



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

February 2023

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

In February, our thoughts turn to love – Valentine’s Day celebrations, gifts, flowers, and candy are just some of the ways we express our feelings to those we love. However, when you are young and in your first serious relationship, love can be confusing and intimidating. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, a special, teen-centered focus on love and healthy vs. unhealthy relationships.

Dove Domestic Violence Program provides teen dating violence education to high school and middle school teens in schools throughout the DeWitt, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby county area. In our presentations, we provide information on power and control, the cycle of abuse, abuse warning signs, and how to seek help. However, the primary focus of our interactions with teens is to help them explore who they are and what they want in relationships, and to give them the tools to make informed relationship choices. Over and over, teens tell us they value respect,

honesty, trust, equality, safety, healthy boundaries, and good communication in their relationships. Dove’s facilitators guide discussions on physical, emotional, and digital boundaries and provide in-depth guidance on safety, including safety when online.

If you are an educator, parent, or teen who would like to learn more about Dove’s teen dating violence education presentations, call Joyce Kirkland at 217.428.6616. For crisis assistance or to talk to a trained staff member or volunteer about your relationship, call Dove’s Domestic Violence Hotline at 217.423.2238. Throughout February, watch Dove’s social media for informational posts about teen dating violence.

Joyce Kirkland
Client and Family Services Supervising Coordinator
Domestic Violence Program

more information on page 3

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

Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program

FILLED, Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Andrea Kocher, Piatt County Coordinator

Homeward Bound

Charo Covington, Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program

LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Angie Williams, Program Director

Kathy Walters, Macon County Coordinator

Dustin Depperschmidt, DeWitt County Coordinator



...and the greatest of these is LOVE! That four-letter word is one of the most impactful statements that some of us could ever hear. What's even more astounding is the feeling that love generates when it comes from a place of sincerity. The roads that bring many people to the doors of Dove, Inc. have been paved with everything directly opposite of "love". Their dreams and hopes have often been out shadowed by the circumstance of their crisis at hand. The feeling of "love" has often been forgotten, or at best conflated, when one experiences a less than loving encounter in their world. This is why it warms my heart to witness the love that is consistently spread throughout the Dove Community. It is evident in the stellar work that our volunteers commit to each day. It is evident in the dedication of our employees. It is evident through

the donations and letters that we receive. It is evident through the "thank you" that are bestowed upon staff and volunteers by those that we serve. It is evident in our advocacy. It is evident in our purpose. We are here to spread love and, in this month, where we celebrate the history of African Americans I would like to share a quote: "Just don't give up what you're trying to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong." – Ella Fitzgerald. I wholeheartedly agree, we cannot go wrong as long as we set out to follow our mission and inspire with love. We truly appreciate your continued support and are ever so blessed by it!

Thanks,

Darsonya Switzer (she/her)

Dove, Inc. Chief Executive Officer

Macon County Continuum of Care Chair

Join our team at Dove!
Please review the most current
job openings listed on our website
www.doveinc.org

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

One of the most empowering teaching tools our facilitators share is the Healthy Relationship Bill of Rights, which validates and supports teens as they navigate intimate relationships.

Healthy Relationship Bill of Rights

- **You have the right to privacy, online and off.**
- **You have the right to feel safe and respected.**
- **You have the right to decide who you want to date and not date.**
- **You have the right to choose when/if you have sex and who you have sex with.**
- **You have the right to say no at any time (to sex, to drugs or alcohol, to a relationship), even if you've said yes before.**
- **You have the right to hang out with your friends and family and do things you enjoy, without your partner getting jealous or controlling.**
- **You have the right to end a relationship that isn't right or healthy for you.**
- **You have the right to live free from violence and abuse.**



**If you or a friend need help,
call one of Dove's 24-hour hotlines:**

- Macon County • 217.423.2238**
- DeWitt County • 217.935.6072**
- Moultrie County • 217.728.9334**
- Piatt County • 217.762.2122**
- Shelby County • 217.774.4888**



Dove, Inc.

GET INVOLVED

ARE YOU, YOUR COMPANY, CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND GIVE BACK IN OUR COMMUNITY?

CHECK OUT OUR CURRENT PROJECTS UNDER THE GET INVOLVED PAGE!



[See our Project Page](#)

and check back as new postings are added



Save the Date!

*Macon County Continuum of Care
Community Breakfast
Thursday March 9, 8:00 a.m.*

Information on the 2023 Point-in-Time and information on the homelessness issues in Macon County will be presented.

Attention Landlords

The Homeward Bound Program is in need of 2 and 3 bedroom housing units for our clients.

If a landlord is interested in partnering with us, please reach out to Ashley Garner at agarner@doveinc.org



The Christmas Care & Share Committee Members have been taking a break in January -- but planning for the 2023 program will get started again this month!

Watch in March for the start of our monthly updates on the program!

A shout out to our RSVP Volunteers!

Thank you to all who assisted with our annual Christmas Care & Share event. RSVP volunteers spent 1,177 hours making stockings throughout the year so that each child would get a filled stocking. 14 RSVP volunteers put in 390 hours during the two weeks we were at St. Paul's preparing and distributing toys and gifts for 867 families!

Amazing!

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Moultrie County Coordinator, Becky Comstock, will be out of the office February 17 to 27. Services are always available by calling the hotline, 217.728.9334.

Moultrie / Shelby County ROSC will be holding their next meeting February 6, 5:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library in Sullivan. Moultrie County Dove will be in attendance.

Moultrie County States Attorneys office will be holding the second part of their October "Responding to Domestic Violence: From the Living Room to the Courtroom" training on February 9, 2023, 4:00 p.m. This training will focus on testimony and is highly recommended for police officers or anyone who finds them self in a position to testify. Those wishing to attend should contact Melanie Long, 217.728.4353 or mlong@moultrieco.org.

On Friday, April 21, the Regional Office of Education #11 will be holding a Human Service Professional's Community Resource luncheon to help provide an opportunity to network with other organizations from Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. The event will be held at Lake Land College Field House at 11:00 a.m. For more details about this event or to RSVP, please email Sue Shumway, sshumway@roe11.org.

Moultrie County CADV committee meetings have been on hold due to the holidays. Our next meeting will be held March 7, 5:00 p.m. in the Moultrie County Farm Bureau Building. Anyone wishing to join our Coalition Against Domestic Violence Committee should contact Becky Comstock, 217.728.9303.



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.

New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.

If you do not yet have a rewards card, the cards are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.



Dove's Children's Clothing Room

Central Christian Church

650 W. William St.

Decatur

Mondays &

Wednesdays

1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

free clothing for
infants through teens



Watch for more
information on an
early evening drop off
time, for those of you
wanting to donate but
not available during
clothing room hours!

March 6



To learn more about becoming a
Dove Member Congregation
please contact Barb Blakey
at 217.428.6616 or dove@doveinc.org

Please, Save the Date!

Dove Annual Meeting ♥ Thursday, April 20

early evening meeting including update on programs,
election of Dove's Board of Directors, and a light dinner!

To our Dove Member Congregations

Please help us make sure our
contact information is up to date!

Please email us with your staff members
and delegate contact information:
dove@doveinc.org

Dove Financial Assistance

January seems to have passed quickly, but there were lots of good things that happened this month. One of the good things that occurred is that we have received some funding to assist Macon County residents who are 60 or older with power bills and rent. There are no income requirements to qualify for these funds, we only need an application, ID, and power bill or lease. Contact me at 217.433.7435 to apply, or for any questions.

As most of you know, we are the distributors of the Warm Neighbors Cool Friends program from the Energy Assistance Foundation for Macon, DeWitt, and Piatt counties. The details of this program can be found on page 8, but I do want to highlight a change in the program. Just this month, the Energy Assistance Foundation has raised the matched funding amount to \$500 for the heating months! I would urge you to look at the income guidelines and to apply if you qualify. The funds are there for this program to be used, so let the program relieve a bit of burden if it can!

January also brought forth some learning for me. I attended the Homeless Advisory Council meeting where the guest speaker was from The Set Free Movement. If you

aren't aware, the Set Free Movement has a mission to end human trafficking. The speaker shared lots of great information on human trafficking, including what signs to look for and how to help and report. If you want more information, you can go to their website at www.setfreemovement.org. I was also able to attend a zoom workshop, along with Angie Williams, on "Interrupting Unconscious Bias: Raising Social Awareness and Fostering Inclusive Workplaces." This was a very informative workshop that gave scenarios to make you think through what unconscious biases you might hold so that you can find strategies to work towards being more inclusive. Lastly, I was able to participate in the Point-in-Time count of the homeless in Macon County. This was an eye-opening experience that further deepened the feeling that the work of Dove within our community is desperately needed by many. As always, this work can't be done without many hands and hearts to do so, which includes each of you. I thank you for your support in Dove's mission!

Molly Tenuto
DFA Program Director

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

***Please use mailing
address:***

***302 S. Union Street
Decatur, IL 62522***

***or on Dove's website
doveinc.org***

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

***Your help supports
so many in need.***

Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance
for families/individuals in need
for in-person sites: see below

Macon County Sites:

Decatur Public Library, 120 N. Franklin, Decatur
Mondays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay, Decatur
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
February & March 7, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. ONLY
February 20 - Dove Observance of President's Day
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108

Shelby County Site:

Salvation Army Building, 133 E. Main St., Shelbyville
February 2 & 16, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
March 2 & 16, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Moultrie County Site:

First United Methodist Church, 216 W. Jefferson St., Sullivan
February 1 & 15, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
March 1 & 15, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Piatt County Site:

First Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, Monticello
February 8 & 22, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
March 8 & 22, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

DeWitt County Site:

Dove, 803 W. Leander, Clinton
February 8 & 22, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
March 8 & 22, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435



An Energy Assistance Foundation Program

For Macon, DeWitt and Piatt Counties:

217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org

30-Day Residential Income Guidelines

FOR WEATHERIZATION AND BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Note: Families must show proof of income. A family's monthly gross income must fall between the below ranges, based upon family size, to qualify.

FAMILY SIZE	LIHEAP INCOME RANGE	WNCF INCOME RANGE
1	\$0 - \$2,265	\$2,266 - \$4,263
2	\$0 - \$3,052	\$3,053 - \$4,871
3	\$0 - \$3,838	\$3,839 - \$5,479
4	\$0 - \$4,625	\$4,626 - \$6,088
5	\$0 - \$5,412	\$5,413 - \$6,575
6	\$0 - \$6,198	\$6,199 - \$7,063
7	\$0 - \$6,985	\$6,986 - \$7,550
8	\$0 - \$7,324	\$7,325 - \$8,038

- Driver's License or other Photo I.D. and copy of current Ameren Illinois utility bill
- Applicant must reside at the address on the bill and have active service in his or her name
- Income eligibility, see guidelines, above
- Applicant can receive WNCF assistance only once per heating season, which is 9/1 to 5/31 each year and once per cooling season, 6/1 to 8/31
- WNCF matches customer payments (within the last 45 days) up to \$500 during heating season and up to \$200 during cooling season
- Heating grants are based solely on income guide-lines while cooling grants are intended for seniors, disabled or those with medical conditions exacerbated by heat (with a doctor's letter)



BABES

Beginning Awareness Basic Education
Studies

Are you interested in becoming involved
in the BABES Program?

Would you like more information about becoming
a BABES Volunteer?

Contact Barb Blakey bblakey@doveinc.org or

Sandy Laesch slaesch@doveinc.org

217.428.6616

*Volunteer Training is available to be a part of this
educational program for K-3rd graders in area schools.*



Happy Valentine's Day!

*From: Buttons, Bows, Myth Mary, Early Bird,
Donovan, Rhonda, Reggie, and Sandy!*

I want to take this time to thank all BABES volunteers and to let them know how appreciated they are. Without them we would not be able to provide BABES programming in 7 schools with several of those schools having not only the K-2nd BABES program but the Advanced BABES programming as well. This year the BABES program has 6 active volunteers. What a mighty group of volunteers!

The BABES Program could use your help to provide pro-active programming in more schools to help school children develop positive living skills that will be a foundation for future choices they will make as adolescents and adults.

If you are interested in the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, call Barb Blakey or me for more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer.

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

Margaret Mead

Sandy Laesch
BABES Interim Program Coordinator

News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house **19** individuals who have been literally homeless (in a shelter, on the streets or somewhere unfit for human occupancy, such as an abandoned building) for 90-days or more. **3** of those individuals meet the chronically homeless criteria, which means they have a diagnosable disability AND have been homeless for at least 1 year or have been homeless 4 times in the past 3 years, totaling 365 days.

There are **195** total participants currently receiving housing and/or services.

The need for 1-bedroom units for single individuals is still dire!

Dove- Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for participants:

- Diapers (all sizes) and Baby Wipes
- Personal Hygiene Items

*These donated items can be delivered to:
Dove-Homeward Bound
788 E. Clay, Decatur, IL 62521
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Move-In Starter Kits

Additionally, please consider donating items for move-in starter kits for individuals and families moving from homelessness to housing. Join the **HOME** Macon County Continuum of Care in supporting this effort. Donations will be accepted at Northeast Community Fund (NECF) and distributed in "starter kits" to agencies serving those moving into housing.

- cleaning supplies
- paper products
- bath towels
- kitchen towels
- sheets/blankets/pillows
- plates/glasses/silverware
- kitchen utensils
- pots/pans

These donated items can be delivered to:
Northeast Community Fund
839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., Decatur
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Coordinated Entry

Homeward Bound, on behalf of the Macon County CoC, continues to provide services and have staff available 24 hours to assist those in need of housing solutions. Please share the contact numbers with anyone you know who is experiencing housing instability issues, 217.362.7700 or 217.619.5742.

Life Skills and Job Club

Job Club Classes are cancelled until further notice, for further information please contact Dacienna, 217.362.7700 ext. 106.

Macon County Continuum of Care

**Homeless Advisory Council
(HAC) Meeting
the 2nd Thursday in May
1:30 p.m.
at EOC in the Senior Center
on the 2nd floor**

Neighborhood Services Program

Sharing News About The Neighborhoods!

January seemed a bit unusual this year, with the weather being quieter than I recall last year and busyness being more. I hit the ground running as new CONO president, Kathy Hodge Williams shared two contacts for the possibility of beginning new neighborhood groups. I contacted these folks, plus one more, and met with one young lady whose hope is to have a group together and meeting by March.

Among other meetings and contacts for January, the city council had an interesting study session on neighborhoods. There was discussion on and some narrowing down of ideas to better our community which included Great Streets Great Neighborhoods. There were also quite a few citizens who shared their opinions and thoughts concerning landlords and the recent food truck fees, among other issues.

I had the humbling opportunity to walk in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March this year. The presentation given afterward in the Civic Center Auditorium was moving and informative as Mt. Zion High School teacher, Rich Hanson, shared topics from his class, The African American Experience. Afterward, three of his students answered questions on the topics presented and more as they shared the heart of what taking this class meant to them and their new views and understanding of America's history. Also, the day included DPS 61 students sharing their award-winning essays, poems and artwork and another student shared her beautiful voice in song. It was as encouraging a day as it was heart wrenching, at times with the truth of some of the ugliest parts of American history spoken, yet seeing the light of students from varying races on the same stage being given the same appreciation for who they are today. Perhaps Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream is finally becoming a reality, at least it was this day, in Decatur, IL with hope of continuing onward for eternity.

Finally, a favorite highlight this month was meeting with Shem Sanders, once again, as we work toward collaboration between the awesome work he and his team does within the city through Shemilah Outreach Center and our Dove, Inc. staff. Our January 31 meeting with Shem includee RSVP Director, Angie Williams and Volunteer Resources Administrator, Dustin Depperschmidt. It was a productive time for sure as we then take the journey into all that is yet to unfold in February.

LeAnn Ellis
Neighborhood Services Program Coordinator

Coalition Of
Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, February 21
(3rd Tuesday of the Month)

5:30 p.m.

Staley Room, Decatur Public Library

Downtown Decatur

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program



January 9, 2023

Piatt County Domestic Violence Coordinator, Andrea Kocher, was able to deliver cookie trays to all county and municipal police departments within Piatt county.

This was in honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

We are grateful for our continued partnership with local law enforcement.

HELP US RESTOCK OUR SUPPLY ROOM AT THE SHELTER

- PEDIATRIC MEDICINE DROPPERS AND/OR SYRINGES (NEW, UNUSED)
- NOSE / EAR SYRINGES
- ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT OR CREAM
- ALEVE OR NAPROXEN
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC)
- NON-DROWSY ALLERGY MEDS (ZYRTEC/CLARITIN/ETC)
- HYDROCORTISONE CREAM
- MELATONIN TABLETS
- PREGNANCY TESTS
- LICE TREATMENT KITS
- IRON PILLS
- CONTACT LENS SOLUTION

ESPECIALLY FOR

INFANTS / TODDLERS / SMALL CHILD:

- ADVIL/MOTRIN (OR IBUPROFEN)
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC)
- LIQUID STOMACH MEDICINE
- GENERIC NASAL DECONGESTANT
- TYLENOL

HYGIENE PRODUCTS AND AIDS:

- BODY WASH
- BUG SPRAY
- VASELINE
- HANDHELD PERSONAL MIRRORS
- TOOTHPASTE
- DENTURE ADHESIVE
- DENTURE PASTE
- DENTURE CLEANER
- MOUTHWASH (ALCOHOL FREE)
- ORAJEL

If you can help, donations can be dropped off at our 302 S. Union offices, Monday - Friday.

Thanks!

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

We hope you choose Dove! just start shopping at smile.amazon.com

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

News From The DeWitt County Dove Office

Hello! As the temperature continues to get colder and the need for our food pantry increases, we are in great need of volunteers to help unload our food pantry trucks on the following dates:

February 9
April 6
June 8
August 10
October 5
December 7

March 9
May 4
July 13
September 7
November 2

We still have coats, hats and gloves if you or someone you know are still in need of these items. We also can help with diapers and formula during Food Pantry Hours.

If you are looking to donate to our food pantry, right now we are gladly accepting all kinds of food donations.

Seeking CADV Members

We are looking for caring individuals who are able to donate one hour of their time a month to join our DeWitt County Committee Against Domestic Violence. We meet on the 3rd Thursday on the month and we are always looking for fresh, new ideas for fundraisers. If you are interested in joining or even getting more information, please feel free to reach out to me and I will gladly talk with you more about it. Jennifer Tolladay 217.935.6072.

Dove Food Pantry

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 at the door, you will need to show your ID.
- We will bring your food to the door.
- We also have diapers if you have a little one in your household - child must be living in the household.
- We do request that if someone is already at the door receiving food, you stay in your vehicle until it is your turn.
- We are doing all we can to abide by the social distancing guidelines.

RSVP Volunteer Opportunities

Do you enjoy thrift shop settings? Dove needs more volunteers for our Children's Clothing Room! Our clothing room is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and is in Central Christian Church in Decatur (650 W. William Street). Even a commitment of one day a month would be helpful. If you are interested, please call Kathy Walters at 217.428.6616.

Are you interested in helping to plan things such as the RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon? Think about joining one of our Advisory Councils! We have a council in DeWitt and one in Macon, as well. DeWitt's will be meeting every other month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 10:00 a.m. at our Dove office in Clinton. Macon County's council meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 1:00 p.m. at our Decatur office. If you think this might be of interest, please call Kathy, Angie or Dustin at 217.428.6616.



CASA advocate
Spring Training 2023

March 9 - April 13

Just 6 classes to learn how you can
knock it out of the park & change the story for a
local child in foster care!

Complete your online application & enroll today at
maconcountycasa.org/volunteer

MACON COUNTY
CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocate
FOR CHILDREN
Supporting children & families in need

Macon County CASA recruits and trains volunteers from Macon and DeWitt counties to advocate and be the voice for local foster children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. To learn more, go to maconcountycasa.org or call our Recruiting Manager, Lori McDaniel, at 217.428.8424!

*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*



RSVP News

Especially for DeWitt County Residents

Tax Program

Taxes will be prepared on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings at the Vespasian Warner Library starting February 11 and ending April 15. Please call the library for more information, at 217.935.5174. If you would like to volunteer to help with the tax program, please reach out to Angie, 217.428.6616 or Dustin, 217.935,2241.

"Are You Ok?"

Did you know that there is a program called "Are You Ok?" that provides a daily phone call for those who might need to be checked on (for homebound individuals, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and latchkey kids) to make sure they are safe. The way it works is that at a pre-arranged time, the system will make calls to the subscriber, and if the call is answered it is documented as "all is well." If the call is not answered, a set of repeat calls will be made and if there is still no answer, steps will be taken to make sure you are safe. If you are interested in this program, please know it's free of charge. People can sign up through DeWitt County Sheriff's Office at 217.935.9507.

Coffee Chat

In our Macon County Office, March 22, we are tentatively planning to have the first of our Coffee Chat series.

What is a Coffee Chat, you ask? Our plan is to bring in volunteer managers from our different stations to talk about their agency or program, and their volunteer needs for those who are interested. We are planning to try and have 3–4 representatives from volunteer sites in our Dean Simcox Conference Room from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. You do not have to stay for the whole thing – just drop by, have some coffee and a pastry, and learn about some of our stations and volunteer opportunities. Bring a friend with you to sign up for RSVP and you just might get a fun surprise!

RSVP Recognition Luncheon

Mark your calendars for August 24. That is the date we are currently eying for our annual volunteer appreciation luncheon!

DFA

Dove Financial Assistance received funding to assist residents of Macon County who are 60 or older. This assistance will be to help with power bills and rent. There are no income requirements, to receive assistance you will

need to fill out an application, show your ID, and your power bill or lease. Please reach out to Molly Tenuto, DFA Program Director, to apply or ask questions. She can be reached at 217.433.7435.

Valentine's Fun!

On February 9, the Niantic Kitchen Band (made up of RSVP volunteers) will be performing at the Senior Center for a Faith in Action Volunteer Treat and Greet. This event's purpose is to meet with current volunteers and present opportunities to potential volunteers. This Valentine party is at 1:00 p.m. Please stop by and listen to the band, grab a treat, and learn about volunteer opportunities through Faith in Action! The Senior Center is located at 1430 N. 22nd St. in Decatur. Hope to see you there!

Operation Enduring Support

Thanks to all who donated items and/or volunteered to help with Operation Enduring Support, a program designed to send packages for military families overseas at Christmas and Easter, led by Grace United Methodist Church in Decatur. According to the church's newsletter, 140 packages were sent out to people deployed in Kuwait, Iraq, Kosovo, Germany, Southern Border and two ships at sea. This undoubtedly brought cheer to each family that received a package!