



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

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



September 2018

Barbara Blakey  
Editor

Issue 1809  
Published Monthly

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.

## Meet the RSVP Staff!



**Charlie Gillaspie**  
Program Director



**Debra Hoffman**  
DeWitt County Coordinator



**Sandra Harmison**  
Program Specialist

Sponsored by Dove, Inc. since 1976, RSVP offers individuals 55+ opportunities to match their skills and talents with not for profit organizations, health care facilities and public agencies, to meet a variety of community needs through various volunteer services.

- ✿ You choose how and where you want to serve.
- ✿ You choose the amount of time you want to give.
- ✿ You choose whether you want to draw on your skills or develop new ones.
- ✿ We help you find the opportunity that's right for you.

✿ *check out RSVP Volunteer Opportunities on page 5*

✿ *make sure you get your ticket to the Flapjack Fundraiser on September 8, see page 8*



✿ *See how you can help out the 9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance, details on page 8*

✿ *plans are in the works for the Annual RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on September 20*



**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

Community Services Program  
Sattin Schreiner, Community Engagement 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  
Liz Mackey, Piatt 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  
Debra Hoffman, 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,

One of Dove, Inc.'s program areas provides services to the Homeless population of Macon County. A common myth exists about the homelessness issues occurring in our community. "We are such a generous community that people come here for our services." "People come to Decatur and bring their problems with them." Or some variation therein.

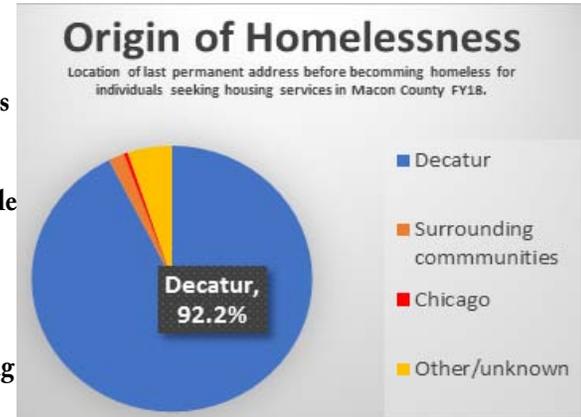
Our local Continuum of Care to End Homelessness has been working with clients and seeing some significant successes in helping individuals and families to obtain and maintain housing in recent years. Our known chronically homeless population is down to the single digits. Our veteran's homelessness is at functional zero, meaning if we find them we can house them typically within a day. Of course, we still struggle alongside some challenging clients with addictions and criminal histories and similar barriers, but we are making headway every day. Yet, we still hear on a regular basis about people who "come to Decatur."

To combat this common misperception, I would like to provide some data from our Continuum Management Information System (also known as HMIS). This system used by agencies and organizations across Macon County is used to document services provided. Among other information we collect, the zip code where a person last had a permanent address prior to becoming homeless is recorded. Of the 1354 individuals provided housing services for homeless or formerly homeless in the last year 1248 or 92.2% had homes in Decatur and became homeless here. Another 25 came from surrounding communities in Macon, DeWitt, and Shelby Counties. 1 family came from Arkansas, and 2 from Chicago. In our chronically homeless population we had some who had been homeless long enough that they could not recall their last address. Still, all told just 7% of the Homeless and formerly Homeless population seeking services could not trace their last known address to Decatur.

None of us like to think of this happening to our friends and our neighbors, so of course it is tempting to hold onto the myth of transient homelessness. However, our community needs understand that this is a homegrown problem, and it will take homegrown solutions to turn things around. This is our home, these are our people, this is our problem.

The next Homeless Advisory Council meeting will be September 13, 1:30 p.m. at 788 East Clay. We will be discussing National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week plans and agency services updates. These bimonthly meetings are open to anyone interested in working on solutions and ending homelessness in Decatur and Macon County. To explore how you can grow with us towards the future, please reach out to our Volunteer & Community Relations Director, Barb Blakey. Dove, Inc. is only as strong as its member organizations, volunteers, and advocates. Thank you for working to make our home a community of neighbors with hope for anyone in need.

Sincerely,  
Christine Gregory



# YOU CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE

## Dove's Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

*Why is this happening?*

*What causes domestic violence?*

*How do we stop it?*

*What happens to the perpetrator?*

*What happens to the victim?*

*Will justice prevail?*

*What can I do?*

Dove's program is always in need of volunteers, to assist in answering our hotline, covering the shelter, clerical tasks, assisting with orders of protection, co-facilitating support groups, and more.

### Location •

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

### Dates & Times •

Monday - Thursday afternoons, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

September 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, & 26

### How to Register •

Complete a phone interview between August 6 and September 4  
call 217.428.6616

### Training Fee

\$150 (some scholarships are available)

Joyce Kirkland  
Youth and Family  
Services Coordinator



Meet our  
Certified Trainers



Jared Bohland  
Client Services  
Coordinator

**WELCOME to new staff member,  
Tyonna Adams!**

**Tyonna is one of our Shelter Specialists.  
She who began working in the Domestic Violence Program  
on Monday, August 20.  
We are happy to have you as part of our team!**

**We are pleased to announce  
Liz Mackey as our new  
Domestic Violence Piatt County Coordinator!**

**The office is located at 121 N. State Street in  
Monticello. The 24-hour Hotline Number is  
217.762.2122 and the business number 217.762.2123.**

**Liz has been very busy introducing herself to  
agencies and individuals within the community.**



**Look for the Dove Informational  
Booth at the Monticellobration  
2018 on September 29, from 11:00  
a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**There will be a Candlelighting Ceremony in October  
recognizing National Domestic Violence Awareness  
Month, see page 15.**

**Thank you to everyone for your support and  
receptiveness in the opening of our Dove office in  
Monticello.**

# 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.**



**We received a nice selection of  
children's books that have been  
removed from circulation in the  
Maroa Public Library. These books  
will be available for their forever  
homes with clothing room  
families soon.**



## *Volunteer Opportunities*

**Are you ready to begin the 9<sup>th</sup> year of packaging foods?**

**Please mark your calendar to help with the Backpack Food Program for the Blue Ridge School District #18 serving Farmer City, Mansfield and Bellflower students.**

**2018-2019 Backpack Food Program  
Packing Date: September 12, 2018  
We will continue to package the food at 1:45 p.m. in the Ag Room of the Blue Ridge Senior High School in Farmer City. The Ag Room is located on the north side of the high school. If you have any questions call Alice Jones 217.870. 1484. New Volunteers are always welcome!**

**Event Specialist Needed for local community radio station 107.9. They are seeking outgoing personalities who love to meet new people and share a positive community attitude. One or two persons needed for flyer/**

**information distribution during special events. If this is something that you would enjoy, call Charlie or Sandy at 217.428.6616. You can be added to call list when needed for these occasions.**

**Rock Springs has a few openings for greeters at the Nature Counter (Information Desk). Volunteers man the desk Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. They are looking to have a few people willing to fill in during regulars' vacation time or health issues. Background check required. Call Charlie or Sandy to get started, 217.428.6616.**

**Dove's Children's Clothing Room is always in need of an extra pair of hands to help. Just once a month can make the difference for a family in need. Call Sandy Harmison at 217.428.6616.**

**RSVP covers the volunteers needs the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday in any given month at Good Samaritan Inn. Our next scheduled coverage will be October 29. There are two shifts to choose from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. Call Sandy to be part of the call list for the months this service opportunity comes around, 217.428.6616.**

**New stations coming soon! Be sure to watch our weekly email updates for announcement of our newest stations and the opportunities they have for great volunteers. Our newest opportunities will be for Macon Resources, Inc. We are excited for them to be joining RSVP as a community station that gives volunteers more opportunities.**

# Community Services Program

Sharing news from the Neighborhoods!

## Neighborhood Meetings

### CONO

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday • 5:30 p.m.  
Decatur Public Library

### Nelson/Lions Park Neighborhood Association

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday • 6:30 p.m.  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church

### Clokey Park Neighborhood Association

4<sup>th</sup> Monday • 7:00 p.m.  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church

### Millikin Heights

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday • 7:00 p.m.  
Central Christian Church

### Fans Field

Neighborhood Association  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday • 6:30 p.m.  
Decatur Housing Authority

### Old Kings Orchard

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday • 5:30 p.m.  
OKO Community Center

### West End

Neighborhood Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday • Quarterly  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Neighborhood Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday • Quarterly  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

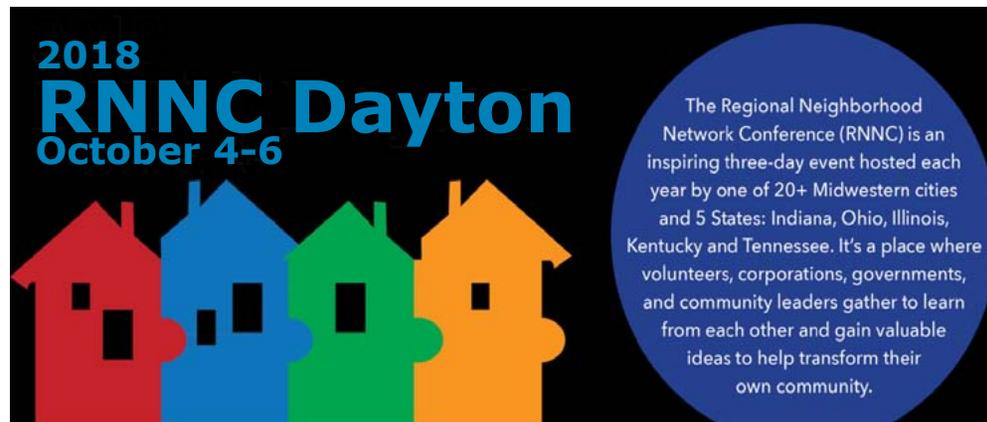
### Greenwood Area

Neighborhood Organization  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday • 7:00 p.m.  
Coates Park Building

### Torrence Park

Neighborhood Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday • 7:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Church

Contact Sattin Schreiner  
Community Engagement Coordinator  
for additional information about  
Community Services Program  
[dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)



## Regional Neighborhood Networking Conference

October 4-6 • Dayton, Ohio

**General Admission Tickets • \$133.87**  
available through September 6  
**Late Admission Tickets • \$ 154.97**  
available September 7 - October 6

**The RNNC 3 day conference brings together community leaders and volunteers from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee, to network and share ideas and information in order to improve their communities. Participants get to choose from several workshops focused on health, wealth, education, or leadership, experience tours of neighborhoods and other sites in Dayton, and enjoy several keynote speakers.**

[www.rnnconference.com](http://www.rnnconference.com)



**27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Coats for Kids!**

**October 17  
through  
November 30**

sponsored by



**and Dove!**

***Watch for participating  
cleaners, clothing  
rooms and drop off  
sites!***

***Help make it a warmer  
winter for all!***



*Mark your calendar  
for the 2018  
Heritage  
& Holly  
Historic Home Tour*

*Friday  
November 23  
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.*

*&*

*Saturday  
November 24  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

*Your ticket donation  
will support  
the many programs of  
Dove, Inc.*

*Watch for tickets sites in  
November!*

# *2018 Allegiance Concert*



**Sunday, November 11, 2018 • 3:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church, 1320 Arbor Drive, Decatur**

**Free Admission**

**Please bring canned goods or warm items to  
assist our neighbors in Decatur and  
Macon County.**

**Sponsored by  
First Baptist Church & Dove, Inc.**



## *Lots of Fun for September!*

Have you RSVP'd for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon yet? Be sure to respond soon to be included in this year's event. Deadline is September 13. If no invitation was received, please call our office to inquire immediately as sometimes those invites do get lost along the way.

Also, nomination forms for your favorite volunteer or station are due very soon. If you need help completing the form or don't have one just give us a call. We accept nominations by email, snail mail, and fax.

### Cruise 11 for 9-11

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruise 11 will take place Sunday, September 9, in Downtown Decatur at Central Park. Join them to honor of 9-11 and First Responders while enjoying Car and Bike Show, Entertainment, and more!! Registration for Car Show starts at 8:00 a.m. Flyers and registration forms available at the RSVP office.

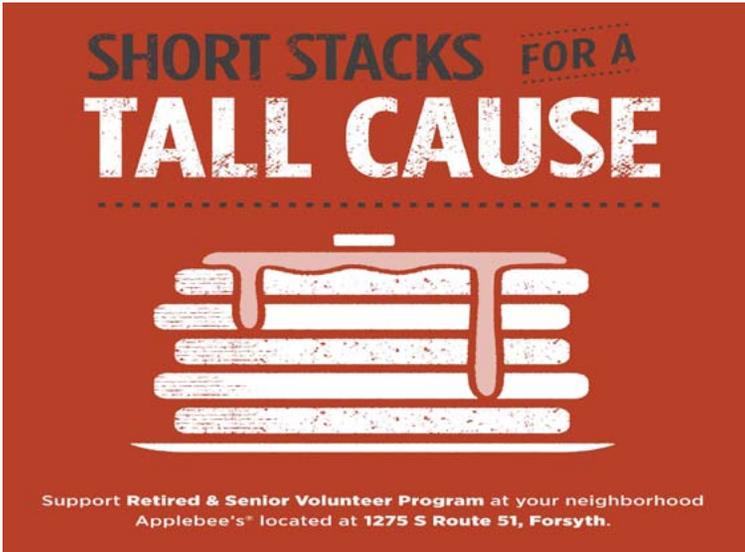
### 9-11 Day of Service and Remembrance

We are collecting snacks for the September 25 Honor Flight. There is still time for you to help us honor their service and sacrifice. Donations will be taken through September 10 at the Dove offices. Suggested items that travel well are:

- cheese crackers
- peanut butter and cheese crackers
- nut packs (peanuts, variety packs)
- Tootsie Rolls
- cookie packs (Keeblers, Chips Ahoy, Nutter Butters, Fig Newtons, Vanilla Wafer Cookies, Nabisco mini snack packs)
- Rice Krispies Treats
- hard wrapped candies

\*Please no individual bag chips or chocolate bars or candies as they do not travel well.

*Just a friendly reminder ~ the RSVP office is closed for Labor Day.*



## **Applebee's Short Stacks for a Tall Cause**

We kick off our busiest month of the year with our Applebee's Flap Jack Fundraiser, September 8, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., at Applebee's in Forsyth.

Tickets are just \$5.00 for a great pancake and bacon breakfast with drink served by awesome RSVP volunteers. Tickets available in advance at the Decatur office, 302 S. Union St.

*Tickets are limited so be sure to get them soon!*

# 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.**

### **Coordinated Entry:**

Please contact the Homeward Bound office Monday-Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for issues of homelessness or at 217.362.7700. After-hours, please call 217.619.5742.

### **Employability:**

Dove, Inc. has **PAID** employment training opportunities available for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Please call 217.362.7700 to learn more.

### **Life Skills:**

Dove, Inc. offers weekly life skills and budgeting classes for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Please call 217.362.7700 to learn more.

### **Needed items:**

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

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Baby Wipes

## **Homeless Advisory Council Continuum of Care (HAC/CoC) Meeting**

**Thursday, September 13  
1:30 p.m.**

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will be the topic of discussion. Please join us!

### **Meeting Location:**

Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay, Decatur

### **Contact:**

Darsonya Switzer, 217.362.7700,  
for further information

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Dine to Donate! Texas Roadhouse**

**Thursday, November 29  
to support the clients in the  
Homeward Bound Program**

# MAX

Macon County Assistance eXchange

Helping with emergency financial assistance for families/individuals in need

## MAX Hours

Dates and Times for September through December.

MAX will be closed September 3 - 7 and reopen September 10.

**Site:**

**Decatur First United Methodist Church, 201 W. North, Decatur**

**Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Site:**

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

**Hours:**

**Tuesday Mornings, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Warm Neighbors Cool Friends**

**Site:**

**Homeward Bound Offices,  
788 E. Clay, Decatur**

**Hours:**

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

**Site:**

**The Good Samaritan Inn,  
920 N. Union Street, Decatur**

**Hours:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month,  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Site:**

**Prairie Avenue Christian Church,  
2201 E. Prairie, Decatur**

**Hours:**

**Wednesday Mornings, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

WARM NEIGHBORS ♥ COOL FRIENDS

WNCF is located with the MAX Program for Macon and DeWitt Counties. Below are the Income Guidelines for Weatherization and Bill Payment Assistance.

NEW 2018-2019

Warm Neighbors/ Cool Friends  
Income Guidelines

As of June 8, 2018, ONLY for Seniors (those 60 and over) and disabled with a doctor's letter stating they need a/c for medical reasons. The matched payment is now \$200.00. Must show proof of income between:

Family Size 30 Day (GROSS) Income Range  
Must be between:

1	\$1,518-\$3,036
2	\$2,058-\$4,116
3	\$2,598-\$5,196
4	\$3,138-\$6,276
5	\$3,678-\$7,356
6	\$4,218-\$8,436
7	\$4,758-\$9,516
8	\$5,298-\$10,596

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 pay stubs.





# The PATHS We Take

for acceptance and connection

The Decatur Public Library & Set Free - Macon County invite the community to discover the stories of individuals exploited by human trafficking.

## **Begin the journey in the Madden Auditorium**

Follow their journeys throughout the library in this educational experience.

**Saturday, September 1st,  
12:00-4:00 pm**





*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 217.428.6616 or [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)*



## Volunteer Organizational League

The next Volunteer Organizational League meeting (VOL) is September 11, noon, at the Growing Strong Offices at 270 West Prairie Avenue.

Bring your lunch and come join the conversation with other volunteer managers.

September's meeting will concentrate on details for a Volunteer Opportunities Fair to be held in October.

Give Charlie Gillaspie, Dove, 217.428.6616 or Jenny Garver with MCCD Rock Springs, 217.423.7708, a call for more information.

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

## Domestic Violence Shelter Needs:

- strollers - new
- Pack 'n Play - new
- gas gift cards
- Walmart gift cards
- Kroger gift cards
- Aldi gift cards
- African American hair products
- journals
- art supplies
- alarm clocks
- box fans
- towels and washcloths - new
- pillows - new
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- hair dryers
- new potty chairs
- potty chair rings
- hair brushes - natural and nylon bristles

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

[DomesticShelters.org](http://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  
[doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org)

# Our Bouquet of Thanks

from the Domestic Violence Program



*Thanks to employees of Monsanto for choosing us as one of their sites for Monsanto Gives Back Day. They tackled many jobs in the shelter -along with helping the BABES and RSVP program!*



*BIG THANK YOU to Kim, Michael and Stephen Akers and all the members and participants of the Villa Grove Car Show that was held on August 4! As Director of Dove's Domestic Violence Program, and on behalf of all our staff, volunteers, and clients, I want to thank you all so very much from choosing our program to be the recipient of your fundraiser!!! In talking with Kim, I learned that this car show started 9 years ago with only 65 cars, and at this recent event there were 181 cars, with one participant driving as far as 380 miles, all the way from Hartsville, AL! Your very generous monetary donation, as well as the domestic violence Avon necklaces, Avon body cream and lotions, domestic violence handheld folding fans, domestic violence awareness stickers, t-shirts from the walk you also had, and the beautiful bag is so very much appreciated! Thank you very much for thinking of us and supporting our program! Many blessings to you all!*

*Teri Ducy  
Domestic Violence Program Director*



# BABES

Thank you to Cluney John and Marcia Juriga, BABES volunteers, and my granddaughters for their help on August 2 - folding parent letters and getting puppets ready for the school year.

Thank you to Monsanto volunteers, during their Gives Back Day, who stapled and folded BABES handouts and parent letters.

Thank you to Millikin students participating in the United Way's Day of Action by getting teacher packet materials and puppet pages ready for the school year.

## *Looking Ahead:*

BABES Volunteer training on Monday, September 10, 9:00 to 12:30 p.m. in the Dean Simcox Conference Center. Please contact Sandy Laesch if you are interested at [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org) or call 217.428.6616, ext. 126.

"Coffee Times" are scheduled at Panera's from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Friday, September 7

Tuesday, October 9

Thursday, November 15

Red Ribbon Week Campaign, October 23 -31 for BABES schools.

This year's theme is "Life is Your Journey... Travel Drug Free."

Contact with participating schools has started and volunteers will be in schools starting in September. The puppets, volunteers and I are looking forward to a busy year!

Sandy Laesch, BABES Program Coordinator

## Volunteer Needs

seeking volunteers for the Domestic Violence Program

### Back to School

Now that your kids are back in school and you find yourself with a little extra time on your hands, looking for something to do, we are still in need of people in the community who would like to be a part of our Committee Against Domestic Violence. We meet approximately 1 hour each month and an occasional fundraiser. If you would like support the DeWitt County Dove Domestic Violence Program, please contact Jennifer Tolladay at 217.935.6619.

### Food Pantry

We are looking for volunteers to assist in our food pantry as a way of giving back to our community. The Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping out, we would be glad to have you as a volunteer!! Please call Jennifer at 217.935.6619.

### Shelter

Is your group, Girl Scout or Boy Scout Troop, etc. looking for a project to do? The entrance area, outside the main entrance to the Shelter, could certainly use some touching up. If you could give a few hours, pulling weeds and sprucing up this area, please contact Barb Blakey, Director of Volunteers and Community Relations, at 217.428.6616.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Dine to Donate!**  
**Texas Roadhouse**

**Monday, October 22**  
**to support the clients in the**  
**Domestic Violence Program**

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

**Please mark your calendar and join us at one or all of our  
Annual Candlelighting Ceremonies,  
in recognition of  
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.  
All our events are open to the public.**

## **Shelby County**

**Thursday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church, 201 N. Chestnut, Shelbyville**

## **DeWitt County**

**Thursday, October 11, 6:00 p.m.**

**Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Mulberry St., Clinton**

## **Macon County**

**Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.**

**New Vision Church, 550 N. Van Dyke St., Decatur**

## **Piatt County**

**Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.**

**1st Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, St. Monticello**

## **Moultrie County**

**Thursday October, 25, 7:00 p.m.**

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

## **DeWitt County Food Pantry**

**803 W. Leander, Clinton**

**Open**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

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

**The pantry is open to all residents in DeWitt County who are in need of food. We also provide assistance with diapers.**

## **DAX Program**

**The DAX program still has funds available for anyone seeking help with an one-time financial emergency. Come into the DeWitt County Dove office for an application and more details. You must provide proof of the bill (shut off notice for a utility bill, eviction notice for rent) and proof of some sort of income.**

**We also have Warm Neighbors/ Cool Friends at Dove in Clinton. Contact Shane Hartman for details at 217.935.6619. He is in the Clinton Office on Tuesday mornings.**

# 2018 Christmas Baskets

With Fall rapidly approaching, those of us at Dove and Northeast Community Fund have begun the initial stages of preparing for our joint Christmas Baskets Program. It probably seems early to most people, but there's a lot of work to be done before Baskets week arrives! An initial email has gone out to the other agencies that we work with and provide basket referrals, to confirm they're going to participate this year. Flyers and informational handouts are getting a fresh look this year, the request for donation letter is being re-written, donations are already being collected at both agencies.

There will be a lot more information coming out in the next few months as Christmas draws closer, but for now, here are some facts and dates to think about.

Last year:

- We served 335 families with baskets, which equaled 1373 individuals being assisted
- 14 families were adopted out by other individuals or groups
- 48 volunteers completed 288.75 hours of work during baskets week

This year, we will need donations of:

- Toys and gifts (for ages infant – 17 years old, unwrapped, new and unused)
- Stocking stuffers (candy, Goldfish snacks, little toys and games)
- Wrapping paper (partial rolls are a-okay!) & rolls of Scotch tape
- Gift bags (all sizes)
- Hygiene supplies (shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, etc. – all new please)

- Books (new, for any and all ages)
- Big, heavy duty black garbage bags
- Hats and gloves (all sizes from infant to adult)
- Stockings
- Gift cards for families (gas cards are requested often, but gift cards to Walmart, Krogers, etc. are also appreciated)
- Financial donations (in order to purchase gifts and things that we may be short on)

Some dates to mark on your calendar if you're interested in volunteering or donating:

- We would like to have all donations in by Tuesday, December 18. Before December 14, the above listed items can be brought to 302 S. Union at either the front or back entrance of the building, after the 14<sup>th</sup>, please deliver to the basement of Decatur First United Methodist Church at 201 W. North Street. Any and all food donations should be delivered to Northeast Community Fund at 825 N. Water St.
- We will need volunteers to sort, count and shop on December 17, 18, & 19 (Monday – Wednesday)
- Volunteers to begin assembling baskets on December 19 & 20 (Wednesday & Thursday)
- Volunteers to help clean up and move things back to 302 S. Union on Friday, December 21
- Volunteers to deliver baskets to families on Saturday, December 22, between 8:30 and noon

If you have any questions or would like to help out or donate, please feel free to call Angie, Dove's Christmas Baskets Coordinator, at 217.428.6616. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming weeks and months!