



# DOVE TALES

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

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



January 2017

Barbara Blakey  
Editor

Issue 1701  
Published Monthly

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



## KITCHEN SHOWER FOR THE SHELTER

Thursday, January 19  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Help us stock our kitchen!  
Last fall, the Shelter kitchen took  
on an amazing update, in function,  
safety and beauty! Thanks to a grant  
from ADM Cares and a  
magical update by  
Lowe's Hometown Heroes!

Check out the list of needs on page 7.  
Join us between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.  
for a tour or to just enjoy some  
refreshments.

## A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

For the 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day  
of Service (make it a day ON, not a day OFF)  
the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program  
(RSVP) of Macon and DeWitt Counties are  
sponsoring a local classroom in each county.  
Here is a sample list of items that teachers are  
requesting.

For a full wish list and book requests please  
visit our website at [www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org) or call  
Charlie Gillaspie, RSVP Director, at 428.6616.  
Please drop off your donations at the RSVP  
office at 302 S. Union St. by January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

- Paper Mate InkJoy Pens - multi-colored
- Sharpies
- Note cards without lines
- Cardstock
- Construction Paper 9 by 12 inch  
Variety Packs
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Markers (skinny and fat)
- Games of any kind
- Puzzles (500 pieces or less)
- Hand sanitizer

## *Christmas Cantata rescheduled!*

*Sunday, January 8, 2017 | 6:00 p.m.*

*First Church of the Nazarene, US 51, Clinton*

*Join us for this night of lovely music and support  
of the DeWitt County Domestic Violence Program*

# 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  
Sandy 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,

It is with a grateful heart that we start the new year at Dove, Inc. Because of our caring community the past month has been full of simple kindnesses which made a world of difference. Between Christmas Baskets and Coats for Kids thousands of area individuals were affected by your commitment to love our neighbors.

With the turn of the calendar new challenges will face us as we continue in our work to coordinate efforts to address unmet needs and social injustices. As the state budget stalemate continues with no end in sight, social services will continue to struggle to provide needed assistance. Justice, equality, and understanding among all people seems a daunting goal. Yet here at Dove, our faith is strong that this culture can be built right here in central Illinois with God's help. Each of us has the ability to influence the culture of our inner circle of close friends to alter our prospects for the community's future.

But how shall we begin? Here are some suggestions:

- We have the ability to boost the local economy by choosing to spend our dollars at local businesses and national businesses operating locally. In doing so we create jobs and affect the opportunities for every sector of our population to flourish.
- We can continue to affect our local

culture by using our voices in the local election season which is just getting under way. Local elections traditionally have a low turnout, but have a greater everyday impact on our lives than state and federal elections. Register, encourage your friends to register. Then get educated, vote and bring your friends to the polls on April 4, 2017.

- We can maintain the culture of caring we have locally by providing support to agencies to keep their doors open. I hope you'll take a moment to consider the value to our community of legal advocacy to support a victim who needs an order of protection, children's support groups for vulnerable family members, case support for a homeless person, and life and employability skills training to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. Your personal commitment to support these services in any amount makes all the difference.

If you or your organization's members would like to learn more about supporting Dove's mission, please reach out to our Volunteer & Community Relations Director, Barb Blakey. 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 suffering in 2017.

Happy New Year!  
Christine Gregory



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Teri Ducey  
Domestic Violence Program Director

On behalf of all the staff and clients of Dove's Domestic Violence Program, I want to thank everyone for their generous donations over the holidays. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are so very much appreciated. May you each enjoy a New Year full of Hope, Love, Peace and Happiness!!!

A very special thank you to Julie McClarey and Ted Smith, who helped make our special evening with our clients and their children extra special. Also – a very special thank you to two other special people – Santa and Mrs. Claus – aka, Bev and Jerry Hardwick. Thank you very much for your extra generosity in the donations you brought back for our children. You helped make their Christmas morning even more special!!! Julie shared her musical talents with us all, playing the piano – as she is the National Ragtime Piano Champion, and her partner, Ted, who is Pastor of Mound Chapel Church of God, provided a special word of encouragement and prayer with the ladies and children. We so enjoyed all of you taking time out of your own busy schedules to help make our evening so special and making the Christmas extra special for our clients and their children!!!! Bless you all!!!!



*Thanks to the members of the SouthSide Country Club Women's Group who donated new toys for the children staying in the Shelter and receiving services from the program.*

## Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies BABES



*Wishing you a Happy New Year!*

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING BABES PROGRAM

Tuesday, January 10

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dean Simcox Conference Center

Dove, Inc.

302 S. Union, Decatur

Training is free but you need to register  
with Sandy Laesch, Program Coordinator  
at 428.6616 or [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org)

## MYSTERY NIGHT



Friday

February 24, 2017

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Paco Sol Bistro  
Downtown Decatur



## BABES Mystery Night Fundraiser

Tickets: \$30 includes your “À la Surprise” dinner  
(don’t worry, it’s from Paco Sol Bistro!) soft drink and  
a drawing ticket for a chance to win one of the Mystery Prizes!



Tickets are available at the 302 S. Union, Decatur offices,  
can be purchased and mailed (or pick up that night) on the website,  
and with some staff and program volunteers.

Contact the Dove office at  
[dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org) or 428-6616

Supporting the BABES Program







*Thanks to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders of French Academy, Decatur, and their families who donated all these toys, books, and clothes to the Domestic Violence Program! Jared Bohland, Client Services Coordinator, shared with the children and picked up the 1/2 truckload of items!*







Shanna Morgan and her family prepared Blessing Bags for the clients staying in the Shelter. Her family along with her Facebook Friends gathered items. Bags are filled with items making the stay in the Shelter a bit more comfortable.

L-R Debra Gremo, Dove Staff, and members of the Morgan Family.

Thanks for your thoughtfulness!

Thanks to the members of the Order of the Eastern Star, who donated items for the families in the Shelter and for the cash donation for future needs.

Jared Bohland, seen here with representatives of the group.



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)

**BEFORE**



**AFTER!**



## Kitchen Shower

**Thursday, January 19 • 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur**

Stop by between 1:00 and 3:00, see the amazing transformation, enjoy a cupcake and see what's new at Dove.

If you can help us out, items can be brought at that time. See the ways to help below!

Making our Shelter a warm, safe, and comforting place to stay, is an ongoing goal of staff and volunteers.

This fall we were blessed by Lowe's Hometown Heroes updating the kitchen that is used by the clients during their stay. The Lowe's crew did the work and got donations and utilized a \$7500 grant from ADM Cares.

*Now we are seeking a bit more help in stocking the kitchen!*

### WAYS TO HELP #1

There are a few items we only need one or two of. Those items can be found at Target at their registry.

(These are items like dishes, drinking glasses, rugs, utensils, etc.)

### WAYS TO HELP #2

We want to stock up on items that we need; these can be purchased anywhere.

- Dishwasher pods
- Dishwashing liquid
- Kitchen hand towels
- Kitchen dish cloths
- Hot pads
- Measuring Spoons
- Foil
- Saran Wrap
- Paper Towels
- Paper Napkins
- Measuring Cups

### WAYS TO HELP #3

Nonperishable food items such as:

- Chips
- Healthy Snacks
- Granola Bars
- Breakfast Cereals
- Pop Tarts
- Canned Soup
- Coffee

### WAYS TO HELP #4

Sign up for a half-month time period to pick up and donate items for the kitchen. Sign up for a specific time period, we'll email you a few days ahead with what is needed, and you can drop off the items. We will explain this in more detail if you sign up.

## NEWS FROM HOMEWARD BOUND



### SEEKING ENTRANCE INTO THE HOMEWARD BOUND PROGRAM?

Walk-in applications will be taken on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at the Homeward Bound office.

All others can call 362.7700 for an appointment.

### DECATUR JOBS COUNCIL

The Decatur Jobs Council (DJC) will meet in January at the WIA office. If you are interested in assisting those with multiple-barriers to employment find a job, please become a part of the DJC. Contact 362.7700 to learn more or to be added to the email list for meeting reminders.

### HOMELESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

The Homeless Advisory Council/ Continuum of Care (HAC/CoC) will meet on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Homeward Bound office, 788 E. Clay Street. Please plan on attending!

Together, we will continue to finalize the plans for the Point in Time Count. The Point in Time Count will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup> for 24 hours! Mary Garrison is once again leading the count this year.

### SOAR COMMITTEE MEETING

SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) Committee Meeting

The first official Decatur Area SOAR Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Homeward Bound office, 788 E. Clay, Decatur. We will continue discussions on implementing the Decatur Area SOAR action plan. Please plan to attend. Contact Darsonya Switzer at 362.7700 for further information.



*Dove/  
Homeward  
Bound would  
like to welcome  
Jeanne Robinson  
as the new  
Client Services  
Coordinator.  
Jeanne has  
a long-term  
history in the  
field of social  
services and  
working with  
individuals  
and families*

*experiencing homelessness. We are pleased to have her join the organization!*



# 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.*

For ease of making a donation of children's clothing, a shed is located south of the church in the parking lot.



**Closure Reminder**  
Dove Inc. Children's Clothing Room will be closed January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



*Helping others make the right turns to a safer future for themselves and their families.*

## Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

May 8, 9, 10, 11  
May 15, 16, 17, 18  
May 22, 23, 24  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home  
302 S. Union, Dean Simcox Conference Room

Check the website for more information about the Domestic Violence Program. Contact Barb Blakey for more details on the Training. Registration will start on March 15.

### How to Register:

- Complete a phone interview beginning March 15 through April 28, call 428.6616
- Attend registration meeting on Wednesday, May 3, at NOON
- \$150 training fee, some scholarships available.

*To learn how you can include a nonprofit group in your will or estate plan, talk to your financial or legal advisor... or contact the organization of your choice.*

**Find out more  
by calling  
217.429.3000**



***Decatur Legacy professional members include:***

Benjamin F. Edwards and Co.  
BKD, LLP  
BRE Law  
Brechnitz Group of Raymond James  
Busey Wealth Management  
Consociate Dansig  
Country Financial – Amanda Giles  
Erickson, Davis, Murphy, Johnson & Walsh, Ltd.  
First Mid Illinois Bank & Trust  
Foster Financial Services, Inc.  
Hickory Point Bank and Trust  
J.L. Hubbard Insurance and Bonds  
May Cocagne & King PC  
McGuire, Yugas, Huffman and Buckley, P.C.  
Reiss Financial Group, L.L.C.  
Samuels, Miller, Schroeder, Jackson & Sly  
Sikich  
Soy Capital Bank and Trust  
Stifel Nicolaus  
Town and Country Bank Trust & Investment Services

***Decatur Legacy member organizations include:***

Baby TALK, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois  
Boys and Girls Club of Decatur  
Bright Start/Kids Connection  
Catholic Charities, Inc.  
Children's Museum of Illinois  
Community Foundation of Macon County  
Crossing Healthcare  
Decatur Area Arts Council  
Decatur Christian School  
Decatur Day Care Center  
Decatur Family YMCA  
Decatur Memorial Foundation  
Decatur Parks Foundation  
Decatur Public Library Foundation  
Decatur Public Schools Foundation  
Decatur SCORE Chapter #296  
DMCOC  
Dove, Inc.  
Education Coalition of Macon County  
Futures Unlimited  
Girl Scouts of Central Illinois  
God's Shelter of Love, Inc.  
Good Samaritan Inn  
Governor Oglesby Mansion, Inc.

Heritage Behavioral Health Center  
HSBS St. Mary's Foundation  
Independence Pointe  
James Millikin Homestead  
Lincoln Trails Boy Scout Council  
Lutheran School Association  
Macon County CASA  
Macon County Conservation Foundation  
Macon Resources, Inc.  
Millikin University  
Northeast Community Fund  
Prairie Flower Montessori School  
Project Read  
Richland Community College Foundation  
Rock Springs Endowment Fund  
St. Teresa Educational Foundation  
United Way of Decatur and Mid-Illinois  
Webster Cantrell Hall



*For more information call 217.429.3000*



# 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.

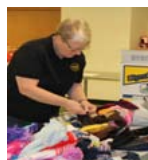
## WARM NEIGHBORS COOL FRIENDS

WNCF is located in the MAX office for MACON and DEWITT Counties. Below are the 2016-2017 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.

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



1	\$1,485 - \$2,970
2	\$2,003 - \$4,005
3	\$2,520 - \$5,040
4	\$3,038 - \$6,075
5	\$3,555 - \$7,110
6	\$4,073 - \$8,145
7	\$4,591 - \$9,183
8	\$5,111 - \$10,223



## Northeast Community Fund and Dove, Inc. 2016 Christmas Basket Drive

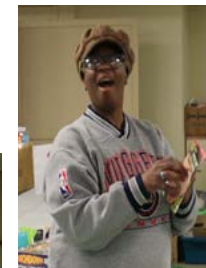
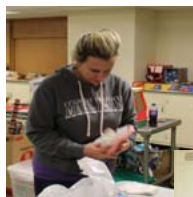
### A few facts & photos:

- 343 baskets (food and gift)
- 25 food only baskets
- adopted out 6 families from Dove
- 1,348 individuals were served this year

### At Dove, the week of preparation, there were:

- 201 staff hours spent
- 199 volunteer hours donated
- 67 volunteers
- and the many who delivered baskets!

Thanks to all who made time to help, who made a donation or made a shopping trip. It all made a difference!





# RSVP NEWS

## FREE TAX PREPARATION SITE

RSVP has partnered with the Vespasian Warner Public Library and AARP Tax program to bring free tax preparation to the DeWitt County area. Taxes will be prepared by appointment at the Vespasian Warner Library at 310 N. Quincy St., in Clinton.

Information on who to call to set an appointment will be published closer to the start date.

This service will be available on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to NOON, starting Thursday February 2, 2017 through Saturday April 15, 2017.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help visitors explore a winter wonderland on skis or snowshoes at the Macon County Conservation District (Rock Springs Center). Ski and Snowshoe Rental Volunteers help fit visitors with equipment, provide basic instruction for first-time users, and help answer questions. Training will be provided the first day you volunteer. Every day you assist with ski rentals, you earn 2 hours of free ski or snowshoe rental time for yourself. Give Charlie or Sandy a call at 428.6616 if you are interested.

Central Illinois Christians in Mission is seeking a volunteer (or two!) with an up-to-date CDL license who would be able to help with trips across central Illinois. If interested in hearing more about this service, provide us your name and phone number to pass on to CICM.



*Start the New Year with a bang by becoming one of our Advisory Council members.*

*We have positions open on both Macon County and DeWitt County RSVP Advisory Councils. Council members meet once per month and help guide program activities tailored to enhance services available in our community.*

*If interested give, Charlie or Sandy a call at 428.6616.*



# COATS FOR KIDS!

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COAT DRIVE FOR KIDS!

### COSPONSORED BY



**Thanks to our Participating Cleaners, who made the coats clean and fresh before taking them to the clothing rooms.**

Classic Cleaners  
Corner Cleaning Connections  
(now a Pride Cleaner)  
Peerless Cleaners  
Pride Cleaners and Launderers  
Waite's Dry Cleaners & Launderers

**To all the Drop-off Sites who opened their agency or business doors to be a part of the drive.**

Archer's Alley  
CVS  
Decatur Public Library  
Decatur Public Transit  
Decatur Township Offices  
GT Church  
Jerger Pediatric Dentistry, P.C.  
Kroger  
Land of Lincoln Credit Union  
Longcreek Township  
Regions  
Richland Community College  
Soy Capital Bank and Trust  
St. Teresa High School  
Texas Roadhouse

**Thanks to the Participating Clothing Rooms, open year-round and serving those in need with these coats and many, many other vital services.**

Dove Clothing Room  
Northeast Community Fund  
Antioch Baptist Church Clothing Room  
New Life Pregnancy Center  
Salvation Army  
Northwest Christian Church  
Reasonable Service Free Clothing Room

# 2,242 COATS

were donated, cleaned and taken to the participating clothing rooms for distribution to the families in need.

Thanks to everyone who made a donation, whether cleaning out their closets, buying a few new coats or donating money to help us fill in the gaps of needed sizes.

Thanks to WAND for being the cosponsor for the drive for the past 25 years.

And thanks to all who helped out who we don't know the how or when, etc., but we know there were many helping us to reach this number.

**Thanks to the RSVP Volunteers, who kept the coats moving!**

Nick Lauer  
Wayne Collins  
Chris Bryak  
Sharon Matli  
Bob Miller  
Tim Laesch  
Ed Brewer  
Winnie Brewer  
Nancy Hall  
Jerry Aldridge