, October 6
Thursday, November 3
Thursday, December 8

We are also in need of volunteers (preferably with a truck) to drive to Bloomington to the Midwest Food Bank to pick up food on those days. We have a wonderful couple (huge

shoutout to Jim and Donna Hall) who have been doing it regularly, but we would love to rotate folks to give them a break occasionally. If you can help, please call Angie at 217.428.6616.

Please Note: The Food Pantry will be closed Thursday, July 7.

Children's Clothing Room

Dove's Clothing Room is looking for volunteers. Our hours are Mondays & Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. If interested, please call Kathy at 217.428.6616. Things you would be doing include covering the desk or helping families in the clothing room.

Rock Springs Nature Center Volunteer Librarian

The library relocation project has wrapped up and we are looking for volunteers to help out in our new location. Volunteers assist with checking out and reshelving books as well as maintaining our library collection. Our library

is a great resource for educational programming and is open to the public. Morning and afternoon shifts are available. This opportunity is for ages 18 and up. For more information, or to sign up, contact Jenny Garver (JGarver@MaconCountyConservation.org; 217.423.7708).

STARR Farm



Have you heard of STARR Farm? It's a non-profit organization that uses therapeutic horseback riding to help children with disabilities. Sitting on 10 acres of land, it is entirely volunteer staffed, and volunteers are needed to help feed and groom the horses, to clean the horse stalls, to rake the arena, to pick up sticks and do general yard maintenance. This would be a perfect opportunity for a teen in need of community service hours, or an RSVP volunteer who loves being outside, and for anyone who loves working with animals. If you're interested, please reach out to Cheryl Smith at 217.864.2463.



Dove Financial Assistance

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

***302 S. Union Street
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.***

Dove Financial Assistance

This past month I have been busy learning more about Dove and digging into Dove's Financial Assistance Program. I have been spending time at our office space in Northeast Community Fund to learn more about DFA, but also to meet with the public and to see the needs that are out there. I can assure you that the need in our community is big, and while I'm sure this isn't new information for you like it wasn't for me, it's a different experience to be with these people in person and to hear their stories of hardship. It is not always easy for people to ask for assistance and our program is touching the lives of those that we encounter. It warms my heart to see people within the community at multiple agencies with the servant's heart to help those in need, whether through using their time and talents or through donations. Without our generous donors, DFA would not be

possible; so, I thank you for all that you are doing to ensure that we can serve as a piece of hope to as many people as possible.

Currently DFA has office hours in both Macon and DeWitt counties (see next page.) I will soon begin to work on re-instating some office hours in our rural counties as I begin to reestablish relationships there. With that said though, people are still able to receive help in the rural counties by utilizing the DFA contact information listed. To say that I'm excited about the future of DFA and all the good we can do would be an understatement, in fact I'm not sure there are words to describe my feelings. If you have any questions about DFA, please don't hesitate to contact me, I would be happy to talk with you and share more about the program.

Molly Tenuto
Program Director

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:

217.433.7435 or DFA@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)

Domestic Violence Program Shelter Needs

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

Children's Clothing Room

Open

Monday and Wednesday

1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Located: Inside Prairie Avenue Christian Church

2201 E. Prairie, Decatur

Sizes from infants to teenagers

Gently Used Free Clothing



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.





***Dove's Domestic Violence Program
Legal Advocates
stopped by the Decatur Police Department
and the Macon County Sheriff Department
mid-May, in a small way
to say a VERY BIG THANKS!***

