



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

NOVEMBER
2021

Barbara Blakey
Editor

Issue 2021 • 11
Published Monthly

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



Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

4:00 to 6:00 p.m. ❄️ *Please Join Us!*

4:15 p.m. ❄️ Join us as we light our "Giving Trees" on the Green Space outside the Shelter at 302 S. Union, a tradition we started in 2020 in honor of Dove's 50th Anniversary.

4:30 to 6:00 pm. ❄️ Stop by and join us inside the Shelter, in the dining room, for a reception in recognition of Teri Ducey's retirement. Stop in for a quick treat and join us as we wish Teri well in her next adventure!

❄️ We will also be announcing the Macon County Continuum of Care 2021 Advocate of the the Year, as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness month.

5:45 p.m. ❄️ There will be a special presentation sharing information about honoring the late Ray Batman, Dove's first Executive Director.

During the 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. time frame, if you have chosen Dove as one of the agencies you support, we'd love for you to stop by in person and let us thank you. We'd even like to get a quick picture in front of one of the trees, or inside where it's warm.

That evening will also be the last night to drop off a coat for the Coats for Kids program, a chance to drop off items/toys/wrapping paper for Christmas Care & Share or items to be utilized for the clients in the Shelter or the Homeward Bound Program.

See needed items - watch for ❄️ - and more information in the pages to follow!

Our Trees are dedicated to:

- all the volunteers, advocates, supporters and staff
- all those working toward homes for themselves and their families
- all those who are working toward a safer life for themselves and their families
- and to all those who have worked and volunteered at Dove to make Dove successful for the past 51 years.

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, VACANT

Domestic Violence Program

Teri Ducey, Program Director

Liz Mackey, Interim 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

VACANT, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Kathy Walters, Senior Companion Coordinator



*Thanksgiving
Blessings
to you and your family.*

Macon County Continuum of Care

Homeless Advisory Council Meeting

November 11, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Decatur Public Library
Downtown Decatur
Elizabeth Madden Auditorium



The MCCoC
Homeless
Advisory Council
Meeting is a
perfect place to
get involved with
solving the issues
of homelessness
in Macon
County.

National Hunger and Homelessness
Awareness Week is November 14 - 20

hhweek.org

Please watch our social media for
information on these issues.

30th Annual Coats for Kids!



Now through November 30

The 2021 Coats for Kids drive is going well, but we still need your help! We are collecting good, used and new coats, for families in need through November 30.

Participating cleaners will make sure the coats are clean, fresh and ready for the clothing rooms and sites to distribute.

For participating clothing rooms, see page 4, and watch for any updates on our website, Facebook and Twitter feed.

Thanks to the RSVP volunteers who help to keep everything moving!

sponsored by:



Participating Cleaners

Peerless Cleaners • 519 N. Monroe

Pride Cleaners and Launderers
2553 N. Main
1804 E. Eldorado
912 W. Eldorado
2056 Mt. Zion Road

Waite's Dry Cleaners and Launderers
1004 S. Main & 115 Magnolia, Forsyth

❄️ Donate a coat you no longer use and we'll put it into the hands of a family in need.
All sizes needed and accepted!

Collection Sites:

Decatur Family YMCA
220 W. McKinley

Decatur Public Library
Downtown Decatur

HSHS St. Mary's
Main Lobby

Kroger
Brettwood Plaza
Airport Plaza

Land of Lincoln Credit Union
2890 N. Oakland
3130 E. Mound
4850 E. Prosperity Place

Longcreek Township
2610 Salem School Road

Richland Community College
#1 College Park

St. Teresa High School
2710 N. Water Street

WAND Station
904 Southside Drive



Where to find a coat

Dove Clothing Room

Prairie Avenue Christian Church, 2201 E. Prairie, Decatur
Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Northeast Community Fund

825 N. Water Street, Decatur
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New Life Pregnancy Center

1698 E. Pershing Road, Decatur
Mondays, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Maternity clothing and children's clothing, infant to size 6

Reasonable Service Free Clothing Room

321 E. Leafland, Decatur
Saturdays, NOON to 1:00 p.m.

God's Shelter of Love Agency

929 N. Union - west from Good Samaritan Inn
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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.

Seeking Food Pantry Volunteers

We are also looking for volunteers with trucks, who would be available to drive to Bloomington one day a month, to pick up food for the pantry.

If you can help, please contact Jennifer at 217.935.6619.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Thank you to all who attended our annual Candlelighting Ceremony. We had wonderful attendance. I am grateful to all who planned, assisted in any way, and participated in our event. A very special thank you to Pastor Jean Wollenberg at First Presbyterian Church for your warm hospitality and all of the tasks you took care of for us behind the scenes. Your opening and closing prayers were beautiful. Thank you for opening your lovely sanctuary to us; the atmosphere is always so serene and peaceful.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the many people who made this evening even more special for me. As I said, it was truly bittersweet – that I was planning and attending the last candlelighting ceremony as Dove's Domestic Violence Program Director. Although I am retiring the end of this year, and even though I will no longer be Program Director, I can be certain in saying it is not the last candlelighting ceremony that I will be attending. I was completely taken off guard at the kind words shared by Joyce Kirkland at the Decatur Ceremony, Liz Mackey in Piatt County, Susie Kensil in Shelbyville and Becky Comstock in Sullivan!!! I am humbled and so deeply grateful to the Domestic Violence Staff and the entire Dove family. You have all given me memories that I will cherish, sealed in my heart forever.

Journey On & Stay Strong...
Teri Ducey, Director



Liz Mackey presenting Teri Ducey flowers in recognition of her work with the Domestic Violence Program and Teri's upcoming retirement at the end of 2021

*Please join us on November 30,
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
for a reception in recognition of
Teri Ducey's Retirement.*

*Dove's Shelter
302 S. Union, Decatur*

Please see page 1 for more information!

As Domestic Violence Awareness month ends and the purple ribbons get put away, we must acknowledge the work that we are doing and the work that still needs to be done. In Macon County, at the time of this writing Dove Advocates have assisted in 23 new Orders of Protection. And Dove Advocates, in all the counties served, have logged 473 hours of services so far. These aren't numbers that should be taken lightly. Each one of these numbers is a member of our community. Your community. Someone, just like you or me, who doesn't have the simple, overlooked luxury of safety, who has sought out services. We can do better.

How can we do better? Start by talking about it. Name it for the crime that it is. Learn about it. Domestic Violence isn't always visible bruises, it is silent intimidation, financial control, or even sexual abuse. But it thrives in silence, and we can do better. And we can do better by simply talking about it. Not just in October, but every month of the year.

Liz Mackey
Interim Domestic Violence Program Director

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Moultrie County Becky Comstock, Coordinator

Moultrie County Dove Office would like to thank everyone who attended our 21st annual Candlelighting Ceremony.



A very special thank you to:

- The First Christian Church for hosting this year's Ceremony
- Pastor Grant Wade
- Debbie Dolan
- Ashley Toothman
- Ariana Cherry
- Rhianna Baker
- Deputy Gary



Eller

- Court Security, John Love
- Moultrie County CADV members Brenda Kroll, Jan Bolyard, Vicki Sullivan & Rachel Artrip

Thursday Night Group will continue to meet through the fall and winter months at 1102 W. Jackson in Sullivan at 5:00 p.m. Snacks are provided. For more information contact Becky Comstock at 217.728.9303.

Throughout the month of October, Moultrie County Dove office received donations of homemade blankets, clothing, shampoo, conditioner, baby items, deodorant, diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toys, and several monetary donations. We are extremely humbled by the amount of people who reach out every year during Domestic Violence Awareness month and thank you for your continued support.

Piatt County

Thank you to those who attended the Piatt County Candlelighting ceremony on October 12.

Piatt County continues to look for a county coordinator! See our website for details on this job opening!

The office is currently operating on a part time basis. The hours are Mondays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. And as always the hotline is answered 24/7 - 217.762.2123.

DV 101 is currently being offered to clients in the area.

Dewitt County Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

We have coats!!! You may come by to pick out coats for anyone in need in your household on Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We are now offering DV 101 classes to victims of domestic abuse. These classes are on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested or want more information, please call Jennifer Tolladay at 217.935.6619.

Also, there is a children's support group at this time. The children's group does fun things such as arts and crafts, as well as games. These are designed to help children identify their feelings and healthy ways to express them.

Shelby County



NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Susie Kensil, Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who attended our Candlelighting Service. It was a lovely evening and was well attended. Your support for our program and for victims of domestic violence is greatly appreciated. Thank you to my CADV for all your help in making this a great event.



Pictures from the Shelby County Candlelighting Ceremony shared from Shelby County State's Attorney's Office Facebook page, thanks!



A few photos from the Macon County Candlelighting Ceremony

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program



Thank you so much Sandy Haseley and Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Decatur for the generosity in collecting an ample supply of very nice personal items for our residential clients. There were a total of 3 full boxes of markers, crayons, daily inspirational reading books, calendars for 2022 and lotions. We are so grateful for your support to our program and deeply appreciate you thinking of us!!

*Teri Ducey, Director
Dove Domestic Violence Program*

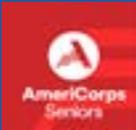
Thank you to Teresa Gallahan from Prairieview Parish (which includes Elwin United Methodist Church, Zion Chapel United Methodist Church in Boody, Macon United Methodist and Pastor Terry Evans) for your donation of blessed pillowcases to be given to our residential shelter clients when they enter shelter. This is a very special and personalized gift that will have special meaning to the receivers. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support to our program. God bless you all!!

*Teri Ducey, Director
Dove Domestic Violence Program*

Domestic Violence Shelter Program Needs

(from our high need list)

**DISPOSABLE 3 PLY FACE MASKS FOR CLIENTS
WASHABLE CLOTH FACE MASKS FOR STAFF AND SHELTER RESIDENTS
VINYL GLOVES (SIZE MEDIUM, LARGE, AND XL)
CLOROX WIPES
AEROSOL DISINFECTANT SPRAY
PAPER TOWEL ROLLS
BABY WIPES, DISPOSABLE DIAPERS – SIZES 3, 4, 5, 6 AND PULL-UPS
NEW BATH TOWELS
NEW NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMENS, 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**



News from RSVP!



Volunteer Organizational League (V.O.L.)

VOL members are using the Zoom platform for monthly meetings. Jenna Ward, U of I Extension 4-H Office, has graciously offered to host the meetings. Our next virtual meeting will be on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at noon. For more information or to receive a link on the VOL, call Charlie Gillaspie at 217.428.6616 or Jenny Garver at 217.423.7708.



Veterans Day is November 11, 2021. We want to thank our volunteers who have served our country and continue to serve in their communities. We appreciate your sacrifices for our freedom and your continued dedication to those in need.

Coupons for Military Families Overseas

Typically, a box of coupons weighs approximately 15 lbs. containing more than 20,000 coupons. Kathy Walters, our Senior Companion Coordinator, packed a box and blew that number away for a new record of 18 lbs.!! That's more than 31,000 coupons to families overseas.

To date, with your help, RSVP has been able to send 3,187,738 coupons to Military families stationed overseas.

We want to thank you for your continued support from collecting, cutting, sorting, and monetary. We appreciate you all.

If you would like more information on this project, give Charlie Gillaspie a call at 217.428.6616.

DeWitt County Coat Drive: Coats are now available at Dove, Inc. office in Clinton on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you or someone you know is in need please let them know where they can find a winter coat.

Join our team at Dove!

Please review the most current job openings listed on our website
www.doveinc.org



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 was honored to receive the Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce Milestone Plaque for Dove's 50th Anniversary, celebrated in 2020. Thanks to the Chamber and Congratulations to all the other businesses who celebrated a Milestone Anniversary!

Executive Director, Tamara Wilcox, accepted the award at the October 21st Chamber Event.

News from Homeward Bound

The staff have been working to engage and house 20 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 811 total participants currently receiving housing and/or services.

The need for 1-bedroom units for single individuals is still dire!

❄ Dove- Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for participants:

- Diapers (all sizes) and Baby Wipes
- Personal Hygiene Items

These donated items can be delivered to:

Dove-Homeward Bound
788 E. Clay, Decatur, IL 62521
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Move-In Starter Kits

Additionally, please consider donating items for move-in starter kits for individuals and families moving from homelessness to housing. Join the

HOME

Macon County
Continuum
of Care in
supporting

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



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

These donated items can be delivered to:

Northeast Community Fund
839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.
Decatur, IL 62521
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Life Skills and Employability

The Life Skills/Employability Coordinator held 6 Job Skills classes and met with 5 individuals for the month of October. A total of 2 clients have gained employment in the month of October. Life Skills/Employability has also met with Workforce Investment to collaborate with them on finding employment for Homeward Bound clients.

Coordinated Entry

Dove-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.



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

A unique way you could get involved with Christmas Care & Share is to adopt a family for the holiday! So, what does that process look like?

1. You would call me (Angie) at Dove at 217.428.6616 or email me at awilliams@doveinc.org and let me know of your interest. What I will need to know is how big of a family you would like to adopt, and if you want to adopt them for food and gifts, or for just gifts or just food.

2. I would look through the referrals we have received for families (though all the names won't be in till late November) to match you with a family that matches the size you're wanting to adopt.

3. I would call the family that I'm thinking of matching you with to make sure that they are okay with being adopted. Most families are thrilled at the opportunity, but some folks prefer to remain more anonymous.

4. If the family consents to being adopted, I would reach back out to you and share their contact information and details about the number of kids in the family. At that point, you would make contact to discuss gifts the kids might like to receive, as well as food items (if you're providing food, as well) that they would like to have for Christmas. You talk with the family about delivery of items and settle on a time that works well for both you and them.

That's it! I have seen so many amazing things come out of people adopting families for Christmas. We once had a family in need because they had recently lost their home in a devastating fire, and a church adopted them. Not only did the church provide them an amazing Christmas, they assisted them by



buying them a new refrigerator as well.

All we ask is that you provide the equivalent of what we would provide them if they were receiving items directly from us: two or three toys for each child, new hats and gloves for each child, a stocking and a couple stocking stuffers for each child, wrapping paper and tape, and then, of course, food. People have done these different ways over the years – some people have provided the family with a gift card to a local store so they can buy exactly what they want for their holiday meal, and others want to get a list of items from their family and shop for them. Either is perfectly fine.

If you're interested in adopting a family this year, please reach out to me and I will get you set up!

Other ways to get involved, of course, are through volunteering at toy distribution: sorting and counting gifts, and helping families shop for their kids when they come to do that. If this is something that interests you, please give me a call or an email and we can talk about what you would like to do. There's still time for things like making stockings, or knitting hats and scarves if that is a talent that you have and want to share. We need hats in all sizes, from infant to adult. If you need a stocking

pattern, let me know and I'll send you one or leave one at our front desk at Dove if you prefer to pick it up. We will always take homemade blankets (and the Linus Project has been amazing in donating thousands of blankets to us the last several years for the program!).

❄️ Donating money or new items such as toys, stocking stuffers, hats, and gloves, wrapping paper and tape, new socks, games, books, and puzzles – these are all items that we give out at distribution and would be happy to take off your hands. Please know if you donate these things to Dove, Inc., Northeast Community Fund, Salvation Army, or Toys for Tots – they are all coming to Christmas Care & Share and going to our clients as well as hundreds of other families in need in Macon County. We appreciate every single donation and all the time that is given toward this program.

We also have an Amazon Wishlist for anyone who is struggling for ideas: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3R5WP9970SC4X?ref=cm_go_nav_hz.

❄️ We are collecting items for senior citizens and will be distributing them to residents at Decatur Rehab, Fairhaven, and Heritage in Mt. Zion. If you would like to donate or make homemade items for our seniors, that would be wonderful also! We are hoping to give each resident a nice blanket, a stocking with stocking stuffers, candy and snacks, warm socks, or slippers, reading material, large print crossword puzzles and word search books, etc. Anything that might make someone smile on what may otherwise be a lonely holiday (especially with Covid still in play).

Senior Companion Program

SCP

This Thanksgiving give back by being a companion to an isolated homebound senior.

You will be thankful for the blessing it gives to you and them.

Ask Kathy how you can earn a non-taxable stipend and travel expenses for your volunteer service to our most vulnerable population.

Keep seniors informed of services and resources available to them while you earn.

217.428.6616

Looking to learn more about our Senior Companion Program or Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

Charlie Gillaspie, RSVP/SCP Director, and Kathy Walters, SCP Coordinator, would love to come share with your group about National Service with AmeriCorps Seniors.

Call to schedule a speaker for your group today.
217.428.6616



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.
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

Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 • 5:30 p.m.

Sheriff Jim Root • Speaker

Staley Room
Decatur Public Library • Downtown Decatur

HAVING DIFFICULTY PAYING YOUR BILLS?

MACON COUNTY RESIDENTS

PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE
TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE:

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Dove, Inc. (DFA) – 217.429.5846 ext. 106 OR 217.619.9108

Empowerment Opportunity Center – 217.428.0155

The Salvation Army – 217.429.4672

UTILITY (Power Bill) ASSISTANCE

Empowerment Opportunity Center – 217.428.2193

UTILITIES & WATER ASSISTANCE

Northeast Community Fund – 217.429.5846

Any questions regarding the information on this flyer, please contact 217.362.7700



RSVP Volunteer Opportunities

We are still looking for a couple more volunteers to join us in preparing Dove's **Christmas Appeal** (fundraiser) mailing on November 15, 2021. We will begin at 8:30 a.m. until completed. Call Charlie if you can help and reserve your table. Space is limited to encourage social distancing and safety.

Do you have an hour to spare? **Meals on Wheels** is looking for a few volunteers who can do meal delivery to community members. A route typically takes an hour and is a valuable service for the elderly to get the nutrition they need to stay healthy. Background checks are required. Call Charlie for more information 217.428.6616.

We are looking for great leaders to help lead our AmeriCorps Senior

Programs, Dove Inc.'s Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and the Senior Companion Program. **Advisory Council** members help us to determine needed programming, gaps in services available in their communities, and selects how we participate in Days of Service, plus more. Having new people helps give us new perspectives we might not have thought about. Call Charlie at 217.428.6616 in Macon or DeWitt County or Kathy for the SCP at 217.428.6616 to learn how you can participate in making a difference in your community.

RSVP has partnered with AARP and the Vespasian Warner Library to offer **free tax preparation** in DeWitt County. This will be the 6th year to offer these services, but we need your help to continue! Tax preparers and greeters are necessary to complete

returns. Volunteer training will be coming soon. Call Charlie to get started. Volunteers do not have to be enrolled in RSVP to help keep this vital program in Clinton.

Have you ever visited the **Homestead Prairie Farm** at Rock Springs Conservation Area? It is rich with historical knowledge of the days before the Civil War descended upon our country. Share the sights, sounds, and textures of 1860 rural Illinois with others. For as few as an hour or two a month, after some training, you can feel the gratification of leading tours and programs through this rare pre-war homestead. This volunteer opportunity is for ages 13 and up. *For more information or to sign up, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Jenny Garver, JGarver@MaconCountyConservation.org or 217.423.7708.*

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing news from the Neighborhood Activities!

This month opened with an individual within a neighborhood reaching out to Dove neighborhood services to ask if we knew of resources to help because, sadly, her son had recently passed, and she had to go into the hospital for a time. Before his passing the son had financially contributed to the household. She very much wanted to remain independent and in her current home. After conferring with other Dove staff, we were able to steer her toward hope and resources in her time of need.

After a few practices, Sandy Laesch, BABES Coordinator, and I, presented for the first time together at Our Lady of Lourdes School. It is very rewarding to be allowed to share this important program message to the children in our community! It will be a process for me to learn, however, Sandy is a pro and thankfully a patient and excellent teacher!

It was my pleasure to meet with the Decatur Public Library Community Resource Coordinator, Jessica Hill. She shared great vision and

heart for Decatur and the surrounding area! We are glad to be able to support one another on behalf of our community.

As always, I enjoyed joining in on various neighborhood meetings again this month and taking part in another walk to canvass the John's Hill neighborhood with the awesome SIA volunteers!

Also, Dove Staff, Maddie Meyer and I were given an emotional, but informative, guided tour through the African American Cultural and Genealogical Society of Illinois Museum. We highly recommend taking this journey for yourself, if you haven't already. Our guide, Mr. Stanley Oldham is a walking wealth of information.



Finally, it's been wonderful working with the Homeward Bound Staff again during MARC on Thursdays at Decatur Public Library.

Le Ann Ellis
Neighborhood
Services Coordinator



You shop.

Amazon gives.

**Amazon donates
0.5% of the price of your
eligible
AmazonSmile
purchases
to the charitable
organization of your choice.**

**We hope
you choose Dove!**

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

B A B E S



BABES Volunteers and staff have started making presentations in local schools. We are so excited that we can bring these valuable lessons to area classrooms! Watch next month for what's new!

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.



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