



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

August 2021

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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

With caution and care, Dove staff members are making plans for a few events this fall and joining in other public events. We will adapt or postpone if situations change. Please watch for updates on these and other plans we are excited to be a part of:

Nelson's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser for all Dove Programs!
September 23, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Seniorama
September 9, Decatur Civic Center, Downtown Decatur
Neighborhood Services Program, Senior Companion Program and
RSVP will be attending this annual event.

30th Annual Coats for Kids Drive
mid-October through November

Neighborhood Groups Volunteer Recognition Event
hosted by CONO - October 19

Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training
see page 9 for more information

Candlelighting Ceremonies for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Shelby County - October 7, 7:00 p.m.
First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak, Shelbyville
DeWitt County - October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Presbyterian Church, 402 N. Center St., Clinton
others TBD

Kirby Foods: Cookout Fundraiser for RSVP
Friday, October 29, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
220 E. Van Buren Street, Clinton

*Thanks to the many
friends and family
of Ray Batman who
generously donated a
memorial gift to Dove.*

*As Dot, our
Homeward Bound
Program Director,
shared in response
to the outpouring,
"This is so bittersweet."*

*We are thankful
as Ray is still
taking care of us.*

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

Barbara Blakey, Director of Volunteers & Community Relations

Teri Ducey, Domestic Violence Program Director

Darsonya Switzer, Homeward Bound Program Director

Program Leadership

BABES Program, Sandy Laesch, Interim Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room, Vacant

Dove Food Pantry, Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Dove Financial Assistance, Shane Hartman, Program Director

Domestic Violence Program

Teri Ducey, 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

Christina Gillaspie, RSVP & SCP Program Director

Kimberly McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Kathy Walters, Senior Companion Coordinator

*Makings for
"the best day ever!"
at the
Summer Day Camp
for children of the
clients of the
Domestic Violence
Program.*

*Check our Facebook page
for more pics!*





Nelson'sTM
FUNDRAISING

TICKETS AVAILABLE AUGUST 9
CHICKEN DINNER • DRIVE-THRU

FUNDRAISER

benefiting

DOVE, INC.

Plan now to support Dove's Nelson's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser again this year. This is a fantastic way to support Dove, Inc. and ensure services continue for the next fifty years.

You can order online, OPEN NOW, or purchase tickets from our Dove offices after August 9, 2021.

Dinners are only \$10.00 for HALF a chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and dinner roll.

All brought to your car for safe and easy pick up!

You can
ORDER
now!

News from RSVP!



9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance

This year, Dove's RSVP and SCP are hosting a blood drive with ImpactLife on September 10, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ImpactLife is the independent, nonprofit community blood center that supplies both St. Mary's Hospital and Decatur Memorial Hospital and our surrounding area hospitals with lifesaving blood. We will have three ways to sign up to give that day and share those with everyone soon.

While you are being a hero for your community, we want to invite you to come meet some heroes that day as well. We encourage you to come talk with a hero who traveled to New York to help in the aftermath of that tragic day.

Never given blood? That's ok! Learn how the process works and make an appointment to give blood at ImpactLife blood donation center in downtown Decatur. Call Charlie for more details at 217.428.6616 and save the date to donate.



join our team at Dove!
Please review the most current
job openings listed on our website
www.doveinc.org

**Macon County
Continuum of Care**

**Homeless Advisory
Council Meeting**

**Thursday
September 9, 2021**

1:30 p.m.

**Decatur Public Library
Elizabeth Madden
Auditorium**

Please plan to attend!



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.



**Coalition of
Neighborhood
Organizations**

CONO Meeting

**Tuesday,
August 17, 5:30 p.m.**

**Staley Room
Decatur Public Library
Downtown Decatur**

News from Homeward Bound

The staff have been working to engage and house 30 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 (4) 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 702 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 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 Employability

The Life Skills/Employability Coordinator held 8 job skills classes and met with 9 individuals for the month of July. She was able to take two clients around and put in applications to various places.

Upcoming Events

Homeward Bound Children Specialist is planning a Back-to-School event mid-August. This will be a Back-to-School Splash to hand out bags with school supplies. More information to come on this event.

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.



Growing up in the world of dance, one of my favorite things to do each year is participate in *The Nutcracker* Ballet. My favorite part? Giving the audience a magical Christmas experience with the perfect setting of lights, music, glittery costumes, and refined steps by ballerinas. The audience is transported to a magical land of sweets that makes even adults feel like small children in awe and wonder.

Of course, that's just what the audience sees! What they don't see is the months and months before hand! Long rehearsals, bandage wrapped dance feet, and stage and tech crews working tirelessly so that every detail before the final show is perfected.

After several years, I have started comparing the Christmas Baskets process to that of the process for *The Nutcracker* Ballet. Starting months and months before, staff and volunteers work endlessly for the exhilarating distribution week to come. With that said, the magical essence of the Ballet experience cannot happen with just the prima ballerina, just like Christmas Baskets cannot run with just one person helping. Choreographers, dancers, set designers, seamstresses and backstage hand all work together to make one exciting event happen. There are no small parts!

If you have never experienced the magical Christmas Basket Process, I encourage you to get involved in 2021! I encourage you to volunteer with your friends and family, make stockings, donate, support in prayer; the list is endless for how you can help. I encourage you to make yourself a new Christmas tradition to bring that magical feeling, just like *The Nutcracker*, to those in our community this holiday season!

Melissa Girardi
Christmas Care & Share Committee Member

Senior Companion Program

Did you know?

Did you know in July our current Senior Companions have served 15 homebound seniors with friendly visiting or calls, transportation to doctors' appointments, and other quality of life services in partnership with Faith in Action?

Would you like to learn more?

Call Kathy Walters at 217.428.6616 to see how you can make someone's day a little brighter, or come see Kathy and current Senior companions at this year's Seniorama, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Decatur Civic Center, downtown.



AmeriCorps
Seniors

*Your gift will ensure
that services can
continue.*

*Please give
generously.*

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

*or donate online at
doveinc.org*

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.

DeWitt, Shelby, Moultrie and Piatt Counties
By appointment, can be reached at
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108

Help is available via phone, fax and email.
217.619.9108
DFA@doveinc.org
217.423.5025 - fax

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.

**Decatur residents who have verifiable lost income
due to the Covid Pandemic might be
eligible for the relief assistance via the City of Decatur
and DFA for rent, power and mortgage.**



**An APPLICATION can be
downloaded from the Dove Website.**

**Applications can also be picked up
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday,
Northeast Community Fund,
839 N. MLK, Jr. Dr., Decatur.**

**Questions about this grant and application can be
directed to 217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org**



RSVP Volunteer Opportunities!

Northeast Community Fund is excited to welcome volunteers back to the building! Needs have only grown and volunteers are needed. Volunteers are required to operate the food pantry. They are now serving inside on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday so that families can choose from their selection of food. Thursday's are drive-thru days. Their clothing room needs a few helping hands with sorting, hanging, and donation acceptance (no heavy lifting required). Plus, a new opportunity is now available to greet and direct clients. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 to get started or re-started with this wonderful organization.

Receptionist needed for Dove's Children's Clothing Room. Mondays and Wednesday's from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers will answer a call button and buzz clients in from desk in the church office. This opportunity is great for someone who loves to knit or read in-between clients. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616.

Dove's Dewitt County Food Pantry needs assistance unloading food from Midwest the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. This typically takes an hour or less. Many hands make light work. For more

information, please reach out to Kimberly at 217.935.2241.

The Senior Companion Program has room for a few more companions who want to make a difference in someone's life. Will you help older adults maintain their dignity and independence? If you are 55 and better, on a fixed income and would like to bring a smile into someone's life while making a small stipend, then call Kathy today at 217.428.6616 to get started.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Dove, Inc.

Choosing

the right Volunteer Opportunity can make all the difference in your life and in the lives of those you serve!

Dove's Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.

Please call between August 16 & October 8, NOON.

217.428.6616

Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur
Monday - Thursday, October 25 to November 10, 2021
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Fee for this ICADV Certified Training is \$200.

Domestic Violence Shelter Program Needs

PAPER TOWEL ROLLS
DISPOSABLE CUPS
PLASTIC EATING UTENSILS
DISPOSABLE PLATES

GAS GIFT CARDS
WALMART GIFT CARDS
ALDI GIFT CARDS
FAST FOOD GIFT CARDS

MUST BE NEW

SIZE TWIN XL SHEET SETS
TOWELS/WASH CLOTHS
LAUNDRY BASKETS

ALL SIZES AND MUST BE NEW

LADIES T-SHIRTS
LADIES SWEAT PANTS
LADIES NIGHT SHIRTS
LADIES SOCKS/UNDERWEAR

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

We continue to adapt to all the changes within the domestic violence program. I compare it to playing dominos!! When one spot is filled, another opens, and the saga continues! But – we are making it – and doing quite well. All staff who were given promotions within are doing a fantastic job!! Program staff are all adapting to the transitions that have been made. Change is difficult – but change is also growth!!

Currently we have five openings:

- Piatt County Coordinator
- 3rd Shift Shelter Specialist (the individual recently hired for this position has moved to 2nd shift)
- 2nd Shift Shelter Specialist - 4:00 p.m. to midnight, Monday-Friday
- Legal Advocate Specialist
- Shelter Janitorial Specialist

(see employment page on the website for the latest information)

If you know someone who you think might fit one of these roles, please send them my way!

We ended our fiscal year with solid numbers! There was an increase in every category; this is significant given the year we all experienced with COVID. Although we reopened the shelter on July 1, 2020 – it was only at half the capacity until just recently when the state moved to Phase 5. It took some time before clients began to return to groups, which also were only allowed at lower capacity so that we would be abiding by guidelines for social distancing. Telephone counseling hours were significantly higher – (619.50 in FY21 compared to 298.75 in FY20) Hotline calls for FY21 were 3,806 compared to 2,826 in FY20. Our overall counseling and advocacy hours were 12,589 compared to 7,698.75 in FY20. Our clients served was also higher – 699 adults (compared to 645) and 109 children (compared to 86). 128 adults and 82 children were in shelter in FY21, compared to 120 adults and 55 children in FY20. We assisted in 377 Orders of Protection compared to 322 last year. Remember – these are the

clients we know about! There are many victims who did not come to our program for assistance.

Our program has made an effort in offering groups that we feel would be not only beneficial to our clients, but also sound inviting. Below is a list of groups:

- Overcoming Trauma • facilitated by our Mental Health & Substance Abuse Professional, Hayley Nash
- DV 101 • more of an instruction type atmosphere – educational (many DCFS clients are required to attend this group – it's a 23 week curriculum) – Facilitated by Liz Mackey – Client Services Coordinator
- DV Support Group • the typical support group setting – very interactive and supportive of one another – Facilitated by Joyce Kirkland, Youth & Family Services Coordinator
- Healthy Families • facilitated by Parenting Specialist, Annette Lane
- Bible Study • facilitated by former Dove Staff Member, Linda Staff
- Just Craftin Around • both adults and children do a craft activity together
- Overcoming Addiction • facilitated by Mental Health & Substance Abuse Professional, Hayley Nash
- Children's Activity Group • Facilitated by Abby Steele, Coordinator of HEALS Program – This group provides an opportunity for kids to better understand some of the emotions they experience, as well as ways to keep emotions from getting too big to handle and positive ways to handle them when they do get oversized. They cover topics such as conflict resolution, problem solving skills, self-esteem building, team building, or general social skills. Their time together consists of reading a story, discussion about the book and then a craft or activity that goes along with what they read.

Teri Ducy
Domestic Violence Program Director

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Moultrie County Becky Comstock

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is physical, sexual or psychological harm caused by a current or former dating partner or spouse. The violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

Research has indicated that IPV varies in frequency and severity, ranging from isolated violent acts to battering, which is more frequent and intensive and involves one partner maintaining control over the other. IPV is a serious public health problem affecting more than 32 million persons in the United States.

The longer IPV continues, the more serious the consequences. Many victims suffer physical injuries (e.g., broken bones, internal injuries, or head trauma) that can lead to permanent disabilities. IPV also can have an emotional impact. Victims often struggle with low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

IPV increases health care costs and interferes with the performance of daily activities, including going to work. It is estimated that the economic cost of IPV against women exceeds \$5.8 billion. This estimate includes nearly \$4.1 billion in direct costs (medical and mental health care) and nearly \$1.8 billion in indirect costs, such as lost productivity.

Dove is a non-for-profit organization that provides comprehensive assistance and support to families that are affected by domestic violence. The office in Moultrie County offers legal advocacy, which helps victims understand and use their legal rights, one-on-one counseling, referrals and information about domestic violence, a weekly support group and a 24-hour hot line. Shelter is also available which provides a place of safety for those who are experiencing abuse.

Dove in Moultrie County also has a Committee Against Domestic Violence which meets monthly. We encourage anyone who would like to join us to coordinate efforts to address and end domestic violence in Moultrie County to call the local office for more information. If you or anyone you know is suffering from domestic violence, please call 217.728.9303 (collect calls accepted) hot line number is 217.728.9334.

DeWitt County Jennifer Tolladay

DeWitt County Dove Domestic Violence Program is still in need of some people with a passion for giving a helping hand to our clients. We are looking for individuals to join our Committee Against Domestic Violence. We meet once monthly and plan small fundraisers for the program and help bring awareness to the community about domestic violence. This commit-

tee also assists in planning our annual candle-lighting ceremony that is held each October, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer at 217.935.6619 for more details.

Dove Financial Assistance Program is an emergency financial assistance program that is available to assist with power bills, rent, etc. This program is coordinated by Kimberly McCormick at the Clinton Dove Office and she can be reached at 217.935.2241.

DeWitt County Food Pantry is located at our 803 W. Leander office in Clinton. See page 9 for information about this free service for anyone living in DeWitt County.

Piatt County

July has been more of a typical month. The warm temperatures are much welcomed! This month marks a transition in the Piatt County Dove Office. Liz Mackey has transitioned to a new position, being promoted to the Client Services Coordinator in the Decatur office. The position of Piatt County Coordinator is currently open. We are still covering this office and all services continue to be provided.

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing news from the Neighborhoods!



LeAnn Ellis is the Coordinator for the Neighborhood Services Program, starting this new position in July.

LeAnn has been busy making contacts with neighborhood groups and although a life-long Decatur resident, learning more about the city every day!

Please reach out to LeAnn at lellis@doveinc.org or stop by and say "hi" at the September Seniorama Event at the Civic Center.

2021 Clokey Park Neighborhood Group August Events:

- 1 • Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.
- 8 • Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.
- 15 • Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.
- 21 • Adopt-A-Street, 10 a.m., Prairie Avenue Christian Church
- 22 • Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.
- 26 • Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Prairie Avenue Christian Church
- 29 • Sunday Walk, 4:00 p.m.

All Activities Subject to Change due to COVID-19 Guidelines

*We invite other groups to share information about
their upcoming events,*

please contact us at dove@doveinc.org

See page 5 for CONO Meeting Update

B A B E S



We are so grateful to Sandy Laesch, who is serving as the Interim Coordinator for the BABES Program! Sandy served as the Coordinator for several years and retired in 2019. She is helping to get the program moving forward as it was shut down completely with Covid. Thanks Sandy, for helping to get this vital program back on track! Contact Sandy at slaesch@doveinc.org.

We are still actively looking to hire a part-time coordinator and Sandy has agreed to assist with a training and transition of a new coordinator.

Please check the website for more details on this part-time job opening • doveinc.org

Please share this opportunity with those you feel might be interested in a creative, meaningful job that can make a lasting impact on the lives of our area children.

Contact Barb Blakey dove@doveinc.org

Outreach Programs Support our Families in Need



Children's Clothing Room

located inside
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
2201 East Prairie Avenue, Decatur

Mondays and Wednesdays
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Guidelines posted on website and
posted at church.

doveinc.org

*If you or someone you know has
a child in need of back to school
clothing, we would love to serve
them. There is no cost to use our
clothing room and families may
do so once every thirty days.*

Food Pantry

If you would like to donate items
to our food pantry,
we always greatly appreciate
your donations.

Items needed at this time are:

- spaghetti and sauce
- pastas and sauces
- side dishes -boxed potatoes,
boxed stuffing, etc.
- canned meats such as tuna and
chicken
- canned fruits and vegetables
- cereals
- toiletries (shampoos, soaps,
toothbrushes/toothpaste, and
deodorant)

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.



Bill Payment Assistance Guidelines

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:

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

- 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)

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



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0.5% of the price of your
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organization of your choice.**

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you choose Dove!**

**just start shopping at
smile.amazon.com**