



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

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our blog - <http://doveinc.blogspot.com>  
[www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org)



February 2018

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Editor

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**Dove, Inc.**  
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**Dove's Mission**  
Dove is a coalition of religious organizations, volunteers, and advocates that seeks to coordinate efforts to address unmet human needs and social injustices.

Dove works for justice, equality and understanding among all people.

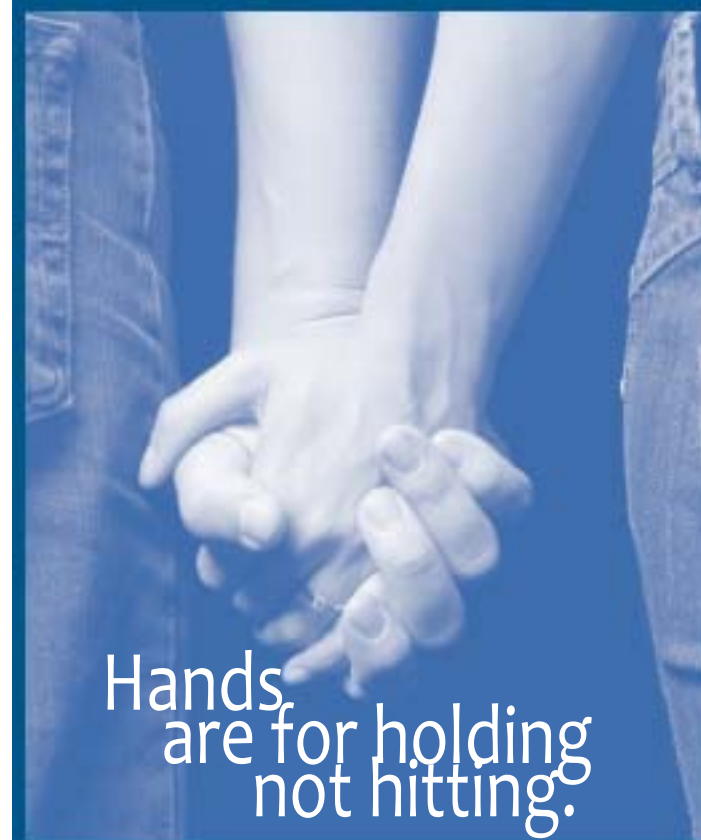
## Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: Moving from Terror to Hope & Healing

Joyce Kirkland  
Youth and Family Services Coordinator  
Dove Domestic Violence Program

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, which always makes me sad. When I think of teens, I conjure up positive images of school, college applications, music and fashion, earning a driver's license, crazy fun with friends, mood swings, that first crush, and steady growth into independence and adulthood - NOT violence and fear. However, for many teens, dating violence is a terrifying reality.

The statistics are staggering. According to Love Is Respect, the National Teen Dating Violence Helpline, 1.5 million high school students experience physical abuse from a dating partner every year. One in three adolescents in the U. S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner. Use of technology to coerce, stalk, and blackmail teen partners is increasingly common in abusive teen relationships. Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence - almost triple the national average. Victims of teen dating violence are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, additional domestic violence, and suicide, compared to girls and boys who are not abused. Tragically, most teens who experience intimate partner violence

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Adolescence is a time for learning about relationships -

- the differences between healthy & unhealthy relationships-

- & how to get help

# Dove, Inc.

## Leadership Team

Christine Gregory  
Executive Director

Tammy Wilcox  
Assistant Director

Barbara Blakey  
Director of Volunteers & Community Relations

Teri Ducey  
Domestic Violence Program Director

Darsonya Switzer  
Homeward Bound Program Director

## Program Leadership

### BABES •

Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies  
Sandy Laesch, Program Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room  
Sandra Harmison, Coordinator

DAX • DeWitt County Assistance eXchange  
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

DeWitt County Food Pantry  
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program  
Teri Ducey, Program Director  
Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator  
Mary Hughes, Moultrie County Coordinator  
Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Homeward Bound  
Darsonya Switzer, Program Director

MAX • Macon County Assistance eXchange  
Rev. Shane Hartman, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program  
Christina Gillaspie, Program Director  
Sheryl Whisman, DeWitt County Coordinator

## Letter from the Executive Director of Dove, Inc.:

### Coordinating Efforts to Address Unmet Needs and Social Injustices.

Christine Gregory, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What are today's unmet needs? This is a question we hope to constantly ask and act on here at Dove, Inc. This month I'd like to highlight the grim reality of human trafficking in our community. Human Trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain something of commercial value such as housing, labor, or commercial sex act. Locally we see examples every day in our various programs. Individuals are coerced into panhandling, drug sales, giving up their link or medical cards, having their credit used and damaged.

Many people think of trafficking as moving people far away in order to exploit them, in reality most people locally are trafficked in the same neighborhoods they grew up in, or within a few miles. Trafficking is exploitation and does not require movement across city, county, state or national borders. What it does require is the use of power and control. In short Human Trafficking is one form of Domestic Violence.

Dove is working through our many programs to help victims of exploitation. We are reaching out to help victims know that our resources are here to help. We are connecting those who come forward with confidential services including counseling, housing options, shelter, financial and legal assistance. We are advocating in the community for additional housing units so there is never a person who feels that they have no other option. We are sending the message, "You are not alone, you do not have to live like this, we can help."

If you or anyone you know is being exploited, I urge you to help them either contact Dove through our Domestic Violence Program 217.423.2238 or reach out to Homeward Bound 217.362.7700, after hours 217.619.5742 to connect to the Macon County Coordinated Entry System for housing resources. Dove, Inc. is only as strong as its member organizations, volunteers, and advocates. It is my sincere hope that you will be a part of making our home a community free of human trafficking.

Christine Gregory

## Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: Moving from Terror to Hope & Healing

never tell anyone – only 33% tell a family member or friend. Parents and friends might see warning signs of abuse, but often feel helpless to protect the teen.

The good news is that Dove Domestic Violence Program offers help and hope to teen dating violence victims and their families. Dove provides prevention education in schools throughout DeWitt, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby counties, reaching teens with information on healthy relationships, teaching them the warning signs of an abuser, and informing them of their legal rights and of how to get help for themselves or a friend. Dove provides crisis intervention for teens in abusive relationships, including assistance with orders of protection. (In Illinois, an adult may seek an order of protection on behalf of a minor under the age of 18. In most teen dating violence cases, parents or guardians seek the OP on behalf of their teen.) Individual and family counseling is available to help teens and their parents do safety planning and cope with the danger, emotional trauma, and family disruption that occurs during and after an abusive relationship. Dove's hotline is the best way to access or inquire about services, 423.2238. The hotline and all other Dove services are completely confidential.

There are simple things we all can do to address teen dating violence:

- If you are a parent, model a loving and respectful relationship at home – your children and teens are watching and learning from you. Talk to your teens about important issues and let them know that you are always there when they need to talk. If your teen comes to you with relationship concerns, take them seriously – abusive teen relationships can be dangerous. If your daughter or son is being abused, believe her/him, know that this is not your teen's fault, and seek help - contact Dove's hotline, 423.2238. Dove staff can discuss options with you and assist with orders of protection, counseling, and other services. (If the situation is an emergency, call 911 first and contact Dove for follow-up assistance.)
- If you are a teen whose partner is abusive, TELL SOMEONE! Make sure your friends know what is happening, but more importantly, tell a trusted adult, like Mom or Dad, a counselor or favorite teacher at school – someone who can seek help for you. You deserve to be treated with respect – an abusive relationship is not your fault and is never acceptable!
- If you are a concerned friend or relative, talk to the teen.

Although your offer of help may be rejected at first, you have planted a seed of information and hope; the teen may reach out to you later for help.

- If you want to know more about teen dating violence or to schedule prevention education for a class or youth organization, call Dove's hotline at 423.2238.

Teen dating violence is something that no teen should experience. However, Dove's prevention education and crisis intervention services ensure that information, help, hope, and healing are available for all teens.

Want to know more about teen dating violence?  
Here are some great resources!

[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)  
Love Is Respect: National Teen Dating Violence Help Line  
[www.breakthecycle.org](http://www.breakthecycle.org)  
Break the Cycle  
[www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org)  
Dove, Inc. website



## Domestic Violence Shelter Needs:

- Prepaid Gasoline Cards
- Address Books
- Planners
- Journals
- Adult Coloring Books, Crayons and Colored Pencils
- Air Fresheners
- Drawing Tablets
- Lead Pencils
- Large Heavy Duty Trash Bags
- Gift Cards for Aldi and Walmart
- 9 V, AA and AAA Batteries
- Healthy snacks for children's groups
- Juice boxes/drinks for children's groups
- New Strollers
- Lice Treatments
- Large Hairbrushes
- Dishwasher Detergent Pods
- Disinfectant Sprays
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towel
- African American Hair Products
- Hair Brushes – Natural Bristles
- Hair Brushes – Nylon Bristles
- Laundry Baskets
- New Pillows

Please drop any donations to the  
Shelter, 302 S. Union, Decatur  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**DomesticShelters.org**

Another way to donate to the  
Shelter is from this website.  
Purchase what you want and it is  
sent directly to the Shelter.

You can also find this link on the  
website  
[www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org)

Your gift will ensure  
that services can continue.  
Please give generously.

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

or donate online at  
[www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org)  
or on Facebook



*To learn more about becoming a  
Dove Member Congregation  
or to schedule a speaker  
for your congregation please contact  
Barb Blakey,  
Director of Volunteers &  
Community Relations  
at 428.6616 or [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)*



# Volunteer Opportunities

## Meet Deb Hoffman!

Deb came on board with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in November 2017. She is the new DeWitt County Coordinator temporarily while Sheryl Whisman is on leave.



Deb has been busy training and learning the ropes with Charlie both in the Decatur and Clinton office. Deb's office hours once she has completed training will be Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Deb comes to us after retiring from Warner Hospital and Health Services, Physical Therapy Department, where she spent 25 years serving in the position of office manager for the department. Deb has two grown sons, two grandchildren, and five great-grand children who live in Australia. Her hobbies include sewing and crafts and Deb lives in Clinton.

Be on the look out in our weekly update for the Open House where you can come by and meet her in person at the Clinton office and chat with her. We are excited to have her with us.

## Central Illinois Christians in Mission

Central Illinois Christians in Mission (CICIM) is looking for a volunteer who is able to dedicate some time to learning and building small, three drawer IKEA dressers for children, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during open hours. CICIM staff are happy to show you how. Give Charlie or Sandy a call if you are handy and want to do something for children receiving beds from CICIM.

## Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers at the ReStore, 932 E. Wood, Decatur. The shop is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They are looking for greeters, floor sales associates, merchandisers, warehouse associates, donations associates and donations scribes. Give Charlie or Sandy a call at 428.6616 for specific job descriptions.

## Senior Olympics

Have you heard Senior Olympics is happening in Decatur in April? Look for more information soon! This is a fantastic opportunity to show off some skills and earn a medal (and perhaps some bragging rights too) for those 50 years or better. Not interested in participating in events? That's OK as there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities to help participants the day of events. Call Charlie or Sandy for more information at 428.6616.

## Free Tax Preparation in DeWitt County

RSVP volunteers have partnered with AARP and the Vespasian Warner Library in Clinton again this year to offer FREE tax preparation. Services will be offered on Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, February 1 through April 14. Call the Vespasian Warner Library now to make your appointment at 935.5174. Appointments encourage but walk-ins will be served as time permits.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Thank you to all who helped collect supplies for Sarah Pritts (Garfield Montessori) and Laurie Tolbert's (Lincoln Elementary) classrooms as part of our MLK Day of Service. Both teachers received numerous items from their wish lists and were excited and honored to receive these much-appreciated items. Staff got to visit with the students in Ms. Pritts class and they were amazing! The students knew all the facts we came prepared to share! Fantastic group of children. Thanks again for helping to make MLK a "day on not off!"



Pictures from Ms. Pritts 1-3 grade classroom at Garfield Montessori, Decatur Public Schools



*"I would like to thank you and your RSVP volunteers for the items that were so generously given to me for my classroom. I appreciate it so much and feel honored that I was chosen.*

*Thank you so much!"*

*Lauri Tolbert, Lincoln Elementary School  
Message received after delivery  
to Ms. Tolbert's classroom*



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## **New Opportunities for our Domestic Violence Clients**

**Teri Ducey  
Domestic Violence Program Director**

**We have exciting news from the Domestic Violence Program! We are happy to announce that we will be having more of a regular presence in Piatt County! We are in the process of securing office space so we can go back to having a full time office in Monticello! It's been many years (approximately 15) since we last had an office there!!**

**Janisha Pealer, our Multi-County Advocate, will staff the office. We are looking forward to providing services there again and working with all the other agencies, organizations and key officials in Piatt County in providing services to victims of domestic violence! We will keep you posted!**

**In addition, the Decatur office will soon be offering additional groups to our clients. In addition to our current two domestic violence support groups, Parenting Group, weekly Bible Study Class, and Lifeskills Group, we will be adding:**

- Legal Groups – Starting Monday, February 5. Jamie Houchins will lead a group from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and Vivian Reed will lead the an evening group from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. This group will focus on legal options for victims of domestic violence, including orders of protection, court process, remedies, and other laws that benefit victims.**
- The Golden Doves Elder Group – Kathy Walters will facilitate this group and will be held on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. (start date TBD.) Fliers are being distributed widely. This group will be open to male and female victims of domestic violence, aged 55+.**

- Anxiety/Stress/Self Care – Angie Williams will facilitate this new group. The group will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays of each month, beginning February 9, at 1:00 p.m. and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m., beginning February 23. It will address topics such as anxiety and stress in day to day life, as well as present healthy methods of coping and taking care of yourself, such as utilizing writing, art, and music as methods of de-stressing. You must be a current client of the domestic violence program in order to attend.**
- DV 101 Group – Jared Bohland will facilitate this group, (start date TBD.) This group will follow an approximate 4 month curriculum, with set topics focused on the dynamics that surround domestic violence.**
- Nutrition Group – Annette Lane will facilitate this group. This group begins on Friday, February 9.**

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## DAX

The DAX Program has funds!! If you or someone you know has a one-time financial emergency, please call our office 935.6072 or stop by to get an application. You only need to provide a copy of the bill and proof of income. Jennifer will review the application with you and give you any additional information you may need.

## Food Pantry

The DeWitt County Food Pantry is available to all residents in DeWitt County, regardless of income or family size. You are welcome to use this service once every 30 days. We also have diapers you are welcome to receive every two weeks. If you would like to donate to our food pantry here are some items we are in need of:

- Gallon Ziploc bags
- Quart Ziploc bags
- Plastic wrap
- Canned meats such as chicken and tuna
- Canned fruit
- Mac 'n Cheese
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Side dishes such as noodles, stuffing, instant potatoes
- Soups

## DeWitt County Food Pantry

803 W. Leander,  
Clinton

Open  
Tuesdays &  
Thursdays  
10:00 a.m.  
to 2:00 p.m.

Thank you to Big D's & Save  
a Lot for their weekly bread  
donation to our food pantry!!

**Please mark your calendars!!!**

**Spring**

## Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training

Have you always wanted to learn more about domestic violence and even volunteer within one of our programs? Please consider signing up for our upcoming training.

It will begin on Monday, April 30 and end on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. Sessions run from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday.

Registration for the training will begin on March 7. If you would like to know more, please call Barb Blakey, Director of Volunteers and Community Relations, at 428.6616.



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

*Have you ever thought you would like to help people in your community? The DeWitt County Dove is looking for new members on our Coalition Against Domestic Violence Committee. We meet for 1 hour each month. The committee helps with fundraisers for Dove throughout the year as well as sharing domestic violence awareness to the community and supporting the domestic violence program in DeWitt County. If you are interested or have questions, please call Jennifer at 935.6072 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.*

Each of the programs in Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby and DeWitt Counties, will be reaching out in our communities to schedule presentations to raise awareness about the services our programs provide. If you have a group/committee/organization/staff who are interested in learning more about domestic violence and our services, please contact the following:

Macon County • Teri Ducey • 428.6616  
Moultrie County • Mary Hughes • 728.9303  
Piatt County • Janisha Pealer • 428.6616  
Shelby County • Susie Kensil • 774.3121  
DeWitt County • Jennifer Tolladay • 935.6619



# THANKS

Our Thanks from the Domestic Violence Program

Thank you to the Shelby County Democrat Central Committee for your financial donation to our Shelby County program. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

As the New Year has begun, I am once again in awe of how the residents of DeWitt County come forward to show their support for Dove and their fellow residents. We have had donations for our food pantry from the Girls Scouts and St. John the Baptist's Sunday School class, as well as a huge donation of diapers from the Feed Ministries from First Christian Church! Thank you so much for coming forward to assist those in need.

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator



# BABES

Welcome to our New BABES Program Volunteers!

Marilyn Oftedal

Cluney John

Debbie Vick

Janisha Pealer-Dove Staff

Lauren Henrichsmeyer-Dove Staff

They are pairing up with volunteers from the Fall volunteer training.

In January, the BABES program started at Baum for 1<sup>st</sup> graders with new volunteers Carol Brown and Debbie Vick, and Patty Cain and Linda Natereli presenting to Mc Gaughey's 8 Kindergarten classes, and Janisha Pealer and I will be presenting to Blue Ridge School District's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Schneider Elementary. In February new volunteers Rita Augsburger and Marilyn Oftedal will be presenting at Oak Groves to the Kindergarten classes, and I will be presenting to the Kindergartners at Warrensburg Elementary.

If you are interested in the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, call or email me for more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer. My email is [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org) or call 428.6616 ext. 126.

Sandy Laesch  
BABES Program Coordinator



**Pictures from the BABES  
Volunteer Training in January.  
Thanks to all!**



*"Never doubt that a small group of  
committed people can change the  
world. Indeed, it is the only thing  
that ever has."  
Margaret Mead*





## Volunteer Organizational League

The February  
Volunteer

Organizational League (VOL) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, noon, in the Dean Simcox Conference Center, 302 S. Union.

To learn more call Charlie Gillaspie at 428.6616. Those who works with volunteers at their agency/organization are welcome to attend. Bring your lunch and learn other ways to engage your volunteers.

*No RSVP needed - just show up!*

# MAX

Macon County Assistance eXchange

located inside of  
Decatur First United Methodist Church  
201 W. North, Decatur

Open Monday - Thursday  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Helping with emergency financial assistance  
for families/individuals in need

# Children's Clothing Room

Open  
Monday - Thursday  
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

located inside of  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church  
2201 E. Prairie, Decatur



**Good, used, free clothing!**  
Sizes from infants to teenagers.

WARM NEIGHBORS ♥ COOL FRIENDS

WNCF is located in the MAX office for MACON and DEWITT Counties. Below are the current Income Guidelines for Weatherization and Bill Payment Assistance. Families must show proof of income. A family's monthly gross income must fall between the ranges below, based upon family size, to qualify.

- Power must be on/ Bill must be current/no old bills
- No help from DMCOG/LiHeap/Pipp in the last twelve months
- Must meet income guidelines
- Must have proof of hardship and 60 days of paystubs

Family Size 30-Day (Gross) Monthly  
Income Range Must be between:

1	\$1,508 - \$3,016
2	\$2,030 - \$4,060
3	\$2,533 - \$5,106
4	\$3,075 - \$6,150
5	\$3,598 - \$7,196
6	\$4,120 - \$8,240
7	\$4,643 - \$9,286
8	\$5,165 - \$10,330



## News from Homeward Bound



### Seeking Entrance into the Homeward Bound Program?

Walk-in applications  
will be taken Monday  
through Friday between  
8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.  
at the Homeward Bound  
office, 788 E. Clay,  
Decatur.

## 2018 Community Breakfast

Thursday  
March 22 | 8:00 a.m.

Salvation Army Conference  
Room | 229 West Main  
Decatur, IL

*Watch for additional information  
in the March Newsletter!*

### Homeless Referrals:

Please contact the Homeward Bound Office, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. if you know of someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. After 4:30 p.m. or on the weekend, please call 619.5742.

Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for the participants of the program:

- Clean Blankets
- Gloves
- Hats

*At the Community Breakfast,  
the 2018 Point-in-Time results  
will be presented to the community.*

*Hosted by the  
Macon County Continuum of Care  
Advisory Council*

*Thanks to all the participating agencies and  
the staff and volunteers who collected the  
information for the 2018 Point-in-Time.*