



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

October
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Editor

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Dove, Inc.

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Decatur, IL
62522

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October is one of my favorite months – Mother Nature puts on a spectacular show for our amazement – AND we celebrate Domestic Violence Awareness Month. During October, Dove hosts Candlelighting Ceremonies in Macon, DeWitt, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. These ceremonies remember those who died in abusive relationships, celebrate survivors, and honor those who dedicate their lives to stopping the cycle of violence. Each ceremony will also highlight domestic violence information, local Dove services, and volunteer opportunities. All of these ceremonies are open to the public. I hope that you will join us as we light candles in remembrance and hope at Dove's candlelighting ceremonies.

Joyce Kirkland
Domestic Violence
Program Director

2023 Candlelighting Ceremonies

Please join us at one or all of these ceremonies.

*Shelby County ❁ Thursday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.
First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak Street, Shelbyville*

*Macon County ❁ Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.
Central Christian Church, 650 West William Street, Decatur*

*Moultrie County ❁ Thursday, October 19, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
First Christian Church, 1357 County Road 1200 East, Sullivan*

*DeWitt County ❁ Wednesday, October 25, noon to 2:00 p.m.
803 W. Leander, Clinton
Desserts with Dove Open House
and at 1:30 p.m. the traditional Candlelighting Ceremony*

*These meaningful ceremonies are held in October as part of
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.*

#every1knowssome1

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

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



Empowerment is defined as the process of becoming stronger and more confident in controlling one's own life. That is what we strive to do here at Dove, Inc. We consistently educate and spread community awareness, which reinforces our support for those on that path to empowerment.

I cannot begin to adequately express my thoughts on how important it is to spread Domestic Violence Awareness, not only during the month of October, National Domestic Violence Month, but at every turn possible. I will not quote statistics or reveal any stories, but I will implore you to educate yourselves, especially during this month. Take the opportunities that are outlined throughout the month to absorb what you can about Domestic Violence Awareness. It could save someone's life.

Plan to attend one of the events or reach out to our very dedicated and professionally trained Domestic Violence staff here at Dove, Inc. They are well-equipped to answer your questions and/or provide support for any person experiencing violence committed by a partner/family member. They provide a voice and support to those who deserve to be heard. They walk with them as they become empowered. They provide them with the tools they will need along the way. Reach out and learn more!

Darsonya Switzer (she/her)
Dove, Inc. Chief Executive Officer

*Seeking new challenges or a new career pathway?
Please check our current job openings on our [website](#)*

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Summer is hesitant to loosen her grip this year, but the occasionally cooler nights are allowing a few of the colors of fall to appear in the trees around us. Soon the central Illinois landscape will be ablaze with color and Mother Nature shows us how beautiful letting go and changing can be. On October 1, the vibrant yellows, oranges, and reds will be joined by purples as ribbons and signs begin to appear to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each October we spend the month mourning victims of domestic violence, celebrating the survivors, and honoring those who make it their life's work to make a difference in the problem of family abuse.

When we think of domestic violence, we think of someone being physically abused; there are so many more forms of abuse: sexual, emotional, verbal, spiritual, financial, daily power and control of the victims by the abusers. The latter are harder to recognize than bruises but can be even more damaging to the psyche of the victims. Domestic violence is so prevalent in our society that every one of us knows someone who is suffering, whether we are aware of it or not.

Please join us on October 5, at 7:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak Street, Shelbyville for our Shelby County

ceremony. It promises to be an educational and inspiring evening which will hopefully inspire you to join our fight against this horrible crime. Your assistance could make a dramatic difference in the lives of victims and their families. #Everyoneknowssomeone.

Susie Kensil
Shelby County Coordinator

DeWitt's CADV is starting back up in October (after a change in Dove personnel) and the members are very excited to get things rolling again!

Thanks to all who serve in this very important way!

Ashlyn Burrus
DeWitt County Coordinator

WISH LIST FOR SHELTER NEEDS

- TEETHING RINGS
- STROLLERS (CAN BE UMBRELLA TYPE)
- PACK AND PLAY FOR BABIES
- SIZE 4 & 5 DIAPERS
- FULL SIZE BATH TOWELS (NEW ONLY)
- NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMENS, ALL SIZES (NEW ONLY)
- SWEATSUITS- UNISEX, ALL SIZES (NEW ONLY)
- WHITE NOISE MACHINES
- GAS GIFT CARDS
- WALMART GIFT CARDS
- DISPOSABLE CUPS
- DISPOSABLE (PLASTIC) EATING UTENSILS
- DISPOSABLE PLATES & BOWLS (PAPER)
- LARGE CROCK POT WITH TIMER
- ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT OR CREAM
- ALEVE OR NAPROXEN
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC)
- NON-DROWSY ALLERGY MEDS (ZYRTEC/ CLARITIN/ETC)
- HYDROCORTISONE CREAM
- MELATONIN TABLETS
- ORAJEL
- BODY WASH
- VASELINE
- CONTACT LENS MULTI-PURPOSE SOLUTION
- TOOTHPASTE

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program



Letter Writing Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

11AM - 1PM

SHELBYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us to write letters to survivors of domestic violence who are staying in our emergency shelter. We'll also have materials to update The Clothesline Project!



Letter Writing Day

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

1PM - 4 PM

SULLIVAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us to write letters to survivors of domestic violence who are staying in our emergency shelter. We'll also have materials to update The Clothesline Project!



Cell Phones for Seniors Workshop



Have questions on how to use your cell phone?

Do you wonder what features you might be missing out on?

Would you like to learn some helpful tips and tricks?

Join us for an interactive seminar hosted by
TRIAD & Clinton High School Interact Club

& National Honors Society

Monday, October 23, 9-11 AM

Clinton High School

West Gym

RSVP Preferred but walk-ins are welcome:

Connie Unruh at 217-935-7464 or connie.unruh@firstnbtc.com

Please let us know what type of cell phone you have in your RSVP and if you have specific topics you'd like us to cover.

Questions? Call Connie Unruh at 217-935-7464

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**

**If your children have outgrown
their fall clothing,
please consider donating to our
Children's Clothing Room!**

**Please note the room will be
closed Monday, October 9 for the
holiday.**



Dove's Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training

Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.
Please call between September 13 and October 25 at noon •
217.428.6616



Our facilitators:

Joyce Kirkland
Program Director

Jamie L. Houchins
Victim Advocate

SITE: Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur
TIME: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
TRAINING DATES: November 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, and 16

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

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 and more

32nd Annual Coats for Kids!

The 2023 Coats for Kids drive will begin October 18! We will be collecting good, used and new coats for families in need through November 30.

Participating cleaners will make sure the coats are clean and fresh and ready for the clothing rooms and sites to distribute.

Watch for participating clothing rooms or additional drop off sites on our website and social media sites.

Thanks to the RSVP volunteers who help keep everything moving!



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: (Sites confirmed as of this sending!)

Decatur Family YMCA
220 W. McKinley

Decatur Public Library
Downtown Decatur

Decatur Township
1620 S. Taylorville Road

Illioopolis Christian Church
304 Anne Street

Kroger
Brettwood Plaza

Land of Lincoln Credit Union
2890 N. Oakland
3130 E. Mound
4850 E. Prosperity Place

Longcreek Township
2610 Salem School Road

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



***Are you wanting to volunteer in the
BABES Program
for the 23-24 semester?***

***If so, contact us for more on the
program to see if it would be a
good fit for you!***

***Contact Barb Blakey
bblakey@doveinc.org or
Sandy Laesch
slaesch@doveinc.org***

217.428.6616

The BABES volunteers, LeAnn Ellis, and I are busy in the schools this fall.

Debbie Vick and Patty Cain are presenting the BABES Program to 1st grade students at Baum Elementary. And Janet Lyman and Kim Stahl will be presenting the Advanced BABES Program to 3rd grade students at Sangamon Valley Intermediate. LeAnn Ellis and I are presenting the BABES Program to Kindergartners at Our Lady of Lourdes, American Dreamer STEM Academy and 1st graders at Argenta-Oreana, the Advanced BABES Program is being presented to 3rd grade students at John's Hill Magnet, 3rd and 4th grade students at Our Lady of Lourdes, and 2nd grade students at Parsons Elementary.

Red Ribbon week is October 23-31. What is Red Ribbon Week? It is the oldest and

largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people during Red Ribbon Week. This year's theme is "Be Kind to Your Mind...Live Drug Free." Each of the BABES program schools will receive Red Ribbon Week posters.

Thank you to Mr. Gary Gruen, Principal at Mt. Zion Grade again for scheduling Red Ribbon Week programming for all Mt. Zion Grade students. The BABES program will be present programming to over 700 children in our community. We want children to grow up safe, healthy and drug free.

Halloween is right around the corner and the safety of our children is important. I wanted to again share a website that has valuable information about keeping kids safe...not only at Halloween, on the internet and many other situations. Please check out the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's website at www.missingkids.com and go to Child Safety & Prevention-Publications.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the BABES (Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies) Program and would like more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer, contact Barb or Sandy!

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.*

Did you know that DFA, Dove Financial Assistance, is what used to be called the MAX or DAX program? We occasionally get asked if MAX or DAX are no longer operating, and the answer is we are, we just had a name change in the Fall of 2019. This name change came when we expanded our financial assistance program to include Piatt, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. We continue to offer assistance to those experiencing financial hardship one time per 365 days. We don't give cash to anyone, but instead we send a check direct to the vendor, i.e. Ameren or the water department. We can assist with a maximum of \$300, based on the status of our funds. The funding for this program, not including the Warm Neighbors Cool Friends Program, is funded by donations. Those donations come from both churches and individuals.

Our funding has dwindled as we have assisted numerous people experiencing a hardship! Most of the requests we receive are for help with a power bill. We are able to log in to the Ameren portal to see what options might be available to the applicant and work as best as we can to assist them. When we see a donation come in to DFA, no matter the amount, we are ecstatic as it means we can assist that many more people! If you are able to give, please consider donating to DFA. If you aren't able

to, please consider sharing with others that might be able to contribute. As always, one of the best things you can do for our program is to pray; both for the success of the program but also for the applicants we are assisting!

Last month I shared that I had joined the Fall class of the Decatur Leadership Institute. Since then, I've gotten to go to Fire Station #2, a training station, and put on all the fire gear and go into a building with an actual fire! I was also able to use the jaws of life on a test car, which was not easy, and utilize a thermal imaging system in a completely dark building. It was amazing to see a small glimpse of what the Firefighters do for our community on a daily basis. I had always had a high appreciation for their work and commitment, but after the small experience there, I have an even higher appreciation! I also got to experience the Arts and Culture in Macon County by getting a tour of the Decatur Area Arts Council as well as Millikin University's theater program. If you haven't checked out all that the Arts Council has available, I would highly recommend you do so, as they have so much to offer the community!

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 October 9

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
October 5 & 18, 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
October 4 & 18, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Piatt County Site:

First Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, Monticello
October 11 & 25, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

DeWitt County Site:

Dove, 803 W. Leander, Clinton
October 12 & 26, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.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 (October 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

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*.



all in:

Macon County Inter-Agency Council

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

4th Tuesday of the month ■ NOON to 1:00 p.m.
Upcoming Dates: October 24, November 28
(please note, there will be no meeting in December 2023)

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

Join us for networking and sharing information:

- program coordinators
- direct service providers
- information sharers

The pandemic brought many changes to our local nonprofit landscape. We are excited to have the chance to meet monthly again, to get to network and learn more about services of our Macon County Community.

4th Tuesday of each month, NOON
(no meeting in December 2023)

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

**for more information,
please call:**

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

*or email
mtenuto@doveinc.org
awilliams@doveinc.org*

News from Homeward Bound

The staff has been working to engage and house 99 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. One of those individuals meets 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.



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, October 19

Location: Heritage Behavioral Health Center
151 North Main, Decatur

Time: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Welcome to our New Staff

Nissa Malik

Coordinated Entry Outreach Specialist

Jessica Carr

Housing Advocate

Allison Manning

Medical Management Housing Advocate

Move-In Starter Kits

Dove- 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. Donations will be accepted at Dove Inc., Homeward Bound, and distributed in "starter kits" to agencies serving those moving into housing.

- 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, IL. 62521
Tuesday – Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Seeking help with your next step to better employment?

Professional Development Class ...a collaboration of Workforce Investment Solutions & Homeward Bound

Join in this 20-hour course, to be completed over a two-week span. This course will prepare you with the essentials to build a Professional Workforce Portfolio.



Register with Mary Miller
mmiller@doveinc.org
or
217.362.7700 ext. 100
no later than
Friday, October 20,
by noon

Location:

Homeward Bound Conference Room
788 E. Clay, Decatur, IL. 62521

Dates and time:

October 23 - 27, & October 30 - November 3, 2023
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Please be sure to REGISTER!
Incentives are given to those who successfully complete the course.

The class will consist of:

- Resume building
- Interviewing tips
- Gaining access to registration on Illinois Work Net
- Eligibility for classes within Workforce Investment Solutions
- Receiving a certificate of completion at the end of successfully completing the course



BABES is keeping us busy already and the season has only just begun. As always, it's a blessing being with the kiddos and all their anecdotes and inquiries as they learn to cope, be good friends and more through this impactful puppet program.

I enjoyed meeting the president of Neighborhood United Association, Lisa Smith! We shared in depth discussion on the neighborhood needs and possibilities for the future. There was another attendee at the meeting, also from the neighborhood. We have begun working together with hope to see positive change on the horizon.

Our meeting came about through an alliance between Illinois Association of Juvenile Justice Councils (IAJJC), CONO, and area neighborhoods that IAJJC are interested in collaborating

with, including NUA. The other area neighborhoods included OKO and OKO Community Center, GM Square and Torrence Park. IAJJC are planning to pay canvassers of these neighborhoods through an R3 Planning and Assessment Grant to seek specific answers with the hope of overall neighborhood improvement in mind.

I am also continuing with monthly neighborhood and community meetings as well as those fresh new idea meetings that pop up from time to time.

October will be a busy one for sure.

LeAnn Ellis
Coordinator

**Coalition Of
Neighborhood Organizations**

CONO Meeting

**Tuesday, October 17
(3rd Tuesday of the Month)
5:30 p.m.**

**Location: Civic Center,
Downtown Decatur
meeting space to right
from main entrance**

RSVP News!

RSVP's Next Service Project

In honor of our local veterans, RSVP will be making up goodie bags to be dropped off at the VFW.

If you'd like to donate, we are looking for things such as thank you cards, pre-packaged snacks of any kind, gum and/or mints, hand sanitizer, small Kleenex packages, Carmex/ChapStick, candy, etc. Things that you think a veteran might enjoy receiving as part of a care package! Please drop off all items to either our Decatur or Clinton office locations by October 23 at noon.



Many thanks to all who donated to our 9/11 Day of Service and backpack assembly projects.

We put all of that together Thursday, September 7.

Backpacks were taken to American Dreamer STEM Academy that afternoon. 9/11 care packages to law enforcement in Macon and DeWitt were delivered the week of September 11.



RSVP Volunteering Opportunities

Macon County Volunteer Opportunities

The **BABES Program** could use some help preparing for Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31. This year we will be reaching over 700 children with the message, "Be Kind to Your Mind...Live Drug Free."

I need one person per time slot working with me in my office. We will be copying, counting, and sorting materials that will be used in Red Ribbon Week activities.

Here are the dates and times I could use some help:

- October 12, 18 or 19 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- October 18 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Contact me at slaesch@doveinc.org
Sandy Laesch
BABES Interim Program Coordinator

Help with **Boo at the Zoo!** Scovill Zoo is closing for the regular season on October 9, and then will open back up on Friday the 13th for 3 weekends of Halloween fun!

We need volunteers to sign up to hand out treats at one or more of the Zoo's 10 treat stations spread throughout the zoo's walking paths. Call the zoo at 217.421.7435 to learn more about this opportunity!

Faith in Action urgently needs volunteers to provide transportation for seniors who need medical appointments including chemotherapy, doctor appointments, and even for groceries. The need has skyrocketed due to Memorial Medical's recent cuts, which included their transportation program. Volunteer hours are flexible and can be tailor made to fit your lifestyle and schedule. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Carol with Faith in Action at 217.428.0013 or by email at logan_dec@cc.dio.org

Elara Caring Hospice Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to hospice patients and respite to caregivers, be a supportive presence at the bedside of patients in their final days or hours, helping record patient memories and stories for the patient's family to have as a keepsake, support Veteran patients and Veteran's events, and more, including administrative tasks in their offices. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Christian Rundblad at 312.597.1717 or by email at crundblad@elara.com

Rock Springs Nature Center

We are looking for volunteers to staff the **librarian's desk** and assist the public. Volunteer Librarians will check out, check

in, and reshelve books, as well as maintain our library collection. The library is a great resource for educational programming and is open to the public. Morning and afternoon shifts are available. This opportunity is for ages 18 and up.

Rock Springs Quilters

Rock Springs Nature Center
Every Wednesday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
We have a group of dedicated volunteers that meet each week to hand quilt. No previous quilt experience required. The group loves to share their knowledge and joy of quilting.

For more information or to sign up, contact Jenny Garver at 217.542.5536 or JGarver@MaconCountyConservation.org





It's unbelievable that Christmas is under three months away!

The Christmas Care & Share team has been hard at work planning and preparing for this year's event. Referrals have gone out to over 40 schools and other agencies in Macon County, and we have numerous dates, times and locations where people can sign up for toy assistance in the community between October and November. Salvation Army is having their signups the week of October 9. If you know people who need assistance with toys for their family for Christmas please have them call 217.428.6616 and ask for someone on the Christmas Care & Share team or have them email santa@doveinc.org for more information.

If you would like to get involved, we'd love to have you volunteer! We especially need volunteers the week of December 11 – 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., during distribution when the families receiving assistance come through and pick out items for their children. We need people to run toy tables, and to go around with families and help them pick out gift items. If you're interested, please click this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/4QAEA> or scan our QR code (graciously made by Andrea at St. Paul's Lutheran Church). You can also call the above phone number or send an email to Santa.



You can also donate items such as wrapping paper, tape, hats, gloves, new unwrapped toys, homemade or new stockings. One item that's gone over well each year is the big bags of mixed Halloween candy – that is a wonderful thing to donate this time of year to go in stockings for our pre-teen and teen program participants. If you want to donate money, please make your checks out to Dove, Inc. and in the memo line write "Christmas Care & Share." You can also donate online at doveinc.org under the "Get Involved" tab. The ways to get involved in this program are only limited to your imagination – so reach out if you have an idea! We'd love to hear it.

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, 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.



the person has guardianship (this is most likely in the case of foster parents), could be medical cards for the children, social security cards, a recent hospital or doctor's bill with the children's names on it, or a printout/screenshot of the Student Demographic/Profile report from the school. Children must be between the ages of 0 and 17.

If they have already received a referral from their child's school, an agency they're working with, signed up at Northeast Community Fund or Salvation Army, they do not need to sign up again. In order to assist as many as we can, we will only assist each family one time. Here are the sign up dates and Decatur locations:

Thursday, October 5 ♥ 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 19 ♥ 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 26 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 2 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 Decatur Public Library, Children's Auditorium, 130 N. Franklin

Tuesday, October 10 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 9 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 SIU School of Medicine, 102 W. Kenwood

Wednesday, October 18 ♥ 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
 Decatur Boys and Girls Club, 859 N. Jasper

Wednesday, November 15 ♥ 9:00 a.m. to noon
 Familia Dental, 141 E. Pershing

Thursday, November 16 ♥ 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 Empowerment Opportunity Center, 360 E. Marietta

This year has flown by and it's hard to believe that Christmas Care & Share 2023 is right around the corner! We're kicking into high gear getting ready!

Public Signups for Families!

Last year we opened sign ups for toy assistance up by internet/email, but it wasn't as successful or problem free as we had hoped it would be. So, this year we are going to be doing TEN public signups for toy assistance (without food baskets).

If you know someone who may need assistance with Christmas gifts for their kids this year, please let them know the following information:

They must have guardianship of their kids and the kids be living in their household. Parents/guardians will need to bring some sort of photo ID (doesn't have to be a driver's license), as well as proof the kids are in the home. This could be a letter from an agency/school verifying the names of the children in the household, could be a court document stating

Please join us for

Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting Tuesday, November 28

5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
 Cocoa and Cookies in the Courtyard

5:30 p.m.
 Tree Lighting Ceremony, Green Space on Union

Due to new regulations for the Shelter, this will be an outside only event.

Please dress for the weather, or if inclement weather just drive by and see the trees!!

If you can drop off a donation during this time, we'd love to get your picture with one of our staff member at one of trees.

Seeking Donations For:
 ✓ Coats for the coat drive
 ✓ Items for Christmas Care & Share
 ✓ Needed funds for Dove Programs
 ✓ Items for Shelter or Homeward Bound clients.

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

November 13 through 17, 2023

Please save the dates and watch for more information to follow.

Monday, November 13 * Community Blitz

We are seeking volunteers to assist with our community blitz.

Please call Mary Miller at Homeward Bound, 217.362.7700, no later than noon, Friday, October 20, 2023.

Tuesday, November 14 * To Be Announced

Wednesday, November 15 * Homeward Bound Open House

Please come visit our team and learn more about our services.

Join us at 788 E. Clay, Decatur, between 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided!

Thursday, November 16 * Dine to Donate

Dine at Texas Roadhouse in Forsyth and 10% of proceeds will be donated to Homeward Bound.

These proceeds will assist us to continue to service the unhoused in our community.

Friday, November 17 * Walk-the-Walk

See right...

Macon County Continuum of Care

Homeless Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting

2nd Thursday, November 9, 1:30 p.m.

at EOC in the Senior Center

on the 2nd floor

