



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

DoveTales the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

October
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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.

A Week in the Life of a Domestic Violence Survivor

At 2:30 a.m. on Monday, Police officers respond to a 911 call from neighbors to find “Cara” beaten and strangled by her partner. Her two small children witnessed everything. An ambulance transports Cara to the hospital for treatment. With her home destroyed and partner still at large, it is not safe for Cara and the children to return home. Police and hospital staff help Cara contact Dove Domestic Violence Program’s Crisis Hotline to make shelter arrangements for the family. An officer transports Cara and her children to Dove’s shelter. The Shelter Advocate welcomes the family and takes them to a prepared bedroom where they collapse, exhausted. Later that morning, a staff member helps Cara and the children with breakfast and then introduces the family to the Children’s Advocate, who plays with the children while Cara completes intake and talks to staff about the abuse by her partner. She indicates she is ready to get out of the relationship and protect herself and her children. A Legal Advocate helps Cara complete paperwork for an Order of Protection and explains the protections offered.

On Tuesday, the Legal Advocate accompanies Cara to court and an Emergency Order of Protection is granted by the judge. That afternoon, Cara has her first meeting with her personal Advocate, who listens, validates her experiences and feelings, and works with her to create a service plan that focuses on independence and healing. The Advocate assists Cara with referrals to Dove Homeward Bound for housing, as well as to other local service providers. The Advocate explains Dove services and encourages Cara to take time for self-care and nurturing for her children. In the evening, Cara drops her children off in the playroom for Domestic Violence Children’s Group, where the children learn about healthy relationships through fun activities and play. Cara attends Domestic Violence Support Group, where she receives support and understanding from other survivors.

On Wednesday morning, Cara attends Healthy Families Parenting Class and DV 101 Group to gain support and information on domestic violence. That afternoon, she meets again with her Advocate to talk about how she is feeling. On Thursday, Dove’s Victim Advocate notifies Cara that her partner has been arrested and the Order of Protection has been served. Cara

A Week in the Life of a Domestic Violence Survivor

feels a sense of validation and relief. On Friday, Cara tells her Advocate she feels safe enough to return to work and for the children to return to school. The Advocate helps Cara contact her employer and the school to explain the Order of Protection and do safety planning for the family. Although she still has a long way to go before complete independence and healing, Cara feels hopeful and supported in a way she has never experienced before.

Cara's story continues onward for several months as she obtains housing, continues counseling, and testifies in her partner's criminal case. Dove continues to provide support to Cara and her children as they move toward healing and autonomy.

---In reality, Cara is fictitious – a composite of stories from many of Dove's program participants – because sharing a survivor's true story and identity could put them in grave danger. However, the shelter itself, the services offered, the Dove staff members, the police officers, and hospital staff are all very real and work 24-hours-a-day to provide hope and safety for those experiencing domestic violence. Everyone in this story is a HERO! It took immense courage for Cara to take steps to leave an abusive relationship and those who helped her dedicated their lives to saving people like Cara and her children. You are a hero in Cara's story, too. Your support of Dove, Inc. keeps the shelter and Domestic Violence Program running, so that help is always available. Thank you!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We hope that you will join us at one of our Candlelighting Services in DeWitt, Macon, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties.

Joyce Kirkland
Domestic Violence Program Director

The Importance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), a time dedicated to raising awareness about the devastating impact of domestic violence and mobilizing communities to support victims and survivors. This month-long initiative serves as a critical opportunity to educate the public, challenge stigmas, and foster change. Domestic violence, which includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial abuse, affects millions of people worldwide, regardless of gender, age, race, or socioeconomic status. Domestic Violence Awareness Month plays a crucial role in addressing this pressing issue and supporting those affected by it.

Domestic violence is not confined to physical harm; it can manifest as emotional manipulation, financial control, and isolation. It's a pattern of behavior aimed at gaining power and control over an intimate partner. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or stalking at some point in their lives. These staggering statistics reveal the extent of the problem and emphasize the need for sustained awareness.

While anyone can be a victim, certain populations are disproportionately affected. Women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and marginalized communities often face higher rates of abuse and greater barriers to accessing support. Recognizing this diversity in experiences is essential in creating inclusive resources and support systems.

Dove has and always will be an organization that believes in meeting the needs of everyone affected by domestic violence. Our mission is not only to help those who are affected but to educate our friends, family, and community.

We thank you for reading this special Domestic Violence Awareness edition of DoveTales.

Ryan Huff
Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Dove Domestic Violence Program highlights for September 2024:

- The Domestic Violence Program is delighted to welcome Sharee Russell as our new 3rd Shift Shelter Advocate (M-F). Sharee is in the midst of training and shadowing of staff in preparation for moving to her assigned shift. We also welcome Shayla Watts as Legal Advocate. Shayla's start date is 9/23/24. Welcome to Dove, Sharee and Shayla!
- The Domestic Violence Program continues to interview for three positions:
 - 2nd Shift Shelter Advocate (W-Su, 4:00 p.m.-Midnight)
 - Advocate Supervisor
 - Shelter Operations Supervisor
- The Candlelight Committee and Committee Against Domestic Violence (CADV) are working together to plan and present the Macon County Candlelight Service for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The service is on 10/8/24 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 250 W. Decatur.
- The DV Program Director is preparing for FY25 Q1 reports for all grant funders, due on 10/15/24.
- The Domestic Violence Program is preparing for October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month observations with Candlelighting Services in Macon, DeWitt, Moultrie, and Shelby counties. Please join us for these services that memorialize those who died and celebrate survivors and the heroes who strive to end domestic violence in our communities.
 - Shelby County Candlelighting – Thursday, October 3, 7:00 p.m., First Assembly of God, 108 S. Oak St., Shelbyville, IL 62565
 - Macon County Candlelighting – Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m., First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 250 W. Decatur St., Decatur, IL 62522
 - Moultrie County Candlelighting – Thursday, October 24, 7:00 p.m., First Christian Church, 1357 CR 1200E, Sullivan, IL 61951
 - DeWitt County Candlelighting – Monday, October 28, 6:00 p.m., Journey Church, 801 S. Mulberry St., Clinton, IL 61727
 - Domestic Violence 40-Hour Training will take place in Dean Simcox Conference Room from 8:00 a.m. to Noon on November 4-7, 12-14, and 18-21. Dove Program Supervisors should contact Joyce Kirkland ASAP to register staff members for training.

Joyce Kirkland
Domestic Violence Program Director

NEWS

From the Domestic Violence Program * DeWitt * Moultrie * Piatt * Shelby *

Susie Kensil **Shelby County Coordinator**

As the calendar rolls over from September to October, our attention here in Shelby County turns to our annual Candlelight service. In actuality, a lot of our attention in September has been focused on preparation. We had our final CADV Candlelight meeting on September 12. I appeared on our local radio station to publicize our event on September 20 and met the preceding day with our local news reporter for a story in the Shelbyville Eagle. Much of my time when not meeting with participants has been spent on Candlelight. Our ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak, Shelbyville. The church is located at the corner of Illinois Route 16 and Oak Street.

Other than Candlelight, September was business as usual. Our local justice system continues to improve with our new State's Attorney and staff. Order of Protection numbers also continue to increase. September 10 saw the sentencing hearing for a 2019 domestic violence murder here in Shelbyville as the perpetrator was

sentenced to a lengthy prison term via a plea bargain negotiated by a Special Prosecutor assigned to the case by our former SA.

I have continued working closely with our local ROSC Council and our local Salvation Army. Salvation Army Bell Ringing season will be here soon; we are actively looking for bell ringers for the upcoming holiday season. I attended three trainings so far this month: Child Abuse and Mandated Reporting provided by PCA Illinois and DCFS; ICADV's quarterly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training; and Trauma Training by Crossings Healthcare at our September staff meeting.

Becky Comstock **Moultrie County Coordinator**

Throughout the month of October, Candlelighting Ceremonies are being held in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. These special events are bringing people together to remember those who have suffered because of violence. It is also to honor those who have survived a life of oppression, fear, and physical danger and who work to build abuse free lives for

themselves and their children. We will also honor those who work to end the abuse.

Please join us on Thursday October 24th, 7:00 p.m., at the First Christian Church in Sullivan, 1357 CR 1200 E Sullivan IL, to continue our stand against domestic violence in Moultrie County and to let victims and survivors know that they are not alone! Together we can strive to have a vision for peace, justice, equality and understanding among all people which promotes safety within our communities.

Moultrie County Dove Office provides legal advocacy, counseling, referrals, domestic violence education, support groups, shelter, and a 24hr hotline. If you suspect that someone you care about is being abused, call our 24-hour hotline at 217.728.9334. All our services are free and confidential and provided in a safe and non-judgmental environment.

Piatt County

No news to update at this time.

NEWS

From the Domestic Violence Program
*** DeWitt * Moultrie * Piatt * Shelby ***



Ashlyn Burrus
DeWitt County Coordinator

Who is ready for Fall?!

Fall can be exciting and not exciting for some people. Fall can bring growth but also Fall can bring a lot of change for some people that can cause stress. Some changes and different struggles throughout a busy season during the fall and with holidays coming up can come more domestic violence in our communities. In Dewitt County we will be bringing Domestic Violence Awareness at our Candle lighting event at Journey Church in Clinton on October 28 at 6pm. We will be recognizing, honoring, and raising awareness for those who have victims, survivors, and advocates of Domestic Violence in Dewitt County. Refreshments at the end of event will also be provided. I hope you can come out for our annual Candle lighting and invite others to join 😊 There will be guest speakers and singing too. #Every1KnowsSome1

Also, on September 13th the Dewitt County Coordinator and the Moultrie County Coordinator attended the Illinois Domestic Violence Peaceful Partners Training Conference in Springfield. We learned a lot of new information regarding financial abuse and heard a very impactful testimony.

If you or someone you know ever needs assistance regarding Domestic Violence in Dewitt County, the Dewitt County 24-hour Hotline is 217.935.6072. The Dewitt County Food Pantry has also been so busy lately and that occurs every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-2 😊

NEEDS

From the Domestic Violence Program

Shelter Needs List

Desperate Need

- ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL WIPES – 70%
- LATEX-FREE VINYL GLOVES (SIZE LG AND XL)
- BABY WIPES
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HAIR CARE PRODUCTS (SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER/ GREASE)
- HAIRBRUSHES - NYLON BRISTLES
- ALEVE OR NAPROXEN
- COLD AND FLU MEDICINE
- BAND-AID ADHESIVE BANDAGES
- FULL SIZE BATH TOWELS (NEW ONLY)
- BATTERIES – ALL SIZES
- CELL PHONE CHARGERS – IPHONE/ANDROID



High Need

- CLOROX WIPES (WITH BLEACH)
- SIZE 4 DIAPERS
- SIZE 5 DIAPERS
- SIZE 6 DIAPERS
- DESITIN A&D OINTMENT
- BABY POWDER
- ADVIL/MOTRIN (OR IBUPROFEN) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- BODY WASH
- MEN'S BATH SOAP
- ADULT CLEANSING WIPES
- BODY LOTION
- MEN'S DEODORANT/ANTI-PERSPIRANT
- NAIL CLIPPERS / FILES
- NAIL POLISH / POLISH REMOVER
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- HAIRBRUSHES - NATURAL BRISTLES
- HAIR GEL AND HAIR SPRAY
- BLOW DRYERS
- CURLING IRONS
- FLAT IRONS
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC)
- BEDSHEET SETS - TWIN SIZE (NEW ONLY)
- PILLOWS (NEW ONLY)
- COMFORTERS (NEW ONLY)
- NIGHTSHIRTS - WOMENS, ALL SIZES (NEW ONLY)
- SWEATSUITS - UNISEX, ALL SIZES (NEW ONLY)
- MEN'S UNDERWARE
- ALARM CLOCK RADIOS

EVENTS

From the Domestic Violence Program

Dove's

Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.
Please call between September 6th and October 18th
217.428.6616

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

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to noon

TRAINING DATES: November 4-7, 12-14, 18-21

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



Our facilitators:

Joyce Kirkland
Program Director

Danielle Cunningham
Education and Awareness Supervisor

Jamie L. Houchins
Victim Advocate



Save the Date

Dove Domestic Violence Program

Candlelighting Ceremony's

For Domestic Violence

Let's light the night to remember and honor those who have suffered and died due to domestic violence. Let us also celebrate with the survivors and those who advocate for safe homes for all.

Shelby County

October 3rd 2024, 7:00 pm

First Assembly of God, 108 S Oak St, Shelbyville

Macon County

October 8th 2024, 7:00 pm

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 250 W Decatur St, Decatur

Moultrie County

October 24th 2024, 7:00 pm

First Christian Church, 1357 CR, 1357 County Rd 1200 E, Sullivan

DeWitt County

October 28th 2024, 6:00 pm

Journey Church Clinton, 801 S Mulberry St, Clinton

News from Dove Programs

DFA Program

One of the new things I have begun to do is teach a budgeting class for our Employability Program. I have the privilege of helping people in our program feel more empowered to have financial stability! Some of what we have discussed so far is on how to set SMART goals, meaning they need to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time Bound. We've talked about savings goals, specifically saving for an emergency fund or specific goals. I have also shared the many resources available for creating a budget and how to use them. I would like to encourage each of you to look at your budgeting practices to see where you might be able to improve them. Need some ideas? Feel free to reach out and I will help the best way I can!

Please keep an eye on our social media for DFA hours and locations!

Molly Tenuto
DFA Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program

Transformation is upon us with the changing of the seasons... Strides continue in the NUA neighborhood, meeting new people and getting camera applications filled out as CONO provides funding for these cameras to those Decatur neighborhoods hardest hit, such as NUA and others, by crime and/or violence. The neighbors receive these helpful tools in participation with the Decatur Police Department for the benefit of the overall community.

Most all the neighborhoods are currently busy in some way or another right now. A few examples are we are happy to

announce the Elms neighborhood has had their first meeting! It was a good turn out and the next one is set for October 26th, 1 p.m., at the Decatur Public Library, Madden Auditorium. As well as we look forward to an adjusted date from September to October for the Torrence Park 5K run and GANO looks to begin their mural project on W. Decatur St., very soon!

I sincerely want to thank the community for these 3 plus years of allowing me into your space. It has been a wonderful joy to serve alongside you! And thank you to Dove, Inc. for 5 plus years of learning adventures. I sincerely hope to see all of you around.

LeAnn Ellis
NSP Coordinator

RSVP Program

For our 9/11 Day of Service, DeWitt County RSVP volunteers signed and delivered thank you cards to first responders in DeWitt County. Macon County RSVP delivered cards, a cookie tray and a veggie tray to Abbott EMS. Thank you to all first responders for all you do to keep us safe and healthy year-round!

HUGE shout-out to the Kiwaniannes for their \$500 donation to our Christmas Care & Share program! This money is being set aside to help provide 50 – 75 nursing home seniors with gifts for Christmas. Case managers at Decatur Rehabilitation and Health Care Center and Mt. Zion Health & Rehab provide us with gift wish lists from seniors who don't have family around to help brighten their holidays. Thank you, Kiwaniannes!!

Angie Williams
RSVP Program Director

News from Dove Programs

Homeward Bound Program

Seeking assistance from the Homeward Bound Program?

Walk in applications will be taken on Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:30PM. If experiencing a homeless emergency, individuals can be seen on Mondays and Fridays. Mondays hours are 12:00 PM – 3:30PM and Fridays 9:00 AM – 3:30PM

Coordinated Entry:

Homeward Bound, on behalf of the Macon County CoC, continues to provide services and have staff available 24 hours a day 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 217.706.6614.

We would like to welcome all new hires:
Wendy King; HMIS Supervisor, Karyssa Vigil; Housing Advocate, and Amy Aubert; Macon County Community Resource Supervisor

Ashley Garner
Interim Homeward Bound Program Director

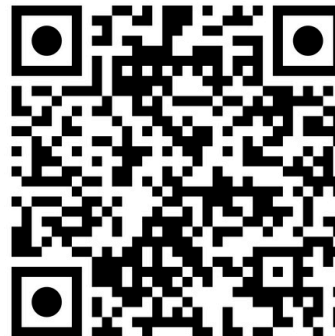
Christmas Care & Share

There are so many ways to get involved in this program – and it's also a fantastic opportunity for high school students to get community service hours. Things you can do to help families at Christmas include donating items, volunteering, and adopting a family or a senior in a nursing home.

If you're interested in volunteering during December, please email santa@doveinc.org or call 217.428.6616 and ask to speak to a member of the Christmas Care & Share team. Volunteer opportunities include counting and sorting toys and gifts beginning December 6 & 7, and December 9 – 14. Our toy distribution will be from December 16 – 20, from 8 – 4 p.m. and help is needed to assist families in shopping around the workshop area, and staffing toy and gift stations.

Those interested in donating can drop off donations to 302 S. Union St. Between 8:30 – 4:30 Monday through Friday, until December 3. December 6 and moving forward, donations can be brought directly to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Court, to the back entrance. We'll be happy to help unload if assistance is needed.

Ryan Huff
Marketing and Communications Coordinator



[Sign Up Today!](#)



RESOURCES

Dove Food Pantry



Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
803 W. Leander, Clinton

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 **living** in your household.

This is a free service to anyone in DeWitt County.

Children's Clothing Room

**Dove's Children's Clothing Room Central Christian Church
650 West William Street,
Decatur Mondays & Wednesdays
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Free clothing, yes really free,
for infants through teens**

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

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 22nd

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

For more information please call:

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

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

Join us for networking and sharing information:

- program coordinators
- direct service providers
- organization representatives

4th Tuesday of each month, NOON

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

At the core of every successful organization lies its people, and here at Dove, Inc. our staff members are the true lifeblood of everything we do. Every day, they bring passion, dedication, and a spirit of service that drives our mission forward. As we continue to provide essential services and support to individuals in need, it's important to pause and recognize the remarkable contributions of the people who make it all possible.

Whether it's working directly with participants in our programs, ensuring the smooth operation of our facilities, or supporting our administrative needs, each staff member plays a crucial role in making Dove, Inc. a place of hope and transformation. Their collective efforts create an environment where individuals can rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

We see the dedication of our staff in action every day—whether it's going the extra mile to meet the needs of our community members or coming up with innovative solutions to overcome challenges. Their resilience and commitment to excellence are truly inspiring. I want to publicly and LOUDLY state that I am beyond grateful for each and every one of them!

Darsonya Switzer
Chief Executive Officer

Dove's Mission

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Dove works for justice, equality, and understanding among all people.

Dove, Inc.

Executive Staff

Darsonya Switzer, **Chief Executive Officer**
Tina Owens, **Chief Operations Officer**
Vicki Wrigley, **Chief Financial Officer**



Leadership Team

Dove Financial Assistance (DFA)
Molly Tenuto, Program Director



Domestic Violence Program
Joyce Kirkland, Program Director

Dove-Homeward Bound
Ashley Garner, Interim Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program
LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator



Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Angie Williams, Program Director

Marketing & Communications
Ryan Huff, Coordinator