



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

March 2022

Barbara Blakey
Editor

Issue 2022 • 3
Published Monthly

Dove, Inc.

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

2022 Macon County Continuum of Care Community Breakfast

Thursday, March 10, 2022
8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

EOC
Empowerment Opportunity Center

360 E. Marietta
Decatur, Illinois

Free event, but please register at

mmiller@doveinc.org

217.362.7700

The public is encouraged to attend to learn more about homelessness issues facing our community.

The 2022 Point-in-Time survey results will be shared with the community.

Learn about ways to become involved with the CoC Advisory Council.

Continuum of Care



Please RSVP by March 3 at mmiller@doveinc.org

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

SCP • Senior Companion Program

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Angie Williams, RSVP & SCP Program Director

Kim McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Senior Companion Coordinator, Vacant



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. 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

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

New Guidelines

Household Members	Monthly LIHEAP	Monthly WNCF
1	\$0-\$2146	\$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

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)



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

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!

And thanks to those who have already sent us their updates!

Watch for information in our April Newsletter about the 2022

Dove Annual Meeting

Monday, April 25, 5:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Downtown Decatur.

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

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 DFA 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*

Our sincere thanks to Richland Community College and Sue Webster (L) who stopped this week with much needed socks for those staying in the Shelter and a donation of funds to help out with other needs! Seen here with Jen, Liz and Anita.



Thanks to the families and friends of the USW Mueller who, once again, collected and donated coats to the coat drive and helped us finish out the cold winter months! We immediately put one of the coats to good use by one of our clients and the rest went to an area clothing room. Many were clean or new, but a huge THANK YOU to WAITE'S CLEANERS, who made sure the rest were clean! Thanks again Mueller Local 7838!

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 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

*The Children's Clothing Room will be closed
until at least the end of March.*

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

Macon County

Liz Mackey, Program Director

February has brought with it the wrath of winter. Dove in Decatur has been powering through it and staying strong. Our staff is extraordinary and shelter services don't stop for weather. Know that if you are in an unsafe situation, no matter what the weather, there is a compassionate and strong group here to support and assist Domestic Violence Victims.

As of the 1st of March, all classes have resumed. This includes DV 101, Healthy Families/ Parenting, Overcoming Trauma, Overcoming Addiction and Domestic Violence support group. Please call for schedule or check our website.

And shout out to Dove staff member Maddie Meyer. Maddie, our Prevention Educator spent February out in the community giving presentations to students at various schools within our service area. February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and she did a fantastic job.

Piatt County Dove is offering DV 101 classes on Wednesdays. This office is currently looking for a full time Coordinator. Please email me at lmackey@doveinc.org for more information.

Moultrie County

Becky Comstock, Coordinator

At Dove, our services are free and confidential. Our Domestic Violence advocates respect confidentiality. All discussions occur in private, and no information is ever shared. Advocates listen and believe victim's experiences and acknowledge their feelings. They let victims of domestic violence know they are not alone.

- A Dove advocate acknowledges injustice and lets their victims know the violence perpetrated against them is not their fault.
- A Dove domestic violence advocate informs people of their rights and options and respects their right to make the decision that best suits their situation and life because they know the victim is the expert of their own life.
- A Dove domestic violence advocate can help a victim safety plan and find them a safe place to go if they need to escape in an emergency.
- A Dove domestic violence advocate knows the resources in their community and provides victims access to available programs.

We empower victims, survivors, and their children to ensure they live a happy and healthy life free from abuse. No one deserves to be abused. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse and in need of advocacy, please call the hotline at 217.728.9334.

Moultrie County Dove office accepts donations of toiletries and hygiene products. Such as: shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste,

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

Group services are currently being held on Thursday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is provided. Those wishing to attend or know someone who could benefit from group services should call 217.728.9303.

DeWitt County

Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

The Dewitt County office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are offering the DV101 for those interested in learning about the dynamics of domestic abuse, we offer counseling and assistance with filling out, filing and going to court for Emergency Orders of Protection.

The Food Pantry (see page 6) and DFA Program (see page 3) services are also available in our office.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Shelby County
Susie Kensil, Coordinator

Change...as we leave February behind, I think most of us are ready for a quick change to Spring. February has been a harsh month, weatherwise, and a positive change will be very welcome. However, change is not necessarily easy as evidenced by the 40-degree temperature drop we experienced this week. Change takes time and trial and error and sometimes lots of ups and downs to be accomplished, even when it is a much-desired change. If you or someone you know is desiring a change from a life of abuse or the after-effects of abuse, we are here to help with the change. We can help you understand the choices you have and help you to make the best decisions possible. We can stand by you through all the ups and downs you will face. We will be your biggest supporter and your loudest cheerleader when you make the decision to make changes. Our services are non-judgmental and are offered completely free of charge to you. Everyone deserves a safe home. Someone is available 24 hours a day at 217.774.4888. Our office number is 217.774.3121. We will try our best to work with your schedule to make the process of change as easy as possible.

*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:
This
training
is almost
full!**



**Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.
Please call between now & March 7, NOON • 217.428.6616.**

**Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur
Monday through Thursday, March 21 to April 6, 2022
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

*This training is for individuals who meet the criteria to volunteer
at any of Dove's Domestic Violence Programs or who is seeking
educational advancement for their current employment.*

Fee for this ICADV Certified Training is \$200



217.428.6616
doveinc.org

Meet Our Certified Trainers

Lead Training Facilitator
Joyce Kirkland

Co-Facilitators
Liz Mackey
Jamie Houchins

RSVP Volunteer Opportunities



Rock Springs has plenty of options available for volunteers, and they're open seven days a week for those who wish to serve. To volunteer contact Jenny Garver at 217.423.7708.

Highlights:

- In April, they will need volunteers for both their Festival of Spring and the Rock Springs River Ramble.
- Trail Monitoring - Monitors don't have to stick to any particular schedule; anytime the Conservation District is open, you can walk one of the trails and mark on a sheet of paper where debris may have fallen, where benches and bridges need repaired, etc. Nothing like being able to volunteer for your community AND get some fresh air and exercise at the same time!
- Prairie Heritage- If you have an interest in history, Rock Springs can use volunteers to help teach about life on the prairie during the days before the Civil War. You get to dress up in period-typical clothes and show kids what life was like in the days long before things like cell phones and computers existed.
- There are plenty of other opportunities for those who like to work with their hands to build things, to garden, play baseball, paint, take pictures of wildlife, lead hikes, and assist with canoeing and fishing programs.

Faith in Action/Catholic Charities

Faith in Action assists seniors 55 and older who are homebound. Those interested in volunteering should contact Sarah Sanchez at 217.428.0013.

Highlights:

- Transportation – People interested and eligible would take seniors to and from appointments, help them by doing some grocery shopping for them, etc.
- Friendly Visits – Just going in and visiting with someone to make their day a little brighter often helps ease stress and loneliness, especially for those who don't have any family nearby.
- BINGOsize—A ten-week commitment, eligible volunteers spend two times a week at an assigned site such as an assisted living facility, where you play BINGO with the participants. To mix things up, you ask them a mix of questions on fall prevention and do short exercises to help them improve strength, balance, range of motion, and to stay socially engaged.
- Meals on Wheels – Volunteers deliver meals to homebound individuals. They are in desperate need of more drivers.

Dove, Inc.

Mailings – As Covid-19 guidelines shift and things become safer, there is an opportunity to help RSVP/SCP complete occasional

mailings. If this is something you're interested in, please reach out to Angie or Kathy and we'll put you down on a to-call list when the occasion arises.

Dewitt RSVP/Vespasian Warner Public Library

310 N. Quincy, Clinton, IL, 217.935.5174

Volunteer Income Tax Program – Greeters are needed on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. until April 13, to accept drop offs of tax information for people seeking assistance, put things in order, and make sure everything that is needed is there. Must maintain confidentiality. Training is provided.

Tax preparers are also needed on those days and time frames. Training is required and you must pass a test after training before assisting with taxes. Contact Angie Williams if you're interested in this opportunity.

Seeking 'At Home' Opportunities?

Please let Angie or Kathy know, to be put on a call list, as needs and projects come up, we can give you a call!

Stations, please check-in with us if you have a project which can be completed at home!



News from RSVP!



Macon County Advisory Council meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Dean Simcox Conference Room, Decatur.

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

Senior Companion Program Advisory Council meets the 3rd Friday of the 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.

Observed each year on the 3rd Monday in January is designated as a national day of service. Making time to volunteer for MLK day of service is a great way to engage with your community while honoring the legacy of Dr. King.

This year RSVP and SCP advisory council voted to donate Dr. Seuss books to be delivered to area schools.



Lincoln and Douglas Elementary Schools in DeWitt County (above) and American Dreamer STEM Academy in Macon County (below).



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 March 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 in this newsletter.

News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house 23 individuals who have been literally homeless (in a shelter, on the streets or somewhere unfit for human occupancy, such as an abandoned building) for 90-days or more. 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 872 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.

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.

Senior Companion Program

Join the Dove Senior Companion Program!



Looking for a new volunteer experience with the Spring just around the corner? Maybe SCP is for you!

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 past and present, plus earn a nontaxable stipend if qualified.

Call 217.428.6616 if you would like to learn more about becoming a Senior Companion Volunteer.



AmeriCorps
Seniors



Some of the best things in the world do start with caring individuals meeting and making some plans.

In February, two meetings happened to do just that - to make plans for the 2022 Christmas Care and Share. CC&S offers toys and food to make the Christmas Season brighter for many area families in need.

Some great news to announce, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is on board to be our distribution site again this year!

And staff and volunteers of Northeast Community Fund, The Salvation Army and Dove are full of great ideas for this year's event.

We will keep you posted as our planning turns into activities!

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing News from the Neighborhood Activities!

As those of us in this great city of Decatur are aware, February proved to be a month of snow, snow and more snow! This can be a bit hindering of course, but thankfully Dove's Christmas Committee which includes some awesome volunteers, still found the opportunity to meet and begin the process of thinking toward Christmas Care and Share 2022! Yes, that's correct. Angie and the team are already meeting with discussion and preparation for another exciting Christmas season. I'm thankful to be a part!

Park City Manufactured Housing Community is a wonderful bunch of folks, who with the direction of two of their warm and inviting staff, Stacey and Melissa, enjoy getting together as often as possible. In February, Stacey put together a lavish tea party complete with all the beautiful décor one can imagine and a myriad of treats and teas along with generous hospitality! It was fun for everyone! Everyone was allowed to choose from a variety of teacups with saucer, wrapped in netting and completed with a pink bow to drink from then take home

for their own. These ladies and this community care to purpose and complete the opportunity to really make others feel welcome!

I was grateful to Wendy Taylor (Torrence Park) and Kathy Williams (SIA/CONO), as they took time out their busy schedules to discuss some possibilities for the youth and families in our Decatur neighborhoods. We are hopeful to share more in the near future as these plans unfold.

March, as the old saying goes, came in like a lamb, and spring is just a skip down the road...well, hopefully, anyway! I along with everyone else, am also hopeful that some of the trials pandemic's trials of the past few years and February's snow are being blown away so that we can come together without hinderance for the upcoming meetings and events in this month of new beginnings.

LeAnn Ellis
Neighborhood Services Program Coordinator

Coalition Of Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, March 15

5:30 p.m.

Staley Room, Decatur Public Library

Downtown Decatur

Clokey Park Association Meeting

March 24, 6:30 p.m.

Prairie Avenue Christian Church

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



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to the charitable
organization of your choice.

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you choose Dove!

just start shopping at
smile.amazon.com

Domestic Violence Shelter Program Needs

- 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
- 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



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.

