



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

April  
2024

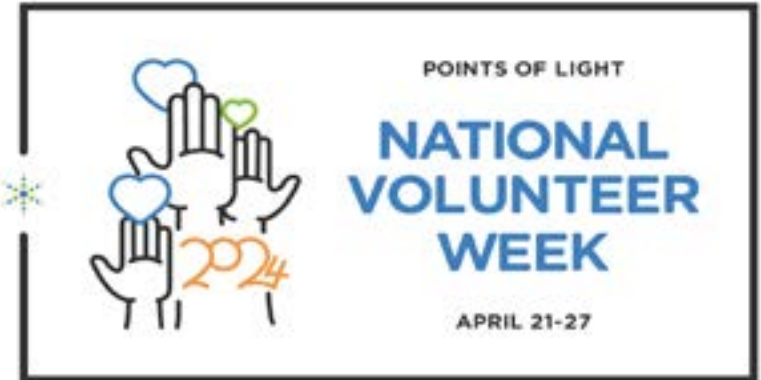
Barbara Blakey  
Editor

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

The Macon County  
Continuum of Care  
Community Breakfast  
was held March 28, at 8:00 a.m.  
at Millikin University

See the results shared of the  
2024 Point-In-Time, on page 3



*Thank you*  
*To all the Volunteers of Dove!*

*Your commitment to making our community a more compassionate place to live shows up daily as you volunteer your time for one of the many Dove programs. Dove was founded as a place to do intentional volunteering, to work in the community to make it a better place for all. Fifty-four years later, that can still be said of Dove Volunteers. Looking forward to the great works we all can achieve together in the months and years to come.*

*Not a volunteer yet? There is room for you here!*

## 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  
Tina Owens, Chief Operations Officer  
Barbara Blakey, Chief Communications Officer  
Vicki Wrigley, Chief Financial 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  
Christopher DeJaynes, 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



### A Different Kind of April Shower

This month I am writing this insert to inform the Dove Inc. supporters that Barb Blakey, Chief Communications Officer, has announced her plan to retire on or before April 24, 2024.

Barb has been with Dove, Inc. for 31 years and has been significantly instrumental in the well-established and positive community presence that the organization has maintained throughout the years. She has contributed to the growth and impact through a multitude of positions within the agency. Barb has served in the lead roles in the Community Services, RSVP, BABES, Volunteerism, Communications, the Dove Leadership Team, and so much more.

Barb's gracious vision for the organization has

always been aligned with Dove's Mission and has always been shown through her exemplary work ethic. Her professionalism and dedication throughout the years have been beyond stellar. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the organization, staff, and participant-centered services are shone in the light that truly reflects who Dove is as an organization. Barb's leadership over the years has provided mentorship reflective of great integrity and a rich history.

I have worked closely with Barb for many years and throughout that time I have been amazed by her devotion to Dove. She is always thinking about the good of the organization and how to improve upon its presence within the community. She provides a sense of morality that is often rare in today's society. Her role on Dove's Leadership Team, especially throughout the transition into my current role, has been more appreciated than I could ever possibly express. Additionally, and more importantly, Barb has been such a valuable and humble support system throughout some very rough patches for me and the agency. She is the definition of inimitable. In my opinion, currently, there is no other person within the organization more deserving of a "Job Well Done" than Barb! She truly deserves a never-ending and piercing standing ovation! Although I am sad that Dove is losing such a valuable and irreplaceable member of our family, I am happy for Barb and wish her all the best to come! Bring on the April Showers of a Different Kind!!

Barb has requested that there be no formal celebration.

Darsonya Switzer, CEO

MACON COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE  
**Community Breakfast**  
Thursday, March 28 2024 • 8:00 a.m.



[click for the complete survey](#)



Q&A Panel, Fred Spannaus, Christopher DeJaynes and Darsonya Switzer



above  
Millikin Students  
(see more on the  
students on the  
survey link) and  
right, RJ Podeschi,  
Dean of Tabor  
School of Business

## 2024 Macon County CoC Advocate of the Year: Macon County Continuum of Care Continuum Homeless Action Team (CHAT)

The Macon County Continuum of Care (CoC) is a partnership between multiple local entities, that focuses on addressing the needs of people facing housing crises in Macon County. The collaborations bring community providers together for one common goal – to end homelessness by providing housing and services to those in this community who endure housing insecurity.

Although some organizations within the CoC are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the majority of collaborators are not. Despite not being funded, these entities understand the importance of ensuring that time and effort are dedicated to committees that focus on specific areas of need which ultimately contributes to ending homelessness in this community. One such committee is the Continuum Homeless Action Team (CHAT).

The Continuum Homeless Action Team (CHAT) was created in 2016 as a sub-committee of the CoC to focus on tracking the unhoused population. Agencies that provide housing and/or services to the unhoused population meet every week to update and review a report containing the names and status of the individuals who have been “literally” homeless for 90 days or more in Macon County. “Literally Homeless” is defined as “someone staying in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., cars, parks, abandoned buildings, streets/sidewalks), shelter, exiting institution after fewer than 90 days.

Agencies that participate in CHAT include:

- Empowerment Opportunity Center
- Dove Homeward Bound
- God’s Shelter of Love
- Heritage Behavioral Health Center, including Intensive Support Services and Oasis Day Center
- The Salvation Army, including the Men’s Shelter and Supportive Services for Veteran Families.
- Decatur Public Library



Each agency is responsible for identifying a key staff person to represent their organization on the CHAT. Those representatives are responsible for relaying information discussed during CHAT to their coworkers and colleagues, thus expanding the base of providers who are collectively working on housing options and services for the individual.

**Purpose:** The purpose of CHAT is to collaborate and coordinate with community providers to identify and support those experiencing homelessness and move individuals into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

**Statistics:**

- # of people housed through the efforts of CHAT in 2023 – 30
- # of people housed since the subcommittee was formed in - 85

**Stellar point of interest:**

After more than 10 years of collaboration and building trust, the team was successful in housing someone who had been living in a tent on the streets for 10 years. With the assistance of this team and their compassionate effort to build trust, this individual moved into their apartment in November of 2023 and is thriving.

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## Dove's Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.  
Please call between March 13 and April 24 at noon • 217.428.6616

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

**TIME:** 8:00 a.m. to noon

**TRAINING DATES:** May 6-9, 13-16, 20-22, 2024

This training is for individuals who meet the criteria to volunteer at any of Dove's Domestic Violence Programs or who are seeking educational advancement for their employment.

Fee for this ICADV Certified Training is \$200.

### Our facilitators:

Joyce Kirkland

Program Director

Jamie L. Houchins

Victim Advocate

Danielle Cunningham

Education and Awareness Supervisor

### How can you lend a hand?

- Answering our hotlines
- Covering the shelter
- Reporting /data collection
- Assisting with orders of protection
- Assisting with/facilitating support groups



# NEWS

## from the Domestic Violence Program

### Growing in Service

Dove's Domestic Violence Program is going through a growth spurt! The program has been awarded two new grants that will allow us to provide better services for those affected by domestic violence.

The first grant funds new staff positions, including their training, office space adaptations and equipment, and the technology for them to do their jobs. We are in the process of hiring and training four new staff members under this grant – a Legal Advocate, as well as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Shelter Advocates. In addition, we are hiring for two currently-vacant staff positions - Parenting and Children's Advocate/Volunteer Lead and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Shelter Advocate. These much-needed staff members will provide relief for our current advocates, many of whom have been working overtime to cover all shelter shifts. More importantly, these new staff members will expand our advocacy, counseling, children's/parenting, and legal advocacy services so that we can better serve our program participants.

The second grant is focused upon accessible medical, mental health, and substance use services, as well as community education. Many individuals who seek such services wait for weeks – often months – to actually begin services. For a survivor of domestic violence trauma, such a wait is unbearable. This new grant funds a collaboration between Dove Domestic Violence Program, Heritage Behavioral Health Center, and Crossing Healthcare, bringing medical/mental

health/substance use services to our program participants in-house at Dove. Therapists from Heritage Behavioral provide weekly in-person and telehealth appointments for our participants and an RN from Crossing Healthcare provides bi-weekly medical consultations and services at Dove's Anna B. Millikin Shelter location. These professionals not only provide direct services to our participants, but offer additional appointments, referrals to doctors, and additional services according to each individual's needs. Having these services readily available at Dove is a dream come true – not only for the Domestic Violence Program, but for the survivors we serve. This grant also strengthens Dove's outreach programs by funding two Education and Awareness Specialists who will work in both the Domestic Violence and BABES programs to provide education in local schools to children and teens about teen dating violence, friendship, peer pressure, safety, and making good choices.

Amid the excitement of these new grants come MANY changes at Dove. Heritage and Crossing services have begun; new office spaces are being completed; six of eight new staff positions have been hired and four of those staff members have completed their 40-hour domestic violence training. Hiring continues for the remaining two positions. Our program is adjusting to all of these exciting and positive changes as we grow in service to our program participants and our community.

Joyce Kirkland  
Domestic Violence Program Director

## SHELTER NEEDS LIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

### *Desperate Need*

- Baby wipes
- Full size bath towels (new only)
- Bedsheet sets- twin size (new only)
- Pillows (new only)
- Comforters (new only)

### *High Need*

- Latex-free vinyl gloves (size large and xl)
- Clorox wipes
- Nightshirts- womens, all sizes (new only)
- Sweatsuits- unisex, all sizes (new only)
- Gas gift cards
- Walmart gift cards
- Kroger cards for gas and food
- Aldi gift cards for shelter food
- Aleve or naproxen
- Benadryl (or generic)
- Non-drowsy allergy meds (Zyrtec/Claritin/etc.)
- Cold and flu medicine
- Tylenol (or generic acetaminaphen) for infants and/or children
- Orajel
- Cold and flu medicine for infants and children
- Vaseline
- Cotton swabs
- Cotton balls
- African American hair care products (shampoo/ conditioner/etc.)
- Hair grease
- Hairbrushes – natural bristles
- Hairbrushes- nylon bristles
- Hair gel and hair spray
- Board games
- Card games

# NEWS

## from the Domestic Violence Program



Long time supporters of Dove, Alpha Chi Omega at Millikin University representatives stopped by with needed items for those coming into the Shelter to stay.

Thanks to this group and for the long history of ACO support to Dove!

It is hard to believe that the calendar is already turning over to April. April comes complete with the showers that bring the flowers in May, according to legend. It is hard to believe that this year, the year that seemed so shiny and new, is already 25% over. Have you made progress on the changes you set out to make on January first, the list of resolutions that promised so much positive change? If not, the advent of Spring and more beautiful weather is a great time to start. I have always loved the promise of rebirth that Spring brings with tree buds, new green leaves, and beautiful flowers. Birds are singing early in the morning and mama birds are sitting on their nests. It is a season of hope that I find intoxicating.

If one of the problems you hoped to change is related to current or past domestic violence, we are here to support and assist you as you contemplate change. Whether it is you, or someone you know, please reach out to us. Our crisis line number is 217.774.4888; our office line is 217.774.3121. Our services are free, confidential, and non-judgmental. Change can be hard, but so is living in a domestic violence situation. Choose your hard. We will strive to make change as easy as possible for you.

Susie Kensil,  
Shelby County Coordinator

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

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

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

**Attention RSVP Volunteers!**

*Please Save the Date:*

**RSVP Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**  
**Thursday, August 22**  
**5:00 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

Details to come!  
We will begin taking reservations in July.

## Children's Clothing Room



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

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

Free clothing, yes really free, for infants through teens

Thanks to the members of RSVP  
who serve at the clothing room!





# BABES

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and this quote from Mother Teresa exemplifies BABES volunteers.

*"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."*

Kind words can be short and easy to speak... BABES volunteers enter their classrooms with smiles, cheery greetings, sharing important information in each lesson, taking time to listen to what children have to say and share what they have learned. But their echoes are truly endless... we may never know what impact the BABES programming has on a child,

but I do know that a smile and kind word can be impactful for anyone.

I am thankful to be able to work with these dedicated volunteers, Patty Cain, Tami Crouch, Marcia Juriga, Janet Lyman, Kim Stahl, and Debbie Vick. Also, to our newest volunteer, Cindy Landacre, who will begin presenting at Parsons this month.

This month, BABES programming will be presented at Baum, McGaughey, Parsons, and Sangamon Valley Primary.

Many things are being planned for the BABES program this summer, next school year and Red Ribbon Week. I will

continue to update you on these plans.

If you think that you might be interested in making a difference in a child's life and becoming a BABES volunteer join us for **Coffee Time, Thursday, June 6, 10:00 at Paneras, Decatur**. There you can find out about BABES volunteer options and meet with current volunteers.

Contact me at [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org) if you are interested or have any questions.

Sandy Laesch  
BABES Interim Program Coordinator

# RSVP

## Upcoming Events

Growing Strong Sexual Assault's

Annual

Take Back the Night

April 18, 5:30 p.m.

beginning in Central Park

downtown Decatur

### *Building Connected Communities*

*Growing Strong is an RSVP station and is always  
in need of volunteers and supporters*

RSVP Volunteers, Save the Date!

### White Elephant Bingo

Friday, May 24, 2024, 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Salvation Army's Community Room

*Snacks and drinks will be provided  
(feel free to bring some of your own if you wish)*

*Please bring a white elephant gift for a Bingo  
prize. If you bring a friend who is eligible for  
RSVP and enrolls that afternoon, you will get a  
raffle ticket for a special prize!*

*No RSVP's necessary! Come and go as you  
please for this event, but come out and have  
fun with us if you're able and available!*

## Dove Food Pantry



**Tuesdays  
& 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, 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*.**

# ***Dove Financial Assistance***

***Donations 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](http://doveinc.org)***

***Please put DFA on check memo line  
or in the comment box.***

I am excited to share that DFA Advisory Council had our first meeting in March! This is something that we have not had since before Covid, so it was great to begin again. I am grateful for the various members that are on the council that will help the program serve the community in the best way possible! The Advisory Council will be working on a fundraiser soon, so be on the lookout for those details.

Don't forget to check if you qualify for Warm Neighbors Cool Friends, WNCF, or to share the information with people you know. If you meet the income criteria, and the other guidelines of the program, then WNCF can match payments on your Ameren account from the past 45 days up to \$500! This amount will lessen beginning June 1, as well as add additional qualifying criteria. So, if you haven't applied yet, now is the time to do so! This program is funded by the Energy Assistance Foundation, and we are able to disburse the funds for Macon, DeWitt, and Piatt Counties.

Some changes to the DFA schedule for Macon County will be made in May to allow Char, our DFA Specialist for Macon County, the ability to attend the Domestic Violence 40-hour training. This training will be beneficial for those times when participants of our programs within Dove cross. Please make sure to note the changes in our Spring Hours.

Molly Tenuto, DFA Program Director



photos  
from the  
recent  
Community  
Financial  
Resource  
Night

# Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance

## DFA Spring Hours • April 1 to May 24

*Please note:*

DFA will be closed on all holidays recognized by Dove, Inc.  
No DFA 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday AFTERNOONS of any month

### Macon County Sites:

**Macon County: Decatur Public Library:**

**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.**  
(not there on May 8, 15 or 21)

**Dove Office at 302 S. Union St:**

**Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Thursdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

(only in the afternoon on May 9 & 16)

**[DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.619.9108**

**Contact Info for sites below:** [DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.433.7435

### Shelby County Site:

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

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

### Moultrie County Site:

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

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

### Piatt County Site:

**First Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, Monticello**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

### DeWitt County Site:

**Dove, 803 W. Leander, Clinton**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**



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 (April 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](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org)
- Please visit [www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org) for a list of our walk-in hours and locations or see left.



Neighborhoods are waking up and stretching this spring. Torrence Park Neighborhood is collaborating once again and looking forward to their annual gardening as President Wendy Taylor prepares for their summer camp. NUA neighborhood recently received their Articles of Incorporation moving toward their 501c3 and we continue to move forward with meetings and plans for the SIA garden, having many resources on board to train and support the efforts because it is a large area! U of I Extension's Sarah Vogel was with us at the most recent SIA garden meeting sharing her expert insights and offering to help in various ways. She will be a great asset for this garden and has agreed to support plans for Torrence Park garden, also!

We are excited to see the BABES program is adding some new faces, as favored pro Tami Crouch and I

recently finished up at Johns Hill School. I am personally so grateful for Tami's support, compassion and the expertise she brings each time she volunteers with the BABES Program! Upon BABES Interim Coordinator Sandy Laesch returning from some hopefully refreshing time away, as she continued to plan and prepare, there are still many more BABES presentations set to begin in schools around the city and we are excited for a new program beginning in the parks this summer!

In the month of April we hope to see more showers of blessings as NSP continues to move forward in sharing information from Dove and working in collaboration for the good of Decatur!

LeAnn Ellis  
NSP Coordinator

## Coalition Of Neighborhood Organizations Meeting

April 16, 2024

(3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

5:30 p.m.

Decatur Public Library  
130 N. Franklin  
Decatur



# RSVP

April 21 – 27 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week and I want to take the time to say thank you to every single RSVP and Christmas Care and Share volunteer, past and present, for all that you have done and are doing for DeWitt and Macon County communities. You don't get enough credit for all of the amazing things that you do out of the goodness of your heart. Please know that we here at Dove, Inc. recognize and appreciate all your efforts and hard work.

Kathy Walters, RSVP Macon County Coordinator, has announced she'll be retiring as of May 2! She will be greatly missed by staff, RSVP and Christmas Care and Share volunteers alike. In her last two years in this role, she has done a marvelous job working with volunteers and volunteer managers in their various roles around Macon county, as well as coordinating and maintaining the operations and schedule for volunteers at the Children's Clothing Room. Before she was in RSVP, she was the Coordinator for the Senior Companion Program, and previous to that she worked in the domestic violence program as an advocate.

Kathy, thank you for all you've done for the agency since you began in 2017! Congrats on your retirement and we wish you the best in this new season in your life.

Melissa Girardi will be taking on the role of RSVP Macon County Coordinator as Kathy transitions into retirement.

Melissa has been with Dove since 2018, first as a domestic violence advocate, then as our office manager, and currently as our financial administrator, and we are excited for her to be in this new role. We know she'll do an amazing job!



Silvia Comfort  
DeWitt County Coordinator

Kathy Walters  
Macon County Coordinator

I also want to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to one of the people who has been an absolutely vital piece of Dove since long before I even started at the agency: Barb Blakey. Barb is retiring later this month, and she, too, will be greatly missed. Barb, thank you for your kindness, your patience and listening skills, and the countless pieces of advice you've given me (and many others) over the years. Thank you for all you've done for the last 31 years here at the agency – your heart and spirit are truly golden. I wish you the best for your retirement.

Angie Williams, RSVP Director

# RSVP Volunteer Needs

## DeWitt County Volunteer Opportunities:

The **DeWitt County Animal Shelter** is looking for volunteers to assist with:

- feeding the animals around 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon
- transporting animals in the shelter's van to the U of I Champaign and back to shelter
- office help

The **Clinton United Methodist Church** needs volunteers to:

- assist with packing on Wednesdays for the backpack program for the elementary schools
- donate of individual servings of peanut butter crackers, cheese "toasty" crackers, Rice Krispie treats for the program

**Volunteer drivers** are needed to transport individuals to medical appointments. If interested, please reach out to Silvia at 217.935.2241 or email her at [scomfort@doveinc.org](mailto:scomfort@doveinc.org).

## Macon County Volunteer Opportunities:

**Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity** is in urgent need of volunteers to help make phone calls to Macon County businesses regarding their upcoming fundraiser. Volunteers can do this from one of the Habitat office phones Monday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please contact Stephanie at 217.425.6446 Ext. 2.

The **BABES (Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies)** program has several volunteer opportunities. There are two types of volunteers, BABES Presenter Volunteers and BABES Auxiliary Volunteers. Presenters are trained to go into the classroom and present to K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders. There are two types of Auxiliary Volunteers, Events and Preparation. If you might be interested or would like more information about any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Sandy Laesch, BABES Interim Program Coordinator, at [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org)

**CHELP** helps to provide services and assistance to keep older people in their own homes rather than in assisted living or skilled nursing facilities. They are requesting volunteers to help make friendly phone calls to seniors to check on them. Computer knowledge is helpful but not required. If you are interested, please reach out to Julie at CHELP at 217.422.9888.

## Sangamon River Clean-up

Rock Springs Conservation Area  
Meet at Information Shelter Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Help clear trash from the banks of the Sangamon River to make it a safer and more beautiful place for wildlife and people. Dress to get dirty and bring your own gloves. Bags will be provided. Come by yourself or bring the whole family. Co-sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. No registration required.

## Festival of Spring at Rock Springs

Conservation Area on Saturday, April 27, noon to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are wanted to help in a variety of areas during the annual Festival of Spring. Volunteer stations include canoe rodeo, activity stations, prize table, photography, farmhouse tours, and more! This volunteer opportunity is for ages 13 and up. For more information or to sign up, contact Jenny Garver, [JGarver@MaconCountyConservation.org](mailto:JGarver@MaconCountyConservation.org) direct office line: 217.542.5536, by April 19.

**God's Shelter of Love** is needing help at their thrift store, Blessingdales. They need someone to test electronics to see if they work, clean and sort purses and shoes and stock these items on the sales floor. If anyone is interested, they should email Carolann at [blessingdales345@gmail.com](mailto:blessingdales345@gmail.com).

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, April 11, 2024

**Location:** Decatur Public Library  
Staley Room

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.



**all in:**

Macon County Inter-Agency Council

Please join us at the **all in** gathering!

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month ■ NOON to 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming Dates: April 23 & May 28

Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur  
Corner of Monroe and William Street, near downtown Decatur.  
Please park in main lot, come in main entrance and proceed to lower level fellowship hall

**For more information,  
please call:**

*Molly Tenuto or Angie Williams*  
Dove, Inc.  
217.428.6616

or email  
[mtenuto@doveinc.org](mailto:mtenuto@doveinc.org)  
[awilliams@doveinc.org](mailto:awilliams@doveinc.org)

Join us for networking and sharing information:

- program coordinators
- direct service providers
- information sharers

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, NOON**

- We will keep the gathering to an hour.
- Feel free to bring your lunch.
- No membership fees.