



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

December
2023

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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Dove, Inc.
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We are all about
CC&S for
December!

Learn more
on page 6.



Our sincere thanks to all who donated to Dove on Giving Tuesday and to the many who came out in the cold to attend our Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting Event!

see more pictures on
page 7

32nd
Annual
Coats
for
Kids!

There is still time to donate to
Coats for Kids & Christmas Care and Share
-- & time for Santa's Little Helper Workshop
(page 4)
and Sounds of Christmas
(page 5)
this weekend!

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.

Executive Staff

Darsonya Switzer, Chief Executive Officer
Barbara Blakey, Chief Communications Officer

Program Leadership

BABES Program
Sandy Laesch, Interim Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room
Kathy Walters, Coordinator

Dove Financial Assistance
Molly Tenuto, Program Director

Dove Food Pantry
Ashlyn Burrus, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program
Joyce Kirkland, Program Director
Ashlyn Burrus, DeWitt County Coordinator
Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator
Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Homeward Bound
Filled, Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program
LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Angie Williams, Program Director
Kathy Walters, Macon County Coordinator
Silvia Comfort, DeWitt County Coordinator



*Happy Holidays to each
and every one of you!*

*I pray for continued blessings
for you and yours
throughout the season
and the year to come!*

Darsonya Switzer, CEO



32nd Annual Coats for Kids!



**Donations accepted
through November 30!**



Picture courtesy of Karla, HSHS, of one load of coats headed to the cleaners

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

sponsored by



Collection Sites:

Decatur Family YMCA, 220 W. McKinley

Decatur Public Library, Downtown Decatur

Decatur Township, 1620 S. Taylorville Road

GT Church, 500 S. 27th Street

HSHS St. Mary's, Main Lobby

Illiopolis Christian Church, 304 Anne Street

Jerger Pediatric Dentistry, 2101 N. Main

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


Regions Bank
350 N. Water St.
2340 Mt. Zion Rd.
333 E. Pershing

Richland Community College, #1 College Park

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Court

St. Teresa High School, 2710 N. Water Street

WAND Station, 904 Southside Drive



Santa's Little Helper Workshop

an afternoon of family fun!

Masonic Temple
107 W. Jefferson
Sullivan, Illinois
(George Sentinel Hall)

Friday, December 1, 2023
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Before the Annual
Sullivan Christmas Parade

Christmas Crafts for
the children to make.
Cookie Decorating

Hot dogs & Chips
Cookies
Hot Chocolate

No Admission!
Donations gratefully
accepted to support Dove's
Domestic Violence Program!





doveinc.org ❄️ 217.728.9303

Community Events Supporting the DeWitt County Programs!

You are invited to the
Wapella Community Christmas Party
Sunday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m.
In the Wapella Community Center

Party Activities
Christmas Music Sing-A-Long
Christmas Story
Gift Baskets
Cookie/Candy Walk
Balloon Artist




Take Pictures with Santa!
Children Get a Free Cookie Coupon
And a Gift From Santa

Co-Sponsored by Wapella Says YES
and The Wapella Fire Department

All proceeds will go to DOVE
We gratefully appreciate your help, too!
Donated Cookies, Candy, Gifts Baskets are welcome!

For Questions:
Call Cheri Miller 217-202-4026 or Jane Buraglio 217-519-4364



Sounds of Christmas

*A Variety of Christmas Music
presented by several churches in Clinton
Along with some carol singing*

*December 3rd at 6 PM
Clinton First Church of the Nazarene
1220 Kseemann Dr.*

*This is the annual DOVE Christmas Concert.
An offering will be taken to support the DOVE local office
and their many services to our community.*



Dove's Financial Assistance Program Director, Molly Tenuto, shares: Last year at Christmas Care & Share I had the privilege of working at the "teen table" so that parents and guardians of teenagers could come and pick out three items to give as presents. I had one mom that came up to my table and saw a basketball as one of the options. The mom shared with me that she would love to pick out the basketball but that it was "too nice of a gift and I need to leave it for another family." If you can get involved, I recommend it! It's a great reminder as to why we are doing Christmas Care & Share and that it does make a difference to people in the community! If you have the opportunity to get involved, I would highly recommend it!

A huge thank you to everyone who has already donated to this program. We couldn't do it without you! This year we have nearly 1,200 families signed up, which is the largest number of families we have ever served.



Melody from Toys for Tots & Angie



Thank you to Illiopolis Christian Church for putting up their 'Show Dove Some Love' tree again! The church has been doing this for years. (Pic of tree courtesy of Rosella Young)

There's still time to sign up to volunteer at Christmas Care & Share! Please click here: <https://volunteersignup.org/4QAEA> to see the slots still available.

Most needed items:

- Hats and gloves in sizes from newborn to age 17 (new or homemade only)
- Wrapping paper
- Tape
- Black garbage bags (Large and heavy duty)
- Batteries of all types (for toys that need them)

Please check out our registries for Christmas Care & Share! If you don't have time to shop, you can always purchase an item or two off one of our lists and it'll be shipped directly to the program coordinator at Dove, Inc.

Amazon For Kids:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3R5WP9970SC4X?ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Amazon for our nursing home seniors:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1TARUT9A62IQ9/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2 Target: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/dashboard?type=CHARITY®istryId=1bebe640-7675-11ee-9aef-ab992c114126>

Walmart:

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/ER/69812a63-d466-4781-9524-deeb7d13b8ed>



Cold night for our
Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting Event.
A few highlights from the evening.

Children's Clothing Room News

Huge thanks to Alpha Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter who took up a collection of brand-new socks and underwear and gave monetary donations for the Children's Clothing Room on November 1. This group of teachers and retired teachers invited Kathy Walters and Angie Williams out to speak about Dove, particularly the Children's Clothing Room. Thank you for your donations and hospitality!



From July 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023, the Children's Clothing Room has served an unduplicated number of 254 children. Many have received clothes on numerous occasions in that time. Thank you to Kathy Walters for all her hard work coordinating the Children's Clothing Room, to Central Christian Church for allowing us to use their space, and to our amazing volunteers who keep the room running! And special thanks to all who donated gently used or brand-new kids' clothes to the room throughout the year. We could not keep doing what we're doing without all of you supporting us!

The Children's Clothing Room will be closed this month from Monday, December 11 – January 2, to give our wonderful RSVP volunteers time to celebrate the holidays with their families. It will reopen Wednesday, January 3.

Children's Clothing Room



**Central Christian Church
650 West William Street, Decatur**

**Mondays & Wednesdays
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Closed between December 11, 2023
and January 2, 2024**

**Free clothing,
yes really free,
for infants through teens**



A few highlights of the Walk the Walk event hosted in November as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.





B A B E S

Happy Holidays!

This time of year for me, has been all about tradition. As children grow to adults and have children of their own, traditions change. I have adopted the go with the flow attitude and find it quite interesting and exciting from year to year as to how we will spend our Holidays. With that said, please do not get so caught up in the hustle and bustle that you don't enjoy your Holiday Season!

Buttons, Bows, Myth Mary, Early Bird, Donovan, Rhonda, Reggie, BABES Volunteers, LeAnn Ellis and I are taking a break for the Holidays. I hope they rest up because the BABES Program schedule for Spring 2024 is getting full.

Being a BABES Volunteer is a rewarding experience. So, if you have a love of children and a desire to make a difference in a child's life then being a BABES Volunteer is right for you!

If you would like to become involved in the BABES Program and would like more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer contact me at slaesch@doveinc.org or Barb Blakey at bblakey@doveinc.org or call 217.428.6616.

Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas!

**Sandy Laesch,
BABES Interim Program Coordinator**

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

As the weather turns colder, and the calendar turns to the final page of 2023, our minds are filled with thoughts of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is behind us, memories hopefully filled with fun, food, and family. Christmas looms on the horizon.... images of Santa, beautiful lighted decorations, and trees laden with packages are everywhere. There are many other holidays and Holy days during this season that are joyfully celebrated by people everywhere, all with meaningful traditions and beautiful symbols. But it is important to remember that this time of year is not experienced with joy and good feelings by everyone, for varied reasons.

If you know people who struggle during this season, reach out a helping hand if you can. Not everyone can offer financial support, but it costs nothing to exercise kindness and compassion. A friendly smile can make a significant difference to someone who is struggling. Whatever your season, remember the reason.

The Shelby County Dove Domestic Violence Program sends a big "Thank You" to all who have supported us this year in any fashion. Your contributions and your prayers make a positive difference to victims and their families. We wish all of you a very happy holiday season and look forward to your continuing support in 2024.

Susie Kensil, Coordinator



Our sincere thanks to the Golden K
for their donation for use in the Shelter.
We are so grateful for having needed items to make the stay in
the Shelters as nice as it can be.

SHOW DOVE SOME LOVE



Special thanks to
Coziahr Harley Davidson
for their “Show Dove Some Love”
collection to benefit residents in the
Domestic Violence Shelter. Toiletries,
cleaning and household supplies, gifts,
and a generous check were dropped off
at the shelter on Giving Tuesday. This
annual collection makes such a difference
for our families in shelter!

Thank you!

Dove Financial Assistance

*Donation are needed
to keep this
emergency financial assistance
program thriving,
and supporting
families in need!*

*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 in the comment box.*

Our community has continued to be a blessing! The number of people experiencing a hardship has been many and thanks to our generous donors we have been able to help many of those people! Recently we have had several applicants that are recovering from surgery or have had reduced hours due to a chronic illness, both of which has caused a hardship where they just needed a little help to get back on their feet. Without each one of you, we would not be able to help them with that! Our community is blessed by so many wonderful resources and people that are able and willing to assist!

DFA's Fall hours will be coming to a close on December 15 and our Winter hours will begin on January 2. We will continue to be at the Decatur Public Library in Macon County and will also open up some walk-in hours at our Union Street location. Please keep an eye on social media for more information.

The Decatur Leadership Institute is almost over. Since the last writing I have been able to visit a couple other social

service agencies; United Way and Macon Resources, where we heard about some of the services available in our community and I was also able to share a little bit about DFA, and I also got to tour Macon Resources and see their amazing facility! If you haven't toured Macon Resources, or know what they do, I would highly encourage you to look into it! I also had the opportunity to tour Fuyao Glass, Ring Container and International Control Services; our community makes some pretty cool things right here in Macon County! We closed our tours with a trip to Springfield where we toured the State Capitol and met with Representative Dan Caulkins and Senator Doris Turner. Coming up is our group presentation at the Decatur Chamber Business Breakfast, and then our graduation. I would strongly encourage people to look into this class if you haven't done it before. It has taught me things about our community that I wasn't aware of, and I grew up in Macon County!

Molly Tenuto, DFA Program Director

Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance

for families/individuals in need
for in-person sites: see below

Macon County Sites:

Macon County Site Closed December 4 and 18 through 29

Decatur Public Library, 120 N. Franklin, Decatur
Mondays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

All other times will be by appointment only.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108

Shelby County Site:

Salvation Army Building, 133 E. Main St., Shelbyville

December 5, 10:00 a.m. to noon

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Moultrie County Site:

First United Methodist Church, 216 W. Jefferson St., Sullivan

December 6, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Piatt County Site:

First Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, Monticello

watch for dates in January 2024

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

DeWitt County Site:

Dove, 803 W. Leander, Clinton

December 4, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435



2023/24 Warm Neighbors Cool Friends Income Requirements &
Energy Bill Payment Assistance Guidelines

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO APPLY:

- Driver's license or other Photo ID
- Copy of current Ameren Illinois energy bill
- Proof of income



PROGRAM RULES:

- Applicant(s) must reside at address on bill and have active service in their name
- Applicant can only receive assistance ONCE per heating season (December 1 – May 31) and ONCE in the cooling season (June 1 – August 30)
- Account balance must be lower than \$1,500
- WNCF pledges up to \$500 during heating season matching customer payments within the last 45 days
- Cooling season maximums are \$200 and are intended for seniors, disabled, or those with medical conditions exacerbated by heat (with a doctor's letter)
- 30 Day (GROSS) Income Range by Family Size

Family Size	WNCF Income Range
1	\$2,431 - \$4,513
2	\$3,288 - \$5,158
3	\$4,144 - \$5,804
4	\$5,001 - \$6,446
5	\$5,858 - \$6,963
6	\$6,714 - \$7,479
7	\$7,571 - \$7,996
8	\$7,776 - \$8,513

PROGRAM DISTRIBUTOR FOR MACON, DEWITT, AND PIATT COUNTIES:

- Dove, Inc. will assist with applications. Contact 217.619.9108 for questions. Documents can be emailed to DFA@doveinc.org
- Please visit www.doveinc.org for a list of our walk-in hours and locations

News from Homeward Bound

Macon County Continuum of Care Homeless Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting

***Thursday, January 11, 2024 • 1:30 p.m.
at EOC in the Senior Center , on the 2nd floor***

Move-In Starter Kits

Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for participants. 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.

- New Queen-Size Sheets
- Kitchen Utensils
- New Sheets, Blankets, Pillows
- Pots and Pans
- Disposable Plates and Cutlery
- Laundry Detergent
- Bath Towels
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Tissue and Paper Towels
- Dishwashing Liquids
- Plates, Glasses & Silverware
- Cleaning Supplies

These donated items can be delivered to:

Dove Inc., Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay, Decatur
Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



As of this writing,
locations to get coats!

Dove Clothing Room
Central Christian Church,
650 W. William
(corner of Monroe and William
Street) Decatur
Mondays & Wednesdays
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
all sizes

Northeast Community Fund
825 N. Water Street, Decatur
Food Baskets and Free Clothing Room
Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and NOON - 2:30 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

New Vision Ministry
North side of the building - food pantry area
550 N. Van Dyke Street, Decatur
Mondays 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Salvation Army
Corner of Wood and Church
at the food pantry area



November marked the 2nd monthly meeting for Neighborhood United Association after many years apart. We are working to incorporate and to establish their 501c3 status. This will allow them to directly receive grant funding, tax exemption purchases and more for their meetings and events. NUA has big dreams for the near future as there is continuing connection with the City of Decatur and CONO to bring about much needed change to their neighborhood.

The joy of being in the schools with the BABES Program has kept us very busy this season with our final presentation December 7. We look forward to resuming again in January!

Looking forward to all the festivities of Christmas Care and Share at St. Paul's Lutheran Church which will be in full swing the 1st of December!

The month of December 2023 only, CONO will meet at Gateway Community Center, 1145 E. Cantrell, Decatur, IL 62521, on December 12, 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend please RSVP to CONO President, Kathy Williams at williams.hodge@comcast.net as soon as possible. (There will be no third Tuesday CONO meeting in December.)

A Very Merry Christmas to you and yours and Happy Holidays!

LeAnn Ellis, NSP Coordinator

Coalition Of
Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

December ONLY
Tuesday, December 12
5:30 p.m.

Gateway Community Center
1145 E. Cantrell, Decatur
please RSVP at
williams.hodge@comcast.net
if you can attend!

RSVP Volunteer Opportunities: We recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Primrose Retirement Community, and they are looking for volunteers to help call Bingo on Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (or on weekends), and to help serve ice cream from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. If you're interested but those days/times don't work, please reach out to Lea Cameron at 217.464.0273 or by email at lea.cameron@primroseretirement.com Primrose is located at 1145 W. Arbor Drive in Decatur!

Meals on Wheels Congregate Meal Program is looking for volunteers to help at their Christmas parties from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the following locations:

**The Woods Apartments
Tuesday, December 5**
**The Oxford House Apartments
Friday, December 8**
**Scovill Activities Center
Wednesday, December 13**

If interested in helping with any or all these parties, please call Kim Freund at 217.428.3459.



Kudos to the Kiwannians, (left) who made up beautiful cards for our Veterans for Veteran's Day. We made 50 goodie bags filled with cards, treats, miniature notebooks, pens, and other items, and delivered them to the local VA! Thanks to all who donated items toward this project!

A sincere thank you to the Macon and DeWitt County RSVP Advisory Councils for all their hard work this year on planning the appreciation luncheon, Days of Service, and in general for all that you

do in our communities. Thank you to ALL our RSVP volunteers for all your hard work and volunteer services. You are truly the foundation of our communities, and we would be lost without you.

Thank you to Patty Cain and Sandy Harmison, (right) both RSVP volunteers who made the drive to Bloomington for the annual IL RSVP Director's Conference on November 8 and sat on a panel of volunteers to talk about RSVP and how it helps the community.



WISH LIST FOR DOVE, INC. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

BABY / TODDLER:

- TEETHING RINGS
- STROLLERS (CAN BE UMBRELLA TYPE)
- PACK AND PLAY FOR BABIES TO SLEEP IN
- SIZE 4 & 5 DIAPERS
- ADVIL/MOTRIN (OR IBUPROFEN) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- LIQUID STOMACH MEDICINE FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- GENERIC NASAL DECONGESTANT FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- TYLENOL (OR GENERIC ACETAMINAPHEN) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- ORAJEL

BATHROOMS:

- AIR FRESHENER SPRAY
- FULL SIZE BATH TOWELS (NEW ONLY)

BEDROOMS:

- BEDSHEET SETS- TWIN SIZE (NEW ONLY)
- PILLOWS (NEW ONLY)
- NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMENS, ALL SIZES (NEW ONLY)
- SWEATSUITS- UNISEX, ALL SIZES (NEW ONLY)

GENERAL:

- GAS GIFT CARDS
- WALMART GIFT CARDS
- ALDI GIFT CARDS FOR SHELTER FOOD

KITCHEN:

- DISH SOAP
- DISPOSABLE CUPS, PLATES & BOWLS

ADULT PRODUCT NEEDS:

- ALEVE OR NAPROXEN
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC)
- NON-DROWSY ALLERGY MEDS (ZYRTEC/CLARITIN/ETC)
- HYDROCORTISONE CREAM
- MELATONIN TABLETS
- PREGNANCY TESTS
- LICE TREATMENT KITS
- MONISTAT
- VAGISIL
- IRON PILLS
- BODY WASH
- VASELINE
- CONTACT LENS MULTI-PURPOSE SOLUTION
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
- NAIL POLISH REMOVER
- NAIL CLIPPERS
- TOOTHPASTE
- MOUTHWASH (ALCOHOL FREE)

Dove Food Pantry



Thursdays

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

803 W. Leander, Clinton

(Please Note: the Food Pantry will be open each Thursday in December)

- This is a free service to anyone in DeWitt County.
- You can utilize the pantry once a month.
- When you arrive, you will need to show your ID.
- We also have diapers if you have a little one in your household - child must be living in the household.



You can 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*.

Please Note:

Staff Holidays

Christmas Eve 2023
observed Friday, December 22

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25, 2023

New Year's Eve, 2023
observed Friday, December 29

New Year's Day
Monday, January 1, 2024

The Shelter will be open and the hot-line numbers will be answered.

*Come and make a difference at the next
Resident Council Meeting!*



The Resident Council meeting is an opportunity for residents to freely discuss topics to improve the quality of life within their development.

Please join us:

- Let your voice be heard
- We want to discuss your concerns and suggestions within your community
- Come share your ideas of improvements for your community, surroundings and housing needs
- Ensure your views are acknowledged and addressed
- Let's talk safety

Date: Thursday, December 28, 2023

Location: Homeward Bound
788 E. Clay, Decatur

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Special activities in December will include lunch and a fun raffle!

