

# Safety-Net

March 2011

## Resources Provided by the City of Bloomington

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

### A goal: Making Bloomington a livable community

Almost every decision we make at the City revolves around one simple idea: make Bloomington a livable community.

### The Community and Family Resources Department and the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department play an active role.

And to make Bloomington a livable community, we have two City departments dedicated to ensuring a high quality of life for all: the Community and Family Resources Department (CFRD) and the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Department.

### Here is what these departments do

CFRD serves as a resource to individuals, families and organizations in the Bloomington community, coordinating services, programs and activities that promote an enhanced quality of life and help build a strong, vital community. HAND has many resources that can help people buy, maintain, and improve their own

home and their neighborhoods.

### CFRD and its multiple programs

The Latino Programs and Outreach division of CFRD was created to serve our community's rapidly growing Latino immigrant population. Area staff serves as the liaison for the Department and for community organizations providing support to the Spanish speaking population and/or promoting diversity and cultures. Additionally, they provide direct services like referrals, interpretation and translation to Spanish speaking community members.

CFRD also helps coordinate the free community tax service, which offers free tax preparation assistance to lower income individuals. Latino Programs has partnered with AARP to create a bilingual tax preparation site to assist Spanish speakers who need help filing their taxes. This program is a collaborative effort between our office, United Way of Monroe County, El Centro Comunal Latino, AARP and the Monroe County Public Library.

See "Resources", page 2

## Recursos provistos por la ciudad de Bloomington

Por Mark Kruzan, Alcalde de Bloomington

Traducido por Daniel Soto

Casi todas las decisiones que tomamos en la ciudad giran en torno a una idea simple: hacer de Bloomington una comunidad habitable.

Y para hacer Bloomington una comunidad habitable, tenemos dos departamentos de la Ciudad que se dedican a garantizar la buena calidad de vida para todos: el Departamento de recursos para la Comunidad y la Familia (CFRD como sus siglas en Ingles) y el Departamento de la Vivienda y Desarrollo de Vecindarios (HAND).

CFRD sirve como un recurso para los individuos, familias y organizaciones de la comunidad de Bloomington, coordina los servicios, programas y actividades que promuevan una mejor calidad de vida y ayudar a construir una comunidad fuerte y vital. HAND tiene muchos recursos que pueden ayudar a la gente a comprar, mantener y mejorar su propia casa, y mejorar sus barrios.

La división de Programas Latinos y de Enlace del CFRD fue creado para servir a nuestra comunidad y a la creciente población de inmigrantes latinos. El personal

sirve de enlace para el Departamento y las organizaciones comunitarias de apoyo a la población de habla hispana y / o promueve la diversidad de las culturas. Además, proporcionan servicios directos como referencias, interpretación y traducción a los miembros de la comunidad de habla hispana.

CFRD también ayuda a coordinar el servicio de impuestos para la comunidad un servicio que ofrece asistencia gratuita para la preparación de impuestos para individuos de bajos ingresos. Programas Latinos se ha asociado con AARP para crear un sitio de preparación de impuestos bilingües para ayudar a los hablantes de la lengua español que necesita ayuda para presentar sus impuestos. Este programa es un esfuerzo de colaboración entre nuestra oficina, United Way del Condado de Monroe, El Centro Comunal Latino, AARP y la Biblioteca Pública del Condado de Monroe.

Los Programas de salud para la Comunidad y su divulgación es otra división de

See "Recursos", page 2



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

## The Homeward Bound Walk: Fighting Homelessness, One Step at a Time

By Laura Freeze, SPEA intern, Homeward Bound Committee

City of Bloomington  
 Community & Family Resources Dept.

### Mark your Calendar!

*What:* Homeward Bound 5K Walk

*When:* Sunday, April 10th, 2011.  
 Registration at noon, walk at 1 p.m.

*How:* Pre-register online at <http://homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington>.

*Where:* Third Street Park in Bloomington

*Why:* To fight homelessness in our community together!

See "Homeward Bound Walk", page 3

## Bridges To Somewhere: People Helping People

Safety-Net is a free volunteer-driven community publication that is published once every three months and is sponsored by the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP). Its mission is two-fold. Part of the mission is to educate community members about programs available that help individuals and families to enrich their lives. And a second part of the mission is to make positive connections between those in our community who have resources, and those who do not. The ultimate goal is to encourage everyone to participate in making Bloomington a special community that links everyone together. A big "thank you" to all of you who encourage the publication of Safety-Net by contributing articles that make Safety-Net possible. Each issue features the many agencies, as well as City and County programs that reach out to people and offer much needed community services. There are also writings and poems from individuals who have benefitted from these programs. At the end of the publication there is an extensive Agency Guide that enables individuals to locate appropriate resources. Comments from readers are most welcome. Please address them to the editor, [white@indiana.edu](mailto:white@indiana.edu) as well as the assistant editor [doug@insccap.org](mailto:doug@insccap.org). Place Safety-Net on the subject line, and state whether you would like your comments printed in the next issue. Past issues of Safety-Net are available at the Safety-Net website, <http://safety-net-newspaper.com/>.

## RESOURCES

Continued from page 1

The Community Health Programs and Outreach is another division of CFRD. This division administers an enrollment center and provides outreach for the Hoosier Healthwise state health program for children and pregnant women, and also provides application assistance to uninsured adults enrolling in the new Healthy Indiana Plan health coverage program.

Another one of the great programs that CFRD offers is the Bloomington Volunteer Network. The Volunteer Network seeks to build a strong, healthy and engaged community by connecting volunteers of all ages with opportunities to serve and by providing resources to volunteers and agencies in order to build creative and effective volunteer projects, programs and partnerships.

### HAND programs

HAND also provides resources to help increase Bloomington residents' quality of life. HAND provides or administers funding directly aimed at social service agencies to help those agencies provide services to the community. The City of Bloomington provides the maximum amount

of social service funding available under Community Development Block Grant. For this next fiscal year, agencies such as Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Community Kitchen, Middle Way House and Martha's House all received funding. In addition, we have increased the Jack Hopkins Council Social Service fund to \$220,000 for 2011. These dollars will help agencies increase their capacity to serve Bloomington. Last year, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Options, Stepping Stones and Monroe County United Ministries all received funding among others. These dollars provide a needed safety-net for our community. The City partners with agencies to provide other services, such as the City of Bloomington Utilities' partnership with the South Central Community Action Program, Inc. to offer financial assistance to CBU customers experiencing difficulty in paying their water/wastewater/stormwater bill. To qualify, CBU customers must meet income eligibility guidelines of the South Central Community Action Program's Energy Assistance Program. For more information, contact the SCCAP office in Bloomington at 812-339-3447. SCCAP can also provide trash stickers to households that cannot cover this expense. Remember – recycling is free!

## RECURSOS

Continued from page 1

CFRD. Esta división administra un centro de inscripción y provee de extensión para el programa de Hoosier Healthwise que es un servicio de salud para niños y mujeres embarazadas, y también proporciona apoyo para ayudar a los adultos sin seguro a inscribirse en el nuevo programa de Healthy Indiana Plan de cobertura de salud.

Otro de los grandes programas que CFRD ofrece es la Red de Voluntarios de Bloomington. La Red de Voluntarios busca construir una comunidad fuerte, saludable y comprometida mediante la conexión de los voluntarios de todas las edades la oportunidad de servir y de proporcionar recursos a los voluntarios y las agencias con el fin de construir creativas y eficaces proyectos de voluntariado, para los programas y las asociaciones.

HAND también ofrece recursos para ayudar a aumentar la calidad de vida de los residentes de Bloomington. HAND proporciona o administra directamente los fondos destinados a agencias de servicio social para ayudar a los organismos que prestan servicios a la comunidad. La Ciudad de Bloomington establece el importe máximo de financiación de servicios sociales disponibles en Community Development Block Grant (Ayuda financiera de Bloque al Desarrollo Co-

munitario). Para este próximo año fiscal, los organismos tales como Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Community Kitchen, Middle Way House y Martha's House, reciben fondos. Además, el alcalde Kruzan ha aumentado los fondos de servicio Jack Hopkins un Servicio de Consejo Social a \$ 220.000 para el año 2011. Este dinero ayudará a las agencias a aumentar su capacidad para servir a Bloomington. El año pasado, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Options, Stepping Stones and Monroe County United Ministries todos recibieron fondos. Este dinero es necesario para proporcionar una red de seguridad a nuestra comunidad. Los socios de la ciudad aquellas agencias que prestan otros servicios, como la Ciudad de Bloomington Utilities' CBU (como sus siglas en Ingles) se asocia con el South Central Community Action Program, Inc. para ofrecer asistencia financiera a los clientes de CBU los cuales han experimentando dificultades para pagar el agua / aguas residuales / proyecto de ley de aguas pluviales. Para calificar, los clientes de CBU deben cumplir ciertos requisitos, como lo son requisitos que guian los ingresos de Energía de la región centro-sur un Programa de Acción Comunitaria de Asistencia. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la oficina SCCAP en Bloomington en el 812-339-3447. SCCAP también puede proporcionar pegatinas

See "Recursos", page 3

HAND's educational opportunities include R101 Renting in Bloomington, the Home Buyer's Club, This Whole House, Citizens' Academy, Latino Citizens' Academy, and the Bloomington Leadership Series. Making educated decisions about your home or learning how to effect change in your community helps create a better quality of life for your household and your neighborhood. These programs can also lead to assistance such as down payment and closing cost assistance or entrance into a HAND housing program to purchase and renovation your home.

HAND offers both default counseling and reverse mortgage counseling to interested parties and their families. If you are behind on your mortgage, contact a housing counselor at HAND for assistance. HAND does not offer financial assistance, but the housing counselors will help you work with your mortgage company to resolve your default. Housing counselors can also cover information about reverse mortgages and alternatives to reverse mortgage.

Home is very important to quality of life and HAND's multitude of housing programs include providing financial assistance to the Bloomington Housing Authority through the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program to provide rental as-

sistance to households on the Section 8 waiting list. HAND also can assist income eligible households with emergency repairs or accessibility modifications. The Rental Inspection Program ensures that everyone renting within the city limits has a safe and habitable place to call home.

HAND also awards a number of grants to help improve neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Improvement Grant allows neighborhood groups to apply for funding for non-traditional projects in their neighborhoods, like adding playgrounds or landscaping. Annually HAND sponsors Neighborhood Cleanups to neighborhoods that have demonstrated through their applications the need and ability to conduct a successful clean-up. The neighborhood organizes the event and provides all the volunteers, while HAND provides much needed dumpsters, metal recycling, Hazmat, chipper service, tire disposal, and, for the first time this year through a partnership with Middle Way House's Confidential Document Destruction, paper shredding.

I encourage you to learn more about the resources that the City of Bloomington provides to our residents. It is my hope that all of our residents will take the opportunity to get involved with CFRD and HAND to increase the quality of their lives.

## About *Safety~Net*

**David White**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Doug Wilson**  
Assistant Editor

**Joe Lee**  
Editorial Cartoonist

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

The special sections in this issue are: **Voices, Agency Reports, Volunteer Opportunities, Youth Programs, Agency Guide, SCCAP, Public Comment Therapeutic Jail Programs.**

### AGENCY REPORTS

Each issue of *Safety~Net* has articles contributed from the many non-profit/social service agencies in the Bloomington area about programs and services that they provide, as well as volunteer opportunities.

### AGENCY GUIDE

There is an extensive Agency Guide pointing out where specific services/programs are available and how to access them.

**WE WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.** Please send these to the editor at [white@indiana.edu](mailto:white@indiana.edu). Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.



Courtesy photo

## HOMeward BOUND WALK

Continued from page 1

### Fighting homelessness, one step at a time

Get your walking shoes dusted off and ready! On Sunday, April 10, 2011, downtown Bloomington will once again be filled with hundreds of walkers. Why? To participate in the ninth annual Homeward Bound 5K to benefit and raise awareness for homelessness and their families. Together all participants will be “Fighting Homelessness, One Step at a Time.”

Last year over 800 walkers raised nearly \$55,000 for local agencies to provide services and help meet the needs of people facing homelessness and poverty in the community. All of the funds raised

benefit local agencies which are raising awareness and meeting the real, unique needs of those facing homelessness.

### Create teams

Thanks to hundreds of individuals and dozens of teams that participate in Homeward Bound and partner with these agencies, each year’s spring walk is defined by hope and energy. Participants often create teams with their friends, co-workers, or people who share similar interests. Sororities, church groups, school clubs, and numerous other organizations often form teams with a creative theme, such as “Combat Poverty.”

### Homelessness and poverty statistics in Monroe County

-226 youth in the Monroe County School Corporation were identified as being homeless in 2010—a 29% increase over 2009.

-There are 26,163 people in Monroe County living below the poverty line.

-Monroe County has the highest rate of poverty in Indiana at 22.7%, while the state-wide average is 14.4%.

-Most area shelters have seen a marked increase in guests in 2010 over the previous year and many of the shelters have a waiting list.

### Local benefiting agencies

Who are the benefiting agencies working tirelessly to assist those who may not have a roof over their heads or do not have enough for basic needs? There are 11 agencies, ranging from homeless shelters and food banks, to resource centers and mental health providers. They are Amethyst House, Centerstone, Community Kitchen, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Martha’s House, Middle Way House, Monroe County United Ministries, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, Shalom Community Center, Stepping Stones, and Youth Services Bureau. You can find a description of these agencies and the services that they provide in the Directory of Agencies and Services at the end of this newspaper.

### Spokesperson, entertainment, food, children’s activities

The walk will commence at Third Street Park with the walk spokesperson. Each year the agencies identify someone on the road to self-sufficiency who has experienced homelessness and received services from a Homeward Bound participating agency. Walkers will also enjoy live music, and an overall energetic and fun environment. Food will be offered by generous sponsors such as the Lions Club and Tree of Life. There will plenty of fun activities for children, such as face painting, crafts, and games.

### Pre-register online

Now is the time to register a team, raise money, become a sponsor, and volunteer to help out on the day of the walk. Visit <http://homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington> to register and choose one of the many ways to be involved in Homeward Bound.



Courtesy photo

This year the goal is for 1,000 walkers with \$65,000 raised for benefiting agencies. Everyone can help in this worthwhile challenge! With your support and participation in the upcoming Homeward Bound walk, we as a community can continue “Fighting Homelessness, One Step at a Time.”

### Sources:

*American Fact Finder: American Community Survey, 2009*

*Monroe County Community School Corporation. 2010 McKinney-Vento Homelessness Questionnaire*

## RECURSOS

Continued from page 2

de la basura a los hogares que no pueden cubrir este gasto. Recuerde - el reciclaje es gratis!

Oportunidades educativas de HAND incluyen R101 Alquiler en Bloomington, el Club de Compradores de Casa, Toda tu Casa, “ la Academia, para los ciudadanos latinos” ( Conociendo Bloomington como su nombre en Español), La Academia de los Ciudadanos, y la Serie de Liderazgo Bloomington. Les ayudan a tomar decisiones fundamentadas sobre su casa o aprender a efectuar un cambio en su comunidad, esto ayuda a crear una mejor calidad de vida para su familia y su vecindario. Estos programas también pueden llevar la asistencia, tales como

pago inicial y los costos de cierre o entrada en un programa de vivienda de HAND para comprar o renovar su casa.

Además, HAND ofrece asesoramiento y orientación por defecto de hipoteca inversa a los interesados y sus familias. Si usted está atrasado en su hipoteca, llame a un consejero de vivienda en HAND para recibir asistencia. HAND no ofrece ayuda financiera, pero los asesores de vivienda le ayudará a trabajar con su compañía hipotecaria para resolver su problema. Los asesores de vivienda también pueden cubrir la información sobre las hipotecas inversas y las alternativas a la hipoteca inversa.

El hogar es muy importante para la calidad de vida, la multitud de programas de HAND incluyen programas de vivienda, prestación de asistencia financiera para la agencia de autoridad de Vivienda

en Bloomington a través del programa de Asistencia Basada en el Inquilinato, Alquiler para proporcionar asistencia de renta a los hogares en la Sección 8 y que estan en la lista de espera. HAND también puede ayudar a los hogares de ingresos elegibles con reparaciones de emergencia o modificaciones de accesibilidad. El Programa de Alquiler de Inspección asegura que todo el mundo que alquila dentro de los límites de la ciudad tienen un lugar seguro y habitable al cual llaman casa.

HAND también otorga un número de becas para ayudar a mejorar los barrios. El Mejoramiento de Barrios de subvención permite que grupos de vecinos puedan solicitar la financiación de proyectos no tradicionales en sus barrios, como la adición de parques infantiles o jardines. Anualmente HAND patrocina

la Limpieza de Barrios y los cuales han demostrado a través de sus aplicaciones la necesidad y la capacidad para llevar a cabo con éxito la limpieza. El barrio organiza un evento y proporciona todos los voluntarios, mientras HAND proporciona los contenedores de basura cosa que es muy necesaria, los de reciclado de metales, y de materiales peligrosos, servicio de astilladora, de eliminación de neumáticos, y, por primera vez este año el picado de papel de documentos a través de una asociación guiada por Middle Way House

Os animo a conocer más acerca de los recursos que la ciudad de Bloomington ofrece a nuestros residentes. Es mi esperanza que todos nuestros residentes tendrán la oportunidad de involucrarse con CFRD y HAND para aumentar la calidad de sus vidas.

# The Interfaith Winter Shelter, 2010-2011

By Ken Rogers, Interfaith Winter Shelter Executive Administrator

The Interfaith Winter Shelter (IWS), a collaborative effort of twenty-five faith-based communities, nine businesses and government agencies, and two other organizations providing direct assistance to the homeless, is providing for the second year a low-barrier, “warm, safe place to sleep” for those in our community who are without a place to call home.

Four churches provide the physical Sites of the Shelter from 9:00 PM\*\* to 7 AM: First United Christian Church on Monday and Tuesday nights, Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday nights, First Christian Church on Thursday and Friday nights, and First United Methodist Church on Saturday and Sunday nights. Each of these shelter sites has Site Directors, who provide leadership to the 450+ Volunteers who have undergone IWS training, and who are responsible for the nightly operations of their respective low-barrier Shelter Sites.

The commonly used term “low-barrier” simply means that complete sobriety is not a prerequisite to admission to a Shelter Site, as it is for admission to a so-called “high-barrier” shelter, which requires the

passing of a breathalyzer or other drug tests.

It’s important to note that the Guests of the IWS are not permitted to consume alcohol or other drugs during their overnight stay at any of the Sites, and to assure that they don’t, they are not permitted to consume inside the Shelter any food or drink that they have brought with them, which could be laced with drugs or “spiked” with alcohol. Additionally, they’re required to divest themselves of any possessions they may have other than their clothing, toiletries, and electronic devices, to check-in their backpacks and any other luggage they may have, and they are not permitted to come back into the Shelter that night if they opt to claim that luggage and leave before 7:00 AM. Storing their bags out of reach during their stay effectively prevents any alcohol or drug consumption during the night, thus reducing significantly health and/or behavioral problems associated with substance abuse.

It’s important to note in this connection that only a small minority (< 10%) of IWS Guests present themselves at the Shelter in a noticeably intoxicated condition. It is this small minority of Guests, however,

who often present the greatest challenge to maintaining the peace and quiet of the Shelter. Some of the Guests who arrive intoxicated are orderly and quiet, but others who seek admission to the Shelter may be boisterous at best and belligerent at worst. Guests who manifest the latter behavior are given one opportunity to calm themselves and behave appropriately, and failing in that, they are asked to leave the Shelter Site. Should they refuse to promptly comply with the request to leave, the police are called, who escort them off church property.

In addition to denying IWS Guests access to alcohol and other drugs for the duration of their stay at an IWS Shelter Site, another new policy has been implemented in the 2010-2011 sheltering season: weapons screening. During the process of admission to a Shelter Site, each prospective Guest is required to empty his or her pockets and is then screened for weapons with a hand-held metal detector such as those employed at airports. This policy was instituted by the IWS after a survey of 84 Guests determined that 80% of them approved of the weapons screening

procedure in place at the Genesis Summer Shelter House here in Bloomington, which provided overnight shelter for the homeless from June 7-October 31, 2010.

The number of homeless people in the community who have sought overnight shelter in November, December, and January of this year has increased substantially over the same period last year. During the 2009-2010 sheltering season, an average of thirty (30) Guests per night, including an average of four (4) women were sheltered, whereas this year, the average has been forty-five (45) Guests per night, including an average of ten (10) women.

Thanks to wide-based community support in the form of volunteering, cash donations, donations of food and supplies, and many other forms of support, the Interfaith Winter Shelter has been able to provide again this year a warm, safe place to sleep for those of our fellow citizens who, for many different reasons, have no place to call home.

\*\*The Sunday night Site at First United Methodist opens at 8:30 PM in order to serve food, as the usual sources of free food during the week are closed on Sunday evenings.

## NAMI Offers Support and Family to Family Training

By Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor, president of NAMI-Greater Bloomington Area • [www.namibloomington.org](http://www.namibloomington.org)

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is the largest grassroots organization in the country, made up of over 220,000 families and over 1,100 local and state affiliates. Our local affiliate serves Bloomington and the surrounding areas.

NAMI Greater Bloomington Area is committed to helping families with mental illness achieve a higher quality of living. NAMI is the largest grassroots organization in the US that is committed to serving the needs of families with a loved one with mental illness.

In conjunction with the Mental Health of America, we offer two Family Support Groups for families in crisis due to a loved one with mental illness. These meetings meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at the First United Methodist Church on East 4th Street, across from the downtown Bloomington post office. We meet in room 302 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Our support group leaders provide a warm place where people can come together to help each other in dealing with the challenges we have living with our mentally ill loved ones and to provide some much needed hope. The information we exchange at our meetings is held in confidence, and we remember the following principles of support, which under-

score why we get together and what we aim to understand from these meetings.

1. We will see the individual first, not the illness.
2. We recognize mental illnesses are brain disorders.
3. We aim for better coping skills.
4. We find strength in sharing experiences.
5. We reject stigma in ourselves and in others.
6. We won’t judge anyone’s pain as less than our own.
7. We forgive ourselves and reject guilt.
8. We embrace humor as healthy.
9. We accept we cannot resolve all problems.
10. We expect a better future in a realistic way.
11. We will never give up hope!

We also provide the Family to Family educational course for family members of individuals with severe mental illness. There is no charge to participate in this 12 week course which will meet once a week, on Tuesday evenings beginning March 8 and running through May 24. The classes will be held at the First United Church,

2420 E. 3rd Street in Bloomington and will meet from 7-9:30pm.

The Family to Family class will provide participants with information about schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, borderline personality disorder, co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders. Basic information on medications and about the brain will be given, along with sessions on problem solving, communication skills, self-care, rehabilitation, advocacy, fighting stigma, and an empathy workshop on what it’s like to be mentally ill.

Family to Family not only provides basic education and skill training for families who must cope with the difficulties of their ill relatives, it also gives them practical and emotional support to sustain them in their role as primary caregivers in the mental health system. And perhaps most important, the classes provide a safe, confidential place to talk about what you and your loved ones are going through.

Pre-registration is required for this course. For more information or to register for the Spring class, please call Nan Miller at 876-3826 or contact Nan via email at [nan.4.nami@gmail.com](mailto:nan.4.nami@gmail.com).

Our NAMI affiliate also cares deeply about children with mental illness. Last

summer we ran for the first time here in Bloomington the NAMI BASICS class and we hope to run this program again this coming summer. BASICS is a six-week education program that is intended for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents living with brain disorders such as ADHD, major depression, bipolar disorder, oppositional defiance disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, childhood onset schizophrenia, and co-morbid disorders such as substance abuse. It is NOT necessary that the child have an “official” diagnosis.

The BASICS course is also free to participants and will be taught by two trained instructors, each of whom are parents of children with mental illness who experienced symptoms of brain disorders prior to the age of thirteen.

Examples of topics covered include:

- It’s Not Your Fault: mental illnesses are brain disorders
- The biology of mental illness
- Getting an accurate diagnosis
- Navigating the System: schools, juvenile justice, and mental health

For more information about when the BASICS course might be taught, please keep an eye on our web-site at [NAMIBLOOMINGTON.ORG](http://NAMIBLOOMINGTON.ORG).

# Meals On Wheels awarded NAP credits; hires new Director

By Kathy Romy, Executive Director Bloomington Meals On Wheels  
714 S Rogers St Bloomington, IN 47403 812-353-2248 kromy@bloomingtonhospital.org

## What we do

Founded in 1973, Bloomington Meals On Wheels provides over 1000 nutritious meals per month to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves due to accident, illness, or disability. Meals On Wheels reduces health care costs by allowing our clients to recover at home. Bloomington MOW is a fee-for-service agency, charging a small fee (\$27.50) for 20 meals per week. The majority of the meal cost is subsidized by Bloomington Hospital, Meadwood and charitable donors. Volunteers deliver meals to the infirmed and elderly once a month over the noon hour.

## Testimonial statements

"Meals On Wheels has been a wonderful answer for my Aunt's needs. Not only that, but she really (I mean REALLY) likes them! Food for her – peace of mind for me. Thanks for the wonderful service."

~Kathy Deremiah

"If it were not for Meals On Wheels I could not stay in my home of 53 years."

~Mr. Harry Hollis, 96 yrs young

"We could not stay in our home without Meals On Wheels. I am 84 and my husband is 88. When my husband came out of the nursing home 3 years ago, he was weak & stressed. The nutritious meals keep his diabetes in check. And the service continues to be a joy for us.

~Mrs. Fern Boruff

## Partnering with Bloomington Hospital

This year brought some big changes for Bloomington Meals on Wheels (MOW). In May of 2010, the Bloomington Hospital Foundation and MOW formalized the friendship that they have shared for many years by becoming partners. Under the partnership, the Foundation will provide fundraising and investment support and advice to Meals on Wheels.

Formalizing the relationship has already brought rewards for MOW. In July 2010, through the efforts of the Foundation, MOW was awarded a Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) grant. This grant gives MOW the ability to offer tax credits to individuals who donate to MOW through the program. To date, MOW has received \$8,660



Helen Freeman delivers to a Meals on Wheels client. Courtesy photo

through the NAP program for this year and has the potential for obtaining even greater awards in years to come. These grant monies will be used to expand MOW programming and services.

On November 20, 2010 MOW was the recipient of the proceeds from the first Bloomingfoods Wine Tasting event. A successful event for both Bloomingfoods and MOW, a total of \$550 was raised for Meals On Wheels.



## The executive director

Other changes for MOW include the hiring of its new executive director Kathy Romy. Romy started in August of this year and brings 14 years of non-profit experience, having recently served as general manager of the Bloomington POPS Orchestra. She holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana University.

Her goals are to increase exposure of the Meals on Wheels mission to the community. "I feel extremely honored to work for an organization that makes in difference in people's lives on a daily basis and provides an important service like this to the community," Romy said.

## Volunteers and donors

Bloomington Meals On Wheels could not exist without our dedicated volunteers and generous donors. Both help keep the cost of our program affordable for our clients. To become a volunteer or to find out more about Bloomington Meals On Wheels, please call 323-4982 or email us at [mow@bloomingtonhospital.org](mailto:mow@bloomingtonhospital.org).

## Amethyst House: A Ray of Love

By Julia Dotson, Lead Case Manager

The Amethyst House (A H) board, staff and supporters have remained true to the intent of the original A H, established in the 1980s and initially named "Ray of Love". Pioneered by dedicated, forward thinking members of the Bloomington community, Reverend Hugh Laughlin, the City of Bloomington and recovery community members, this home was founded to provide a safe, sober environment for homeless persons with addictions. Over the past thirty years many treatment programs have opened, and closed, their doors due to insufficient funding and management. A H has steadily integrated new knowledge, research, best practices in the addictions field, and input from our clients, into our abstinence based programs. The A H Mission is to "provide a foundation for sober living by partnering with individuals, families and communities impacted by addiction and substance abuse issues by providing quality recovery services for clean, sober and healthy living." Our Vision is to work toward "a world where recovery services are available to all, the stigma of addiction is eliminated, and lifelong recovery is possible."

At Amethyst House, we believe that our expertise in treating substance abuse and gambling issues is primary. However, these addictions are often associated with complex issues related to mental health, physical health, employment, self-esteem, homelessness, abuse, domestic violence, legal issues, children's self-esteem and emotional growth, school attendance and performance. Addiction is not a "selective" disease. We serve people of all income levels, professions, races and ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, people incarcerated, and of varying educational levels and ages.

Amethyst Outpatient services include intensive group drug and alcohol treatment (IOP), individual therapy, and Prime for Life, an educational program offering life skills and insights for participants questioning their drug and alcohol use. We educate many young people, including university and college students through court and student service referrals, about their own substance use and gambling, family history, and help them develop an awareness of potential problems. Several A H staff have received training in gam-

bling addiction services, often a "hidden" addiction which can be devastating to families. A H partners with state initiatives, as well as Indiana University, to address what is becoming an epidemic gambling issue which takes many forms.

Amethyst residential halfway houses in Bloomington provide long-term (six months or longer) services for men and women, the opportunity to develop life skills, structure, sober living, relationships with others in the recovery community, employment and/or educational supports, opportunities to rebuild family relationships, and support through working with judges, probation and parole, often providing treatment within the community rather than incarceration. With support from experienced Case Managers, residents learn to communicate, cooperate, ask for help and guidance, set life goals, take "one day at a time", build a drug-free life, and find their strengths and self-esteem. Case management with family members/significant others serves to educate and reunite damaged relationships.

Listening to feedback from clients and alumni and attention to research makes it

clear to us that successful completion of a treatment program does not answer the ongoing question of many addicts, "What do I do with my free time?" When years have been spent drinking, getting high, or chasing the impossible gambler's dream, these newly sober citizens need the life skills offered above to live a viable life free from addictions. Regular activities open to all clients, as well as the community, include basketball, volleyball, softball and at least two annual picnics at local parks. Other group and individual activities are ongoing, introducing many clients to local, free, family oriented activities, including individual and group leisure and wellness programs. These are planned around the needs and interests of clients.

A life of addiction brings pain, not only to the addict, but to those close to him/her.

We believe it is paramount for each client to find those with whom they can share their pain and fears. Involvement in Twelve Step programs, sponsorship and friendships with people who can relate is an important part of recovery. If you visit

See "AMETHYST HOUSE", page 6

# The Bookmobile: MCPL's Rolling Branch Library

by Chris Jackson, Outreach Services Manager, Monroe County Public Library

## Bookmobile Service

Monroe County's first bookmobile service started way back in 1929 with a Ford Model A. Service has continued since then (with only minor interruptions). Despite changes to county demographics and infrastructure, bookmobile service continues to thrive. Circulation has gone up 85% since 2000, last year reaching 85,705. To support this heavy use and after a year-and-a-half of planning, Monroe County Public Library has replaced its failing, 14-year-old vehicle with a new, energy efficient Bookmobile.

**Bookmobile service primarily targets low-income housing complexes, seniors, and communities far from the Main Library in Bloomington and the Ellettsville Branch.**

The Bookmobile runs seven routes each week, going out every day except Friday for a total of 27 stops. It carries some 6,000 items for all ages: books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, and music. There are always fresh selections to choose from. Titles on the shelves constantly rotate in and out from the Main Library's collections. Also, library cardholders can request any circulating item in the library's catalog for delivery to a particular Bookmobile stop. Bookmobile patron Marjorie Heise really appreciates this feature:

"Bookmobile selection is enhanced by online book and DVD requests delivered by library staff. [I can] pursue any interests I develop, without worry about how



Courtesy photo

heavy the load—the Bookmobile does all the lifting—especially important when I am incapacitated and unable to make the trip downtown. **The door to a wider world is always open.**"

## The New Bookmobile

The outside of the library's new Bookmobile is still green. It features the new MCPL logo. The inside is now much "greener" as well. Built on a Cummins/Freightliner chassis, the Bookmobile offers significant enhancements:

- A hybrid power system runs lights and computers from batteries, generator, or outlets.

*Instead of a large diesel generator*

*running full time during stops in order to power lights, computers and climate control, there is a bank of 12 batteries and a much smaller diesel.*

- A roof-mounted solar panel helps to charge the batteries.

*When power demand is moderate, only the batteries are used, resulting in a quiet environment with no vibration or exhaust. Batteries can be recharged by plugging the vehicle into an outlet or running the generator, with the solar panel providing an additional assist.*

- The low-emissions Cummins diesel engine complies with 2010 EPA standards.

*It should last 15 years or so.*

- Cellular Internet technology now provides staff and patrons with real-time connections to the library.

## A Vital Extension of MCPL

The Bookmobile provides persons throughout the county with access to high quality literature, movies, music, and information. Many cannot easily get to the library's two facilities in downtown Bloomington and Ellettsville. For them, it serves a range of needs, including such things as:

- Helping a parent to develop a preschooler's love of reading;
- Providing research materials for a school report;
- Supplying mystery novels to a senior with limited mobility; and
- Bringing a selection of DVDs for a family movie night.

"Our family really enjoys the Bookmobile. I like it most for its convenience of bringing the library closer to where we live. Our kids look forward to getting new books to read each week. It's been nice having school project resources so close by too. **We certainly read more having our weekly visits to the Bookmobile.**" –Susan Callahan

The full schedule of Bookmobile stops is available at [www.mcpl.info/bookmobile](http://www.mcpl.info/bookmobile) or call 349-3228. All Bookmobile stops are open to everyone.

## AMETHYST HOUSE

*Continued from page 5*

our programs, you will hear a lot of laughter as well. People learn to "get out of themselves" and not allow their problems to take control of their lives.

Several Amethyst House residents, both current and past alumni who continue to be involved, have written their "stories" relating to their A H experience. Included is one story from Jeff, who has given us permission to share:

"I came to Amethyst house in March of 2010. I have been sober for 11 months now. This is the longest I have been sober since I started using drugs and alcohol 36 years ago. I came to Amethyst House and

the Half Way house because it was what I needed. A structured program where I could and would be held accountable until I could become accountable to myself. At Amethyst, through their fine counselors and guidance, I have come to understand that other people really do care about me. I learned that I am a good person that did insane things I would never have done without the addiction (to alcohol). I can help others. Living with other people in Recovery has helped me to be accountable to myself and to others, and how to look out for myself and each other. I am prepared to take on stresses, anxieties, and upsets in life, and deal with them in a positive new way. I'm not sure where I'd be without Amethyst. I would like to add that I am working, I am helping the Leisure

Planning committee, making friends, and I am an active member of the Recovery community."

Although we serve primarily Monroe and surrounding counties, as well as our Outpatient services in Evansville, anyone is welcome to access A H services. We partner with numerous community providers to enhance our services, providing reciprocal training, referrals and community initiatives. We prioritize services for people who are homeless, I. V. drug users, and women who are pregnant, but work with everyone to access services as soon as possible.

Amethyst House participates annually in the Chocolate Festival, providing families with fun, games, chocolate and information packets at the Willie Wonka

event in February at the Boys and Girls Club. Keep an eye out for our annual Contra/Square Dance, BBQ and auction at Harmony School, coming up in September.

Please contact us if you have questions or concerns about yourself, a friend or loved one. We can be reached at the contacts below:

### Contact Amethyst House:

Administrative/Outpatient Office:  
812 336-3570

Men's Halfway House: 812 336-2812

Women's Halfway House: 812 336-2666

Evansville Office: 812 401-3415

[www.amethysthouse.org](http://www.amethysthouse.org)

# Job Hunting Secrets

By Rebecca Nunley, Job Links coordinator at Area 10 Agency on Aging, [munley@area10agency.org](mailto:munley@area10agency.org) or (812) 876-3383 X523

Here are 6 job hunting secrets that can help you land the job you want:

**1. Think about what job you want and would be good at.** Look at past jobs at which you have excelled or enjoyed. Consider any specialized training or experience that you have. Identify your strengths, skills, and interests. When you find a job opening that is a good fit, give the application extra time and effort, and drop it off personally. Looking for, “a job...any job”, will likely lead nowhere. Focusing your job hunt on jobs that are a good fit for you and your skills will lead to success.

**2. Get out and meet people.** Talk about the job you want with others. It's called networking, but it doesn't mean that you are asking your friends and family to hire you. It's about talking to your friends, family, and acquaintances about the job you are looking for, in hopes that they know of or have heard of openings, or have some advice on how to explore businesses that are hiring. It's about sharing ideas and resources, letting everyone you can think of know that you are searching for a job. It means finding new friends that may have a connection or knowledge that could be helpful. You never know when the person in line ahead of you at a store may work in the exact field you want to get into...or may even be responsible for hiring! The more people who know you and know what type of job you are looking for, the better your chances.



Courtesy photo

**3. Look good while job hunting.** You never know when you may run into the hiring manager or your future boss when dropping off a resume, so make sure you are at your best! Get a good night's sleep. Eat well. Clean up. Find some professional-looking clothes (from the Salvation Army's Thrift Shop or My Sister's Closet). Cover up tattoos and take out body piercings. Remove hats. Don't wear tight or revealing clothes. It's better to be too dressed up than not dressed up enough when looking for a job. Job hunting is not the time to chal-

lenge people's attitudes (right or wrong) about non-conventional attire or freedom of expression. Be sure to have an excellent resume printed on nice crisp white paper.

**4. Be confident.** Look people in the eye when speaking to them. Don't mumble. Stand up straight, and walk with purpose. Shake hands with a firm grip. Be polite. Practice with your friends and family, so you have it down when you go job hunting.

**5. Use online and other resources.** The newspaper's classified ads represent only a small portion of the available jobs, and are heavily used by many job seekers. The result? A lot of people competing for the same jobs. Focus instead on online websites (especially the jobs section of a company's website or a local, smaller website that is less frequently used). Explore smaller local companies, signs you see in windows or job openings you hear about from others.

**6. Keep a positive outlook.** You may be discouraged. You may have been job searching for months, even years. You may have every reason to be downhearted. Set all this aside and greet the world with positive thoughts and a smile. It's free, and it will do a world of difference when you meet potential employers. Employers want to fill their businesses with upbeat, positive people. And, there's good reason to believe that a positive attitude can strengthen or improve your health. Try it! Even if you fake it for an hour a day, or just while you are job hunting, it will do a world of good.

If you need assistance with job hunting or want to hear about job openings, visit with a Job Links coach at the Shalom Center (334-5728) or Salvation Army (336-4310). You will get personal attention and ideas from an experienced volunteer. Call for details on the job coaching schedule at each site.

Good luck!

## People Can Now Take a GED Preparation Class at Shalom Community Center

By Melanie Hunter, Marketing/PR & Volunteer Coordinator • MCCSC Adult Education at Broadview Learning Center • 705 W. Coolidge Dr, Bloomington IN 47403 • Ph. 812-330-7731 ext 52137 • Fax: 812-330-7789 • [www.adult.mccsc.edu](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu)

MCCSC Adult Education has begun a partnership with Shalom Community Center to offer an Adult Basic Education and GED Preparation class right there at the Center, 620 South Walnut Street, in Bloomington. The class, which started late in January, is taught on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 1:30 to 4:00, and is scheduled to go through May 26. If funding continues, Adult Ed and Shalom may be able to offer the class again, later in the year. The goals are to get Shalom's clients ready for higher education and college, improve their reading, writing, and math skills, prepare for the GED exams, and boost their employability.

“It's just like any other Adult Ed class, with the main goal of preparing students to take the GED tests,” says Brian Bowman, who teaches the class. “But we also work on students' primary skills and hope to do some

workforce transition, you know, get people involved in WorkOne. We won't try to repeat what they're given at Shalom, but we'll build on that, including basic skills improvement and getting them to work.” Brian has taught Adult Education for about 12 years, including Alternative Education at Broadview Learning Center and GED prep classes at the Monroe County Correctional Center.

“Shalom Community Center is pleased to partner with MCCSC Adult Education on this important initiative,” says Forrest Gilmore, Shalom's Assistant Director. “This is a great opportunity for some of this community's most vulnerable citizens to maximize their assets to the fullest extent possible.”

“If ever there was a needed satellite class for adult basic education services, there could be no more wor-

thy place than Shalom,” says Sherry Dick, Director of Adult Education. “It is a central point for individuals and their families who are living in extreme poverty. Such ready access to learning opportunities may well be the hand-up they need to change their lives!”

People interested in taking this class and “going back to their future” can sign up at the Hospitality Desk at Shalom Center, or call (812) 334-5728. Class size may be limited to 15.



# BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

## Community Questions Concerning the Section 8 Voucher Assistance Program

By Jennifer Osterholt, Executive Director, Bloomington Housing Authority

The Bloomington Housing Authority administers 1284 Section 8 Housing Rental Vouchers. The source of funding for vouchers is the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Bloomington Housing Authority's current funding for rental vouchers is a little over \$7,000,000. The Bloomington Housing Authority also administers 35 vouchers for homeless Veterans.

After opening the Section 8 Voucher Program waiting list for applications in November 2010 the Bloomington Housing Authority received numerous questions about the process. Here are some of the questions answered by staff:

### **Question: Who makes the decision about how the application process works?**

HUD requires the BHA to choose a method of how applications will be taken. The process must be non discriminatory and elderly/disabled must be given a preference. All public housing authorities are encouraged to give local preferences. The BHA preferences are elderly, disabled, Veterans, homeless, working, living in Monroe or any county touching the Monroe County border. Preference points have a direct effect on where an applicant is placed on the waiting list. An applicant

can be eligible to receive preference points in more than one area. An example would be if you are elderly/disabled you would receive a preference point and also preference points if you live in Monroe County.

### **Question: Will I have to wait in line to fill out an application?**

Over 500 families came in just four hours to fill out an application for the rent assistance program. Some families chose to arrive hours before the office opened.

The BHA's maximum indoor capacity is less than 100. We do not encourage applicants to come early or camp out prior to the office opening. It is our experience that once the application taking date and time is announced there will be folks camping out to be first in the door. We attempt to educate applicants about the preferences given to applicants, because it determines placement on the waiting list. So first in the door does not necessarily mean first on the waiting list.

The BHA began handing out the applications promptly at 8 for applicants to take with them. The applications can be taken and returned within a designated time period. This year we handed out applications and encouraged applicants to take it with them, complete and return it by the

specified deadline. Approximately 132 families turned in their applications on the application day. An additional 401 took applications with them.

### **Question: Why does the BHA give local preferences?**

We have found that interested applicants monitor the opening of the waiting lists and come from outside our state to apply. It is the BHA's goal to first assist those who live in our jurisdiction (Monroe County).

### **Question: Why is the waiting list open approximately once each year?**

The further we move away from the application taking date the lower the response and ultimate use of a voucher. Only when a program participant leaves the program does the BHA issue a new voucher to the next person on the waiting list. Historically the BHA loses 160 to 200 program participants annually.

### **Question: Why were there so many applicants this past November?**

The economy has a direct effect on the number of applications we hand out. Over the past 6 years we have experienced an increase in the number of applicants each

year.

### **Question: When will the waiting list open again?**

We choose to exhaust the current waiting list before we open the list to new applicants. Why, because if we don't those without preferences (at the bottom of the waiting list) would never have an opportunity to receive a voucher.

Several issues determine when the waiting list will be opened again. How many current voucher holders leave the program, how many applicants respond when issued a voucher and then of those who do respond, how many will ultimately use the voucher (voucher holders have 60 days to look for housing and utilize their voucher).

### **Question: How will I know when the waiting list opens?**

There are several ways to know when the BHA plans to open the Section 8 waiting list.

1. Your local newspaper.
2. Local radio stations.
3. All local social service agencies.
4. The BHA website [www.bhaindiana.net](http://www.bhaindiana.net)
5. Indiana University IDS paper.

---

## ILLUMENATE:

### A Social Group For Young Gay, Bisexual, And Transgender Men

BY Patrick R. Battani, Illumenate Coordinator • 333 E. Miller Dr., Bloomington, IN 47401 • t: 812-353-3276 • f: 812-353-3226 • [pbattani@bloomingtonhospital.org](mailto:pbattani@bloomingtonhospital.org)

#### **What is Illumenate?**

Illumenate is run through HIV/AIDS care coordination group Positive Link and Bloomington Hospital. The organization is modeled after and accredited by the MPowerment project in San Francisco. About 80 similar groups have sprouted across the country since the early 1990s.

#### **Mission of Illumenate**

Illumenate is a social group for young Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender men to come together and feel welcome and accepted. It is our mission to serve as an agent to bring together men from all walks of life that share a common bond. It is the bonds created by these men that help to define our community.

#### **Why was Illumenate created?**

According to Merriam-Webster, community is defined as "a body of persons

or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests". However, defining a community is a difficult task. The Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (GBT) community shares many things, but is made up of so many people. That is why Illumenate was created.

Furthermore, Illumenate stands as a place to discuss relationship, sexuality, and sex. We create a very "sex-positive and Gay-positive" atmosphere which allows men to openly discuss the issues surrounding their everyday lives.

The other important factor is that we create FUN! It is important to us all that we have a good time! We achieve this through various events created by a Core Group of individuals from our "community" who are the decision makers. Illumenate is by young GBT men and for

GBT men. The Core Group meets every Thursday at 6 pm, to discuss and develop upcoming events.

This year our goal is to develop the Mind, Body and Spirit of every GBT man who comes through our doors. We have created events that help people Illumenate your body every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Illumenate your body is a chance to get your body into motion with various exercises.

We also host a monthly Illumenate your Mind Book Club; which is the third Sunday of every month at Boxcar Books. New this year is the "Testing, Trivia, and Tiaras". This event emphasizes free HIV rapid testing provided by Bloomington Hospital Positive Link from 8-10pm. From 10-Midnight, the Men of Illumenate take over with Special Guest Miss Gay Bloomington Courtney Anderson for a fun filled night of trivia.

Finally, one of the most important events (always filled with laughs) is Illumination. Illumination is a one-time, three hour event, where GBT men come together and discuss topics from how to find a date to how to negotiate condom use. This is a time dedicated to answering questions and giving people the tools they need to make positive healthy choices.

If you want to check us out, head over to [Facebook.com/Illumenate](http://Facebook.com/Illumenate) to see all the things that are happening. Coming soon we will also have a Twitter Account, a Blog, and a YouTube Channel. Our Blog will be written by members of our community and even have an advice column where you can "Ask Argenta" anything!

We hope to see all of you very soon. Just remember, Illumenate wants you to Come Out. Have Fun. Get Turned on.

# Free Community Tax Service

Amanda Day, Communications Assistant, United Way of Monroe County

## Servicio Comunal de Impuestos

El Servicio Comunal de Impuestos provee servicios sin costo. Para obtener más información, llame al 2-1-1 o visite [www.monroeunitedway.org/eitc](http://www.monroeunitedway.org/eitc).

Did you work in 2010? Households that earned less than \$49,000 may be eligible to receive up to \$5,666 through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – even if they don't owe taxes.

Claim the EITC and file your taxes for free at one of 8 free tax preparation sites in Monroe and Owen counties. The Free Community Tax Service helps low- to moderate-income residents file their federal and Indiana tax returns at no cost. This service also helps residents claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Don't spend hundreds of dollars filing your taxes when you can file for free and receive 100% of your refund quickly and easily – usually in just 10 days or less.

United Way and the Financial Stability Alliance want to make sure all households in Monroe and Owen counties that are eligible for the EITC file a tax return and claim their credit. Every Free Community Tax Service site is staffed with IRS-certified volunteers ready and willing to help. In addition, services are offered in Spanish at several sites.

“Free tax filing and EITC are two important ways families can remain financially stable in these tough times,” said United Way of Monroe County's Executive Director, Barry Lessow. “We are fortunate to have such an active team of organizations and volunteers helping local residents file their taxes and claim this valuable credit.”

To learn more about the Free Community Tax Service and EITC eligibility, dial 2-1-1 or visit [monroeunitedway.org/eitc](http://monroeunitedway.org/eitc).

The Free Community Tax Service is made possible through a community partnership. Partners include the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana, 2-1-1, AARP, Area 10 Agency on Aging, City of Bloomington, El Centro Comunal Latino, Ellettsville Branch Library, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Ivy Tech Community College, Monroe County Public Library, Owen County Public Library, South Central Community Action Program, Twin Lakes Recreation Center, United Way of Monroe County, Walmart, WorkOne Bloomington, and community volunteers.

## LOCATIONS, DATES & TIMES

### ELLETTSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

600 W. Temperance St., Ellettsville 812-876-3383

**February 8 - April 14**

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (By appointment only)

Saturday, March 26 and April 9: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (First come, first served.)

### INDIANA UNIVERSITY MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW

211 S. Indiana Ave., Bloomington

**February 7 - March 10** (First come, first served.)

Monday & Thursday: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE-BLOOMINGTON

200 Daniels Way, Room B201, Bloomington 812-332-1559 ext. 0

**January 25 - March 5** (By appointment only)

Tuesday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (except 2/22 and 3/1)

Wednesday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm\*\*

Friday: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm\*\*

Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

(\*\*Spanish interpretation provided on these days by El Centro Comunal Latino)

### MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington 812-349-3228

(AARP Tax-Aide)

**February 1 - April 15** (First come, first served.)

Monday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm\*\*

Tuesday: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm\*\*

Friday: 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

(\*\*Spanish interpretation provided on these days by El Centro Comunal Latino)

### SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

1500 W. 15th St., Bloomington 812-339-3447 ext. 235

**February 1 - April 12**

Tuesday: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm (First come, first served.)

Saturday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (By appointment only)\*\*

(\*\*Spanish interpretation provided on these days by El Centro Comunal Latino)

### TWIN LAKES RECREATION CENTER

1700 W. Bloomfield Rd., Bloomington 812-349-3720

(AARP Tax-Aide)

**February 2 - April 14** (First come, first served.)

Wednesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thursday: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### WORKONE BLOOMINGTON

450 Landmark Ave., Bloomington 812-331-6000 ext. 254

**January 31 - April 13**

Call for an appointment.

### OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

10 S. Montgomery St., Spencer 812-829-3392 ext. 1

**February 5 - April 9**

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m (By appointment only)

### You must bring the following to receive free tax help:

- Valid picture identification for taxpayer and spouse.
- Social Security cards and birth dates for yourself, spouse, and dependents.
- All W-2s, W-2Gs and 1099s related to income received during 2010.
- If filing jointly, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

### Additional information that may be required:

- If claiming child and dependent care expenses: the name, address, and social security number or EIN (employer's identification number) of the provider.
- If claiming the Indiana Renter's Deduction: the name, address, and phone number of the landlord.
- Any tax books received.
- A copy of last year's tax return.
- For direct deposit of your refund, you must provide bank account and routing numbers.
- All 1098s related to interest on student loans.
- Out-of-pocket educational expenses for college.
- Any donations to Indiana colleges.



# Middle Way House: Who we are and what we do

By Stephanie Kuschel, MWH public relations intern • (812)-333-7404 (admin. phone) • (812)-336-0846 (crisis line) • [www.middlewayhouse.org](http://www.middlewayhouse.org)

## Mission

Middle Way House is a non-profit domestic violence program and sexual assault crisis center. As part of its mission, MWH seeks to empower and support women as they navigate the legal, medical, and financial hurdles hindering their recoveries and preventing them from achieving violence-free lives.

## Programs

MWH offers many award-winning programs and meaningful alternatives to living with violence—including an around the clock crisis line and on-scene advocacy service; legal advocacy; emergency, transitional, and permanent housing; and employment in two social enterprises designed to promote the earning power and financial independence of its clients. Confidential Document Destruction (CDD) is a “paper-pulverizing” business that has recycled 95 tons of paper. Food Works, a catering/carry-out business, held the grand opening of its retail space, located at 318 S. Washington Street, and initiated a “Gourmet Food to-go” pick-up service in early February.

## New Wings

MWH, which has served the community for 40 years, opened its new emergency shelter, at the New Wings site, in August 2010. Between August 6 and the end of October, MWH served twice as many people at the new shelter than it was able to accommodate in the previous seven months at its old facility. An elevated need for the organization’s services has continued into 2011. In these difficult times, MWH stays true to its commitment to providing the best service possible to the people that seek its help, and welcomes contributions from the community to maintain the effort.

## CALL FOR HELPERS: A NEW PROGRAM

### Let me introduce myself...

My name is Laura Ertmer. I am a member of the Bloomington Catholic Worker, an intentional community that ministers to those experiencing homelessness. I am also a caseworker at the Shalom Community Center. Through my work, I have learned that Monroe County has a great variety of services available to those in need. Yet there are still some needs that our social services cannot meet. Sometimes a person comes into Shalom seeking a ride to Seymour or Spencer – a place our public transportation does not go. Other times someone may need help moving to a new apartment. Needs like these fall beyond the scope of our social services. I believe however that our *community* can address these needs.



### And let me introduce my idea...

Helpers is a telephone directory composed of people willing to be asked to help someone with a need that cannot be met by our existing social services. People in the directory do not have to help if they are unable. They only have to be disposed to being asked. Helpers can specify things they would like to help with (such as transportation) and things they are unable to help with (like moving). The Bloomington Catholic Worker will house the directory and call Helpers on behalf of individuals seeking assistance. Helpers’ numbers will not be given to individuals asking for help.

### And let me encourage you to help...!

If you have an interest in helping out in a myriad of random ways and are disposed to being asked to help, please contact me at 325-9000. I’d love to hear your thoughts, concerns and questions. Before Helpers is launched, I will organize an orientation meeting to discuss safety protocol and get to know everyone involved. Helpers is an opportunity for people with resources to meet and share directly with people who are in need. Thank you!

# Your United Way in Action

By Kaitlin Ruchniewicz & Amanda Belote,  
Communications Assistants, United Way of Monroe County  
[monroeunitedway.org](http://monroeunitedway.org) • (812) 334-8370  
441 S College Ave., Bloomington, IN 47403

Safe after-school activities. Employment skills and supports. Feeding those experiencing hunger. Ensuring folks have shelter. Supporting non-profit training and education. Health care and wellness. Raising awareness about the critical development that occurs in children birth to five. Each of these makes our community stronger and United Way focuses on each one every day.

2010 was a year of challenges and great new beginnings. United Way of Monroe County continued to partner with our 24 member agencies to strengthen our community. We also developed and deepened relationships with numerous organizations to bring new initiatives to Monroe and surrounding counties.

United Way works to ensure everyone has the building blocks for a better life - Education, Earnings, and Essentials. We focus on programs and strategies that help everyone in our community achieve their potential by making sure children graduate from school, families get and stay out of poverty, and everyone has the essentials for life and career: food, housing, health care, and emergency services. With help from donors, we support high-quality partner agencies working in these areas.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR EVENTS

### FEBRUARY AND MARCH

*Fundraiser for Middle Way House.*

The Vagina Monologues At the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on Saturday, February 26th. Two shows: 3 pm and 8 pm. Contact [vdaybloomington@gmail.com](mailto:vdaybloomington@gmail.com) for more information.

*Bowl for Kids.* Bowl For Kids’ Sake is Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana’s largest annual fundraising campaign. Revenues from BFKS make up over 1/3 of the operating budget for Big Brother Big Sisters. All money raised goes directly to support a match between a caring adult mentor (Big) and a local child between 6 and 17 (Little). The Community Bowl for Kids’ Sake Campaign is February 26th and March 5th at Classic Lanes. The IU Bowl for Kids’ Sake Campaign is March 2nd and 3rd, also at Classic Lanes. Each team registers online (if you need help please call Allison Hoepfner 812-334-2828 Ext:223)

*Unitarian Universalist Friends of People Incarcerated Task Force.* Friday, March 4th, 7:30 p.m. Benefit Dance at UU Church, 2120 N. Fee Lane. Music by Afro Hoosier International. \$5-\$10 suggested donation—Please don’t let lack of money keep you from coming!

People incarcerated at or paroled from Monroe County Jail will benefit from your donations. Refreshments will be available. Family friendly.

*Benefit for Hoosier Hills Food Bank.* Sunday, March 13. At Northwest corner of Bryan Park.

A 3.14 mile race to the finish line!

Come for a second helping of fitness, pastries, and bad puns!

**Contact:** Mollie Ables, [mables@indiana.edu](mailto:mables@indiana.edu)

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=104514986289378](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=104514986289378)

*IU Habitat for Humanity 5k Run/Walk.* Saturday, March 26.

**Location:** Lower Cascades Park

**Description:** Help eliminate substandard housing. Enjoy a beautiful 3.1 mile route, as well as excellent raffle prizes & giveaways.

**Fundraising:** Through registration fee. Proceeds benefit Monroe County Habitat for Humanity.

**Contact:** Marissa Brown, [brown25@indiana.edu](mailto:brown25@indiana.edu)

**Website:** [www.indiana.edu/~habitat/events/5k.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~habitat/events/5k.shtml)

### APRIL

*Homeward Bound.*

**Date:** Sunday, April 10.

**Location:** Third Street Park

**Description:** A 5k walk through downtown Bloomington sponsored locally by the City of Bloomington, to provide housing and fight homelessness. Enjoy live entertainment, refreshments, face painting, and more.

**Fundraising:** Through donations. Proceeds benefit 12 local service agencies which serve those suffering from homelessness and poverty in Bloomington and Monroe County.

**Contact:** Kathy Mayer, (812) 349-3430 or [mayerk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mayerk@bloomington.in.gov)

**Website:** [homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington](http://homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington)

# Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

*Voices Seldom Heard provides a space for self-reflective writings from people in our community.*

## WHO I AM

### A LONELY SOLDIER

*By Abraham D. Morales III*

I am a lonely soldier fighting on a big battlefield. But it is not a battlefield of war. It is a battlefield in my mind, asking myself what am I doing here in Vietnam. Why am I here in Vietnam? Will I ever forget what I've seen here? Will I ever forget what happened here? Even when I get back to the world there will be memories that I wish I could forget. Memories that I never will forget. Even when I get back in the world I will always be a lonely soldier.

## STRUGGLES

*By Joyce Berry*

Has anyone ever felt like they didn't fit in somewhere?  
I understand. I'm recovering from an addiction which has landed me back and forth in jail, creating a path whereas I can't even begin to tell you what my future holds. It's a day by day Struggle.

This letter is addressed to those who may be going through some Struggles which may have hindered your Motivations, Desires, Dreams, Faith, and Hopes. Also, to those who can relate or understand what we go through.

I won't talk about my issues because I feel that everyone at some point in life goes through some form of Struggle.

I believe that no matter what you encounter, you must continue to love yourself. No matter how hard a situation appears, you must continue to keep pushing on, you must find a way to acknowledge the good that you have in you and focus on that. You must not be afraid to ask for help. You must not let your past determine your future (in other words). Your circumstances do not define who you are. You must allow others to help you. You must take compliments from others until you can learn to compliment yourself.

I used to think that I was all alone in my Struggle, and that no one really understood what I was going through. I can say today that I was wrong. There are people with me everywhere, and others who play a key role in helping us get through life Struggles.

So, I would like to give a Thank You to those who lend an ear to hear our Struggles, to those who offer assistance to help in our Struggles, to those who continue to encourage us through our Struggles. If it wasn't for people like that our motivations, our hopes and dreams, and self-esteem would be lost. Thank you Shalom Center, New Leaf/New Life, OASIS, Recovery Engagement Center, Centerstone, Judge Todd, and to the Safety-Net for allowing me to have a Voice.

And, even though I'm still in my Struggle, today I have Gratitude.

## Women Writing for (a) Change

Women Writing for (a) Change of Bloomington, Indiana, under the leadership of Beth Lodge Rigal, has been holding regular writing circles on Saturdays for women at the Monroe County Corrections Center for the past 4.5 years. Currently we have a trained group of 6 volunteers who enjoy leading writing activities, reading poetry and conversing about life and the written word with any woman at the MCCC who would like to join us.

We are continually amazed at each woman's genuine connection to her own self-discovery through writing and listening to other writers read. We provide a safe supportive environment for veteran writers and women who are just testing their writing wings.

Women on the outside of the corrections center who would like to join us for regular writing activities are encouraged to get in touch with us by going to our website at [wom-enwritingbloomington.com](http://wom-enwritingbloomington.com). There writers can find appropriate contact information. We will do all we can to connect women with writing and their voices.

I remember when  
I remember when we first met  
I remember our first kiss  
I remember our first night of passion  
And your sweet embrace  
I remember by smiling face  
When you slipped that ring on my finger  
And now that we're old and gray  
I feel joy knowing we still have time to make  
new memories.

—Ferris Bintz

Teach me to love unconditional  
With my humble heart  
I learn no hatred, hatred  
is poison  
I live on your will  
though, the future is near.  
Patience is truly a virtue  
and the past is gone.

—Bonanza Leatherman

Even if it is small...  
and pale  
No matter how sparse—  
and seemingly insignificant

The tiniest budding,  
emergent petals  
on the most common  
of flowers—weeds

Hold within them  
the truth

That even in the  
fields forgotten:  
near dead gardens

Life will yet bloom,  
move on  
Come full circle again  
...happiness

—Barbara Lyon-Pishlo

## Take Me Away

*Everything has its danger and its opportunities, and it could spell salvation or doom. —Martin Luther King Jr.*

Taking time out to look up at the moon can do wonders, it can relax your mind, body, and soul.

It can take you to a place you have never been before, it can take you on a cruise around the world, where you can be or meet different people, and see things you have never seen before.

So every now and then, it's a good thing to take time out to look up at the moon.

—Bonanza Leatherman

# Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

*Voices Seldom Heard provides a space for self-reflective writings from people in our community.*

## From The AIR Community In The Monroe County Corrections Center

### Hope

It pains me to think that you're feelin' so low  
I'm doin' all I can to soften the blow  
I know it's not much, but it's all I can do  
Tell you I'm sorry and how much I love you!  
I know you can't help it, it's just how you feel  
The same goes for me, can't believe this is real  
The best advice I have is what works best for me  
Close my eyes and smile, you're the only thing I see  
I know it's not the same as being face to face  
But still we have our memories that no one can erase  
I hope the day comes that I can hold you in my arms  
I love you baby girl, I never meant you no harm!

—Paul Garret Dowdy

### Madeline

If my heart could talk,  
this is what it would say.  
I think about you each and every day!  
We had some good times and some bad,  
a lot of happiness, a lot of sad.  
Girl, I know I broke your heart,  
all that thought does is tear me apart!  
I know I can't replace all those lost tears  
or make up the pain of these past years.  
All I can say is, I love you boo!  
And all that's on my mind  
is getting back with you!  
I want you, I need you,  
let's rekindle our fire.  
I want what we used to have  
that undying desire!  
I love you, Puzzle Piece,  
with all my heart and soul.  
Let's make this work out,  
getting back with you is my #1 goal!!  
Always yours,

Paul Garret Dowdy

### My Rhyme

All I need is a little bit of your time  
So I can fill your heart with my rhyme  
Thoughts of you are always close by  
And those thoughts are filled with caring,  
And warmth, and wishes inside  
That today and everyday it will make you smile  
To know just how much you mean to me  
When I'm walking through that turnstile  
You fill my heart with love, joy and glee  
You'll always have my heart, Maddie!  
Always yours,

—Paul Garret Dowdy

### Seasons

Haiku by Paul Fahrenkrug – 1/17/11

Spring's zenith flowers  
fervent kissing, lovemaking  
souls reunited

Burning summer sun  
Four of us play family  
Sunburns and swimming

Brittle autumn leaves  
wedding feast in the forest  
broken hearts at dawn

Snow covers the trees  
bars on my window like ice  
souls and mates parted

### Time

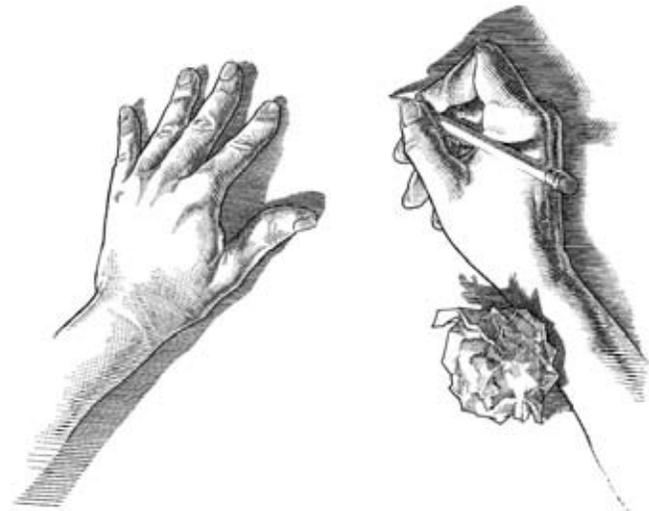
Of all that is lost or gained  
by a failure to defend  
the lure of the sirens' song  
and it's tempus fugit end

—By Wm. Ralph (Roofer Ralph)

### Tomorrows

I can't promise you a life of sunshine  
I can't promise riches, wealth or gold  
I can't promise you an easy pathway  
That leads away from change or growing old  
But I can promise all my heart's devotion  
A smile to chase away your tears and sorrows  
A love that's ever true and everlasting  
A hand to hold in yours through each of the tomorrows!

—Paul Garret Dowdy



# Special Section: South Central Community Action Program

## The Monroe County Circles® Initiative

By Doug Wilson, SCCAP Director of Communications

The Monroe County Circles® Initiative has an urgent need for volunteers to partner with Monroe County families who are working to get out of poverty.

In particular, this initiative at the South Central Community Action Program needs Circle Allies, who are volunteers with sufficient and stable resources, and an interest in eliminating poverty in Monroe County. The Circles® Initiative facilitates intentional relationships between these Allies who have sufficient resources to thrive and Circle Leaders who do not.

A Circle Leader is someone who is motivated to increase his or her resources in order to move out of poverty. Each Circle Leader is matched with three to four Circle Allies, creating a circle of support. These circles not only help individuals move out of poverty, but they work to break down class stereotypes, address community/system barriers and create a more sustainable economy for our whole community.

One of the current Circle Allies, Markus Dickinson, wrote the following about his volunteer experience:

“My wife and I joined the Circles program with the idea that poverty was bad, and we had no idea what to do about it,” Dickinson said. “It’s a shame, we thought, that we really don’t know anyone in poverty and we only know bits and pieces of



From left to right, Circles Coordinator Linda Patton, Circles Leader Jayme Daniel, Circle Allies Stephanie and Markus Dickinson.

the research on poverty.

“So, we signed on to be Allies, partnering to move them out of poverty, despite barely knowing what that meant. What prevented us from joining sooner was the imposing 18-month commitment required of Allies. But that’s one thing we discov-

ered: it’s not a commitment any more than a friendship is a commitment. It’d be weird to say that you have an 18-month friendship, and it’d also be missing the point.

“We’ve been able to help someone and, at the same time, have them help us. Like friends do. In good times and bad times.

It’s been eye-opening to see how hard some things are for people in poverty, like housing issues or car troubles, but wonderful to see how deeply the friendship can grow in the midst of those hardships. That’s why we signed up: for a deeper sense of community, here in Bloomington.”

Volunteers receive training before taking on their roles as Allies. They must attend a 2.5 hour orientation and six hours of initial training.

Allies will be helpful in the areas of budgeting, educational training, friendship and other ways helpful for a person as they move out of poverty.

A Circles Ally can be anyone with any level of resources who genuinely wants to help and believes everyone should have sufficient money, relationships and meaning in their lives to thrive.

After training, Circles Allies commit to 4 to 10 hours a month for 18 months. They must be willing to attend a monthly Ally support group meeting, meet with a Circle Leader at least one time per month and participate in one weekly group dinner meeting per month.

For more information, please contact Circles Coordinator, Linda Patton, at 812-339-3447, ext. 206.

## Circles Initiative: Working with low-income people to move themselves out of poverty

The following article was written By Kent Erhdahl, Fox 59

A community outreach program recently started in Bloomington is working to

bring an end to poverty. Though the mission may seem impossible, the Circles Initiative focuses on accomplishing that goal one person at a time.

For Kay Goodman, hope has been hard to come by throughout her life because of a circle of poverty that started in childhood and continued through adulthood.

“I’ve done all kinds of jobs,” Goodman said. “I’ve done receiving at Sears, I’ve waitressed, I did become a chef and I made better money doing that.”

But after a divorce several years ago Kay says she fell right back into that circle as a single mom. Kay says she truly knew what it meant to be “generationally poor” and found that she had passed the same life to her daughter Heather.

“I would get \$200 a week minus taxes, and I did live in the system,” Kay said, referring to social programs like food stamps and welfare, which helped her get by. “For a while I felt guilty about that because I felt like I was teaching my children that way of life.”

Then in 2009, Kay learned about a new program in Bloomington called

the Circles Initiative. It started as a 19 week class that helped teach her how to overcome poverty and empower herself in many ways. Kay graduated a year ago and began taking classes at Ivy Tech Community College. But Circles didn’t end there, every week since she’s been paired with three Allies like David Mank, a volunteer from the middle class, who provides support to make sure Kay’s new circle isn’t broken.

“The relationships start out as intentional,” David said. “You know, we show up at these dinners every Thursday night, and wanting to say, ‘Can we do something about poverty?’ And it

turns into friendships. This is simply people helping each other.”

“Sometimes it’s just nice knowing someone’s there that cares,” Kay said.

On Thursday night that caring continued with the newest graduating class, which included Kay’s daughter Heather, a single mother of her own. Heather decided to start the Circles Initiative after finding herself in a familiar circle of poverty and seeing the impact it had on her mother.

“Before this I thought I was ashamed to be in poverty,” Heather said during her graduation speech. “After this I really feel like I’m a magician and I’ve done it all and I can do it all. Maybe we can help the community out and bring more people where I’m at, so thank you.”

And now that circle of hope starts anew.

“I’m well on my way to a better life,” Heather said.

### SCCAP — South Central Community Action Program

1500 W. 15th Street • Bloomington, IN 47404 • 812-339-3447

Check out our agency blog, Inside SCCAP, at [www.insccap.wordpress.com](http://www.insccap.wordpress.com) for the latest news about SCCAP, its clients, staff and programs, and about issues related to people living in poverty.

# Special Section: South Central Community Action Program

## Individual Development Accounts Program helps artist reinvent her business

by Alex Costakis. South Central Community Action Program Communications Intern



Courtesy photo

*This is how the Individual Development Account Program of the South Central Community Action Program provided the necessary resources for Charlene Marsh to modify her business and achieve business self-sufficiency.*

Since 1987, Charlene Marsh has lived and worked as an artist in Brown County, Indiana. For years she had been making primarily fiber artworks, hand dyeing yarns and tufting them onto cotton backgrounds.

But in the early 2000s, Charlene faced a problem common to any small business

owner – a changing market. When this was compounded by wrist problems that forced Charlene to quit making her exquisite fiber artworks, she began concentrating all her efforts on oil painting.

As Charlene began reinventing her business, the cost of investing in different supplies and shifting from one medium to another began to add up. She knew where she wanted to go, but did not yet have the resources to get there. After reading a notice in the paper, Charlene called the South Central Community Action Program office and found that she

qualified for the Individual Development Program.

The IDA Program, she learned is, a four-year matched savings program designed to assist individuals in achieving self-sufficiency through financial literacy and asset generation. For each dollar you save, up to \$400 a year, the State of Indiana will match it with three dollars. SCCAP offers this program in Monroe, Brown, Morgan and Owen counties.

That was all the way back in 2007, and in just three years of enrollment in the program, Charlene has saved \$6100, only \$1200 of which came from her personal savings. The other \$4900 is a series of matching funds received through the IDA program, and she will continue to receive matching funds from her own savings in her fourth and final year in the program.

The money Charlene has saved through the IDA program has been instrumental in operating and growing her business. She has been able to use it to pay for the equipment and supplies needed to make the transition from fiber works to oil paintings, contribute to her booth fees at art shows, and cover other expenses involved in owning and operating a business.

But money hasn't been Charlene's only gain from her enrollment in the IDA program. As the savings started growing, she was able to work with another organization to develop a business plan for herself. This really showed her how

far the savings could go, and allowed her to outline and itemize every expense.

"Where before I thought I was doing okay simply because I had good cash flow, after developing the business plan I realized I needed to prioritize my goals for the business. I needed to do more long range planning to anticipate future needs of the business to remain viable," says Marsh.

Charlene says that her business is now more profitable than ever before. She is currently moving into a new phase of her business plan, and can see exactly how her IDA savings will allow her long range plans for the business come to fruition.

When asked about advice for prospective IDA clients, Charlene had only positive words of encouragement.

"The return on your money is phenomenal. You invest \$400 and receive matching monies of \$1400-\$1900 to be used for your education, business, or home. If the plan is to invest in your own business, knowledgeable business experts will help with the Business Plan to increase your chances of success. I have a friend who used some of the money to install a furnace in her home. Another friend is saving the money for her kids' education. There really is no down side to the program. I have been very satisfied with my involvement."

*To apply to be a participant in the SCCAP Individual Development Account Program, contact Kelly Walter, 812-339-3447, ext. 229, [kelly@insccap.org](mailto:kelly@insccap.org)*



# Special Section: Therapeutic Jail And Re-entry Programs

## Friends of People Incarcerated

*By Lois Hall, Friends of People Incarcerated*

### Goals of Friends of People Incarcerated

Friends of People Incarcerated is a group of people in the Bloomington community united in the goals of improving the lives of people incarcerated, reducing recidivism, and working towards sentencing reform in the state of Indiana.

### Projects

Several members visit the Wabash Valley Correctional Center to work on projects including writing poetry and making quilts which have been distributed to various homeless shelters in the community.

Some of our people involved in New Leaf/NewLife work with the men in the Therapeutic Block in the Monroe County Jail on holiday cards and pillowcases to send to their loved ones. Some men are also working on quilt squares to be made into quilts for Bloomington homeless shelters. We meet with these men for two and a half hours monthly. A very important part of this is listening to the men's stories about their families and their struggles to be successful when they return to the community. The problems they describe seem overwhelming for many. These discussions have helped us in developing our programs.

We do job coaching at Shalom and at the Salvation Army. Clients often include people who have been incarcerated and face special challenges in finding a job in this challenging economic environment.

Other projects include a fundraiser on March 4, 2011, at the Unitarian Universalist Church which will be held to benefit New Leaf/New Life, and a petition which has been distributed in the community regarding sentencing reform to be directed to Gov. Mitch Daniels and the Indiana State Legislature. This petition encompasses two important items: finding alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent crimes and stopping the building of a new prison. We believe the money saved instead of building a new prison would be better spent on work release and evidence-based programs that keep people from returning to prison and jail.



## NEW LEAF-NEW LIFE OASIS AT WORKONE

*Tania Karnofsky, New Leaf-New Life Program Director*

For several years WorkOne has generously provided New Leaf-New Life with a cubicle where volunteers can meet with former inmates and offer assistance. Now New Leaf-New Life has joined forces with OASIS (Organized Assistance So Inmates Succeed), and together they have been able to increase the number of hours when volunteers are available to offer assistance to people who have been incarcerated. People interested in meeting with a volunteer can drop in or call the number below for an appointment. Because the OASIS volunteers understand the challenges former inmates encounter when trying to make a successful transition back into the community, they have compiled a list of employers in Monroe County who have hired people with felonies, along with a list of local agencies and services that can offer help to former inmates.

OASIS volunteers are available at WorkOne Monday – Friday from 9:30 to 12:00. Additional hours vary and will be posted every Monday morning on the phone and outside the New Leaf-New Life / OASIS cubicle. The New Leaf-New Life / OASIS cubicle is the last one straight back from the entrance at WorkOne, which is located at 450 S. Landmark Ave. Phone: (812) 331-6000 ext. 223.

## OASIS: ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE SO INMATES SUCCEED

*By Dwayne Mead, OASIS team*  
<http://citizensforeffectivejustice.org/>

If you have been released from incarceration and are dealing with the challenges of life on the outside this meeting may be for you. At an OASIS meeting you will learn about opportunities for housing, employment, health care, and meet others who are coming together to make a change in their lives. We meet every Thurs. 6 to 7 pm in the Recovery Engagement Center, 221 N. Rogers St. If you are currently incarcerated but know when you are likely to be released and you need immediate assistance with clothes, shoes, a couple of bus tickets, etc. the OASIS team can meet you when you're released. You can contact OASIS by writing to Tania, New Leaf-New Life, by in-house mail.

*QUESTIONS ?/ 812-320-8046*

# Special Section: Youth Programs

## Boys and Girls Club: What we do, and why

By Amy Belcher, Executive Intern, Boys and Girls Club Bloomington • 311 South Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IN 47401 • 812-332-5311 • [www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org)

### Mission of the Boys and Girls Club

Changing lives since 1956, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington have remained strong in our mission: to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. This mission is reached by offering a safe, supportive and educational environment for young people to go to after school. There is something for everyone, including homework help, sports and a variety of other enriching activities.

### Making a difference in families:

#### A personal story

We have made a difference within families through generations of young people. We have members now whose parents were also members at the Boys and Girls Club when they were younger.

*In a letter we received from parent Yunika J., she says,*

“My husband started long haul truck driving and I needed a safe place for the boys to go after school. Once I found the club would pick the boys up from school and give them a snack and help them with homework and give them some physical exercise, I was pleased. It did not take long to find out that the club was a caring place. You cannot find a place like this anywhere for the price.

These people were SO HELPFUL regarding all things and they developed a personal relationship not only with the kids but the family. They encourage the children to become leaders no matter the age, sex or race. The field trips that they sponsor are so invigorating...they do things that they would never have the opportunity to do.

They are very protective of each child. When my husband was a child he attended a Boys Club in Muncie, Indiana and he said that it grounded him and it prevented him from getting into trouble. I would and have recommended the Boys and Girls Club to anyone. The club has truly been a saving grace to our family. I thank all those who help the club, the kids and our future!!”

### The Crestmont Boys and Girls Club also makes a large impact

The Crestmont Boys and Girls Club is a smaller Club but it makes a big impact on those members it serves.

Staff members like Tiffany say, “The Crestmont Boys and Girls Club provide our members with skills that will last a lifetime and prepares them to be productive members of society.”

Lucy, one of our interns says, “Every



Courtesy photo

time I come in, I am reminded of what a great resource the Boys and Girls Club is to the Crestmont community. I love being a positive role model and having the change to make an impact on the lives of kids who I care about so much!”

### The Ellettsville Club is new and growing

In April 2009, due to numerous parental requests, the Ellettsville Club was opened in the old Ellettsville Elementary School and we have noticed a difference. In the last year, we have seen a 20% increase in attendance.

According to one local resident, “The Ellettsville Boys and Girls Club is the best thing that has happened to the RBB School District since the building of the new primary/intermediate schools. The staff at the club is outstanding and their use of community volunteers is exceptional. Keep up the good work!!”

Another resident says, “I tip my hat to Jeff Baldwin and Amy Matney for a wonderful job with the [Boys and Girls Club] in Ellettsville. So many people in Ellettsville thought it would never work. We need to have a little higher [expectation] for the town and the rest of us. Change and progress can happen, even in Ellettsville.

### Our volunteers

Our volunteers are a critical part of our organization. Through their tireless efforts, enthusiasm and dedication, they make a difference in the lives of our members. In 2010, we had 649 volunteers put in 6,604 total hours towards our programming. They are essential in our mission and they stand up and take notice when they see the difference the Club makes. One example is

when Courtney W., a student in Elementary Education at Indiana University worked with one of our members saw a difference in his performance, she told us,

“He went from only knowing a few letters to be able to read a good amount for kindergartner! As I have also spent time in his classroom and worked with him individually. I am positive that these educational leaps have not been made just

from these environments; I am convinced that attending the [Crestmont Boys and Girls Club] has helped Jake grow in his reading and writing abilities too. He is beginning to have better self – confidence and show more of his personality. It is thanks to your club that he and so many other children have the opportunity to express themselves, further their education and form social skills, even if they are not able to do so at home. These kids are not always as privileged as other children, but your efforts to try and offer them the same experiences are wonderful and appreciated. The Boys and Girls Club of Crestmont is nurturing and aiding the development of our future, and I am extremely grateful for your help.”

### You're invited to check us out

We are about opportunity – opportunity for ALL children within this community. With three Clubs to serve our youth, we provide safe, well supervised, and comprehensive programming that is accessible to all.

*If you are interested in joining, volunteering, sponsoring, or donating to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington, you are welcome to stop by and check us out, to see firsthand what we have to offer or go to our website [www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org) or contact us by phone at 812-332-5311.*

## STEPPING STONES: HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

**Stepping Stones provides transitional housing and supportive services for homeless youth aged 16-20. The following was written by Christina, a former resident of Stepping Stones.**

*Stepping Stones • PO Box 1366 • Phone (812) 339-9771  
Web: [www.steppingstones-inc.org](http://www.steppingstones-inc.org)*

Dear Readers,

My name is Christina, I had been a resident here at Stepping Stones for the past two years. It's been a long journey with lots of surprises, new people (both resident and staff alike) and lots of love.

I came to Stepping Stones because without the grace of good friends who let me sleep in their house, when the electric was shut off and my apartment was evicting me and my father, I would truly have been on the streets at the age of 17 with no idea how I might make it.

Without the help of Stepping Stones I would have been one of many homeless teenagers that dropped out of high school, but because they have been here for me, I graduated in March of 2009. I will be attending Ivy Tech this spring. I got my first ever job living here at Stepping Stones, which has led me to working at places like the City of Bloomington today.

This December, I moved into my first apartment, which is a **huge** step.

Stepping Stones is like a family, with so many people here we become close and we form different kinds of relationships in a group setting.

*Without everyone's support, Stepping Stones wouldn't be able to help us residents. See related article on page 20.*

# Special Section: Volunteer Network

*Volunteer Opportunities outlines the multiple opportunities to lend a hand in and around Bloomington. The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network keeps a huge archive of volunteer positions for all ages and skills at <http://bloomington.in.gov/volunteer/>.*

*By Elizabeth D. Savich, Director City of Bloomington Volunteer Network • [savichb@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:savichb@bloomington.in.gov)*

## Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Over 140 volunteers contribute their time to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard every week! Volunteering in the pantry is fast-paced and fun, as volunteers unload the delivery truck from Hoosier Hills Food Bank, stock and store food, do light cleaning, and assist clients. Volunteers are asked to join the same shift each week, so they can build regular crews of volunteers, which are essential to the operation of the pantry. Adults and children as young as 12 are welcome. Please ask for the Volunteer Coordinator at (812) 355-6843 or email [volunteer@mhcfoodpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@mhcfoodpantry.org). ([www.mhcfoodpantry.org](http://www.mhcfoodpantry.org))

## Clinic Escorts

Planned Parenthood of Indiana seeks volunteer escorts for their clinic patients on Thurs. mornings. Escorts seek to provide a safe, calm environment for clients. People can volunteer weekly, bi-weekly or monthly; shifts are: 7:20-9 a.m. and 9-10:30 a.m. All applicants must fill out an application, which requires two references, as well as review training materials. Volunteer training is "on-the-job" at this time. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Deborah Meader at (812) 336-0219 or [deborahmmeader@gmail.com](mailto:deborahmmeader@gmail.com). ([www.ppin.org](http://www.ppin.org))

## Job Links Coaches

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program), through the Job Links Program, helps low-income and/or senior clients look for job openings, analyze their employment skill sets, complete applications, create or review resumé's, and practice interviewing skills. Volunteers who are 55 years or better are needed to help clients become more independent, unlock their potential and ultimately stabilize their life's situation! In the process, you will learn important job hunting skills, techniques, and tips! Volunteers meet one-on-one with a variety of clients once per week at Bloomington locations or once per month at Bloomington or Ellettsville locations for two hour blocks. They also attend a monthly update meeting for one hour. A one year commitment is requested. Training and support are provided. Basic computer and internet skills are required, as is a training program of two hours. All time-slots are



*Photo courtesy the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network*

during the regular work-week (Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). People who have had successful experiences in job-hunting for themselves, or have some knowledge of business/non-profit management, human resources, and/or hiring are preferred. Please contact Rebecca Nunley at (812) 876-3383 ext. 523 or [rnunley@area10agency.org](mailto:rnunley@area10agency.org). ([www.area10agency.org/rsvp](http://www.area10agency.org/rsvp))

## Bargain Boutique

Do you love clothes? Then you might be well suited to volunteer with My Sister's Closet of Monroe County. Volunteer tasks include processing donations, tagging and displaying clothing, and helping women select work attire. Choose a weekly or bi-weekly shift that matches your schedule. No retail experience is needed; training is provided. All ages are welcome. Please contact Dorothy Hawkins at (812) 355-6842 or [hawk81439@aol.com](mailto:hawk81439@aol.com). ([www.sisterscloset.org](http://www.sisterscloset.org))

## Binkley House Youth Shelter Assistant

The Binkley House Youth Shelter, a program of the Youth Services Bureau of Mon-

roe County, temporarily houses youth aged 8-17 who are experiencing crisis. Positive and encouraging adults are needed to assist paid staff with supervision and to demonstrate life skills such as conflict resolution, communication skills, and even light cooking and cleaning. Volunteers must be at least 21, willing to obtain a physical exam and TB test, obtain certification in First Aid and CPR (provided by YSB, if needed), undergo a thorough criminal background check, as well as receive a set of other required trainings provided by YSB. Due to the extensive list of requirements and trainings, volunteers should be able to make at least a 6 month commitment and help at least 3 times per month. Please contact Kim Meyer at (812) 349-2539 or [kmeyer@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:kmeyer@co.monroe.in.us). ([www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net))

## Project Safe Place

The Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County is seeking a couple of Safe Place volunteers to perform administrative tasks, such as compiling informational packets, and also to perform outreach activities and Safe Place site checks within Monroe County. Transportation and some training are required to complete site checks; other duties may be performed without training. Please contact Vanessa Schmidt at (812) 349-2507 or [vschmidt@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:vschmidt@co.monroe.in.us). ([www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net))

## Couples Match Program

National Mentoring Month is the perfect

## City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

401 N. Morton Street, Suite 260  
PO Box 100  
Bloomington IN 47402  
812-349-3472  
fax: 812-349-3483  
[volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov)  
[savichb@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:savichb@bloomington.in.gov)  
[www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Bloomington-Volunteer-Network/56202931201?ref=ts>

time to seriously consider becoming a Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Couple through Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana. In a Couples Match, a Little is matched with a couple who would like to volunteer together. Both partners act as a Big to the child, offering friendship, support and, of course, fun! Couples can plan activities together or individually with their Little. The minimum commitment is twelve consecutive months, 8 hours per month. A car or access to reliable, insured transportation, an interview and training are required. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Please contact Mark Voland at (812) 334-2828 or [mvoland@bigsindiana.org](mailto:mvoland@bigsindiana.org). ([www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org))

## Light Office Duties

The District 10 Pro Bono Project, a legal services non-profit organization, serves people with low-incomes who may be in desperate circumstances or crises. The Project is seeking volunteers to do filing, scanning, shredding, and light cleaning. Compassion, an understanding of poverty, and the ability to maintain client confidentiality are essential. The office atmosphere is casual; scheduling and number of hours is flexible. Adult and teen volunteers who are at least 16 years of age are welcome. Please contact Rala Williams at (812) 339-3610 or [rala.dist10probono@gmail.com](mailto:rala.dist10probono@gmail.com). ([www.facebook.com/district10probonoproject](http://www.facebook.com/district10probonoproject))

## The V.I.P. Project

The V.I.P. Project is a brand new Boys and Girls Club after-school teen program at the Crestmont Community Center, located near Tri-North Middle School. The Club is looking for volunteers to make a contribution to the positive development of these kits through original programming or by just lending a hand. They engage in several

*The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network is your source for information about volunteering locally. To search for more opportunities, visit [www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer) or call 349-3433. The inclusion of an organization in this list does not imply City endorsement or support of the organization's activities or policies.*

**See "NETWORK", page 18**

# Support Sentencing Reform: Say No To More New Prisons For Indiana

By Vid Beldavs • Indiana CURE Newsletter Editor • [www.incure.org](http://www.incure.org)

The Indiana Prosecutors Association opposes sentencing reforms supported by the Governor as being “soft on crime”. Clearly the Prosecutors are in a different universe from the rest of us. They seem to think that we can continue to fill prisons just as we did when the state was flush with funds. These prosecutors need to wake up to the financial crisis facing the state. For everyone we put in prison we have to cut costs somewhere else. A ten year sentence is equal to the salary and benefits for an experienced teacher for five years. For every person who is not sentenced to prison there is the potential to save the job of a teacher, or a therapist, or other vital public service.

Prosecutors are calling for fixed mandatory sentences for some crimes. The Indiana system provides failsafe mechanisms that violent offenders will serve their full sentence. If these offenders are as violent and uncontrollable as feared they will exhibit such behavior in the prison environment which would assure that they serve their full sentence. Removing the possibility of earlier release will most likely aggravate bad behavior because there will no longer be the rewards for good behavior. Desperate people under the influence of addictive substances or under extreme stress can perform acts that they would never perform given normal circumstances. Everyone deserves a fair chance. That is what “corrections” is supposed to mean. The SB 561 as modified under the pressure from the prosecutors would be a violation of the Indiana Constitution, Article 1, Section 18 – **The penal**

## **code shall be based on the principles of rehabilitation and not vindictive justice.**

We can no longer afford to indulge the “need to punish” of overly aggressive prosecutors but instead must make the criminal justice system work more effectively. Indiana’s sentencing laws tend to be far more punitive than neighboring states. One example – 3 grams of cocaine has a minimum sentence of 20 years and a maximum of 50 in Indiana. Ohio has a maximum sentence of one year for the same offense. Non-violent offenders need to be removed from prisons which are very expensive and placed into work release and other less costly forms of sanctions. Evidence-based programs including drug treatment and education have been demonstrated to reduce recidivism. These need to be expanded. Sentencing reforms are estimated to save Indiana \$1.3 billion over the next 7 years. It is exceedingly important that the sentencing reform legislation be passed without being watered down.

In these extremely difficult times Indiana does not need a new 512 bed prison as announced by Governor Daniels on December 15, 2010. Stopping the new prison will be difficult because of the powerful prison interests involved. But redirecting the funds allocated for the new prison to initiatives that cut crime and keep people from returning may have even greater benefit to Indiana taxpayers than the \$1.3 billion savings claimed by the Governor for sentencing reform.

Governor Daniels claims a \$600,000

savings per annum because GEO Group, the private company being contracted to finance, build and management the prison, guarantees a \$37 / day cost per inmate in constant dollars instead of the state average of \$42 / day. But, Indiana is obligated to fill the facility. If it were not built we would not have this obligation. In fact, instead of a \$600,000 savings it is a \$6,914,560 per annum expense to house an additional 512 inmates. Over ten years the cost to taxpayers would be \$69,145,560 with an implied commitment for an additional ten years.

This money would be far better spent on work release and evidence-based programs that keep people from returning to prison and jail. Consider the alternative of investing \$6,914,560 through a highly competitive process managed by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to choose the best evidence-based projects to reduce recidivism and improve reentry for the thousands of men and women released each year from Indiana’s prisons and jails. Such an initiative would stimulate innovation at the county level under the policy direction of Indiana state government. This could help to transform how reentry works at the local level while at the same time adopting evidence-based practices more uniformly across the State. We could also put hundreds of otherwise jobless or homeless people to work. By investing the funds in innovative, highly competitive projects across the state, taxpayers will gain vastly more than a 512 bed human warehouse.

## **NETWORK**

*Continued from page 17*

activities, including homework help, college preparation, gaming and multimedia projects (video, audio and web-based). Let them know about your specialty and they will help you develop a program. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and willing to submit to a background check. Please contact Paxton Suggs at (812) 336-6501 or [psuggs@bgcbloomington.org](mailto:psuggs@bgcbloomington.org). ([www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org))

## **Snow Plow Assistance**

Christole provides residential and community living support and services for children and adults with autism and developmental disabilities in Monroe and surrounding counties. They need some help clearing snow from the driveways of their group homes in Bloomington and Ellettsville.

They can do the walks and small stuff, but need someone who can help quickly clear the drives so the busses and staff can get to the homes and assist the children living there. Please contact Marianne Stemm at (812) 988-1257 ext. 215 or [mstemm@christole.org](mailto:mstemm@christole.org). ([www.christole.org](http://www.christole.org))

## **Backpack Buddies**

The Backpack Buddies program through the Community Kitchen helps families meet the food needs of their children over the weekends, when children are not in school. Two volunteers are needed during the school year to pack backpacks of food items for elementary school children to take home on Fridays. One shift is available daily on Wed., Thurs. and Fri. between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Please contact Annie Brookshire at (812) 332-0999 or [volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com). ([www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com))



*Photo courtesy the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network*

# Special Section: Public Comment

## Wage Theft

By John Clower, facilitator, South-Central Indiana Jobs with Justice

Wage theft: it's been called the "crime wave no one talks about" and a "national epidemic."

We need you to help us fight it!

Wage theft occurs whenever you aren't paid—or are underpaid—for the work you do, contrary to labor laws. Some examples include: not getting paid overtime; not getting paid minimum wage; not receiving your final paycheck; not receiving all the tips you earned; and not getting paid for work that should be "on the clock," such as preparing your work space.

Wage theft occurs because some employers don't know the law. Alas, it also occurs because some employers break the law knowingly. Complicating the problem, departments of labor in some states (and the U.S. Dept. of Labor under certain presidents) don't pursue wage theft diligently.

Consider a common cause of wage theft: worker misclassification. Worker misclassification occurs when an employer misleads a worker into being treated as an independent contractor when the worker in fact meets the legal definition of an employee. Typically, misclassified workers receive less than minimum wage and no overtime pay. They lose unemployment insurance and Workers' Compensation insurance. (Significantly, they also lose family medical leave, the protection of workplace safety and nondiscrimination laws, and the right to organize.)

Worker misclassification is widespread in Indiana. According to a 2010 study pub-

lished by economists Michael P. Kelsay and James I. Sturgeon, Indiana state audits for the years 2007-2008 found that "47.5% of audited employers had misclassified workers as independent contractors," which translates into approximately "73,629 employers statewide of which 8,200 were in construction." The average number of Hoosier workers affected was more than 418,000 for each of those two years.

Other types of wage theft are known to be significant problems elsewhere in the U.S. Why would Indiana be any exception? For example, according to surveys referenced by Kim Bobo, author of *Wage Theft in America* (2009):

- 60 percent of nursing homes stole workers' wages
- Almost half of day laborers, who tend to focus on construction work, have had their wages stolen
- 78 percent of restaurants in New Orleans stole workers' wages
- 100 percent of poultry plants steal workers' wages

Bobo also noted that the Economic Policy Foundation, a business-funded think tank, estimated that companies annually steal \$19 billion in unpaid overtime.

Wage theft impoverishes workers and their families. It puts honest employers at a competitive disadvantage, because wage thieves have lower labor costs. It burdens local communities, because workers cheated out of Workers' Compensation and unem-



ployment insurance have to rely on emergency room service and social service programs. And it undermines Social Security.

For Indiana in the period 2007-2008, Kelsay and Sturgeon estimated the following average annual revenue losses, due solely to worker misclassification:

- \$245.8 million in state income taxes
- \$36.7 million in unemployment insurance taxes
- \$99.8 million in local government taxes

- \$24.1 million in Workers' Compensation premiums

How do we fight wage theft? The single best way is to support strong labor unions. The organization I facilitate—South-Central Indiana Jobs with Justice—does support strong unions. But we would like to recruit you to help us pursue additional remedies collectively: educating employers about wage laws; educating workers about their rights; using direct action to shame employers who steal wages knowingly; demanding that the Indiana Dept. of Labor vigorously pursue wage-theft violations; and enacting wage-theft ordinances at the local and state levels, as the citizens of Dade County, Florida, and New York State have done.

**If you have been a victim of wage theft or you know someone who's been a victim of wage theft**, be aware that South-Central Indiana Jobs with Justice plans to open a worker center in Bloomington, in partnership with other groups, where workers—whatever their citizenship status—can learn their legal rights and receive help to recover stolen wages. We will need volunteers to help staff that worker center.

**In the meantime, we need to document real-life, local stories of wage theft!** To tell us your story, please call 812-332-2392 to arrange a confidential, face-to-face meeting.

Jobs with Justice on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=288734498146>

## El robo de salarios

Por John Clower • Spanish translation by Daniel Soto

El robo de salarios: ha sido llamada la "ola de delincuencia de la que nadie habla" y una "epidemia nacional".

Necesitamos que nos ayuden a luchar!

El robo de salarios se produce cuando a las personas no les pagan o son mal pagados por el trabajo que hacen, y esto va en contra de las leyes laborales. Algunos ejemplos incluyen: no me pagan las horas extraordinarias, no me pagan el salario mínimo, no reciben su cheque de pago final, y que no reciben todas las propinas que usted ganó, y no cobras el trabajo que debe estar "en el reloj", como el tiempo que dura preparando su espacio de trabajo.

El robo de salarios se debe a que algunos empleadores no conocen la ley. Por desgracia, también se produce porque algunos empleadores violan la ley a sabiendas. Para complicar el problema, los departamentos de la mano de obra en algunos estados (y el

Departamento de Trabajo de EE.UU. bajo la administración de algunos presidentes) no persiguen el robo de salarios con diligencia.

Considere la posibilidad de una causa común de robo de salarios: la clasificación errónea de los trabajadores. clasificación errónea de los trabajadores se produce cuando un empleador engaña a un trabajador para ser tratado como un contratista independiente cuando el trabajador, de hecho, cumple con la definición legal de un empleado. Por lo general, los trabajadores mal clasificados reciben menos del salario mínimo y sin pago de horas extras. Pierden el seguro de desempleo y el seguro de Compensación Laboral. (Cabe destacar que también pierden incapacidad por motivos médicos, la protección de la seguridad en el trabajo y las leyes de no discriminación y el derecho a organizarse.)

clasificación errónea de los trabajadores

se encuentra muy extendida en Indiana. Según un estudio del 2010 publicado por los economistas Michael P. Kelsay y James I. Sturgeon, las auditorías del estado de Indiana para los años 2007-2008 encontraron que "el 47,5% de los empleadores fiscalizados han tenido los trabajadores clasificados erróneamente como contratistas independientes", que se traduce en unos "73.629 empleadores en todo el estado de los cuales 8.200 fueron en la construcción. "El número promedio de trabajadores de Indiana afectados fueron de más de 418.000 para cada uno de esos dos años.

Otros tipos de robo de salarios se sabe que son problemas importantes en otros lugares en los EE.UU. ¿Por qué Indiana sería la excepción? Por ejemplo, según las encuestas que hace referencia Kim Bobo, autor del robo de los salarios en los Estados Unidos (2009):

- 60 por ciento de los trabajadores en los hogares de ancianos fueron sujetos al robo en sus salarios
- Casi la mitad de los jornaleros, que tienden a centrarse en los trabajos de construcción, les han robado sus salarios
- El 78 por ciento de los restaurantes en Nueva Orleans han robado parte de los salarios de los trabajadores
- 100 por ciento de las plantas avícolas roban salarios de los trabajadores

Bobo también señaló que la política económica Fundación de un Tanque Pensante de negocios financieros, se estima que las empresas cada año robar \$ 19 mil millones en horas extras no pagadas.

El robo de salarios empobrece a los trabajadores y sus familias. Pone los empleadores honestos en desventaja competitiva,

See "El robo de salarios", page 20

# Stepping Stones

By Warren A. Wade II, Assistant Director, Stepping Stones • (812) 339-9771 • fax: (812) 339-2991 • cell: (812) 340-9082  
wwade@steppingstones-inc.org • www.steppingstones-inc.org

*Stepping Stones is an independent non profit that offers transitional housing and supportive services to youth between the ages of 16-20 experiencing homelessness.*

## Goal

The goal of Stepping Stones is to provide a supportive community that encourages young people to make decisions that positively affect their lives and prepare them for the future. Our program has two overarching components: transitional housing and independent living.

## Transitional Housing

Our semi-supervised transitional housing program is for youth between the ages of 16-20 who are experiencing homelessness. It is comprised of three two-bedroom, furnished apartments for 4 girls and 3 boys at any given time for up to two years. A fourth apartment houses two resident assistants who provide mentoring, case management and life skills education. And a fifth apartment serves as our Community Center, administrative offices, and resident lab. It is the central hub where residents and program participants receive case management, have group and individual meetings and are able to socialize with staff and friends.

Our clustered housing provides a safe and supportive environment for residents to hone their skills so they can become self-sufficient. It is our goal to move residents into a permanent housing situation once they leave the program.

## Independent Living

Our independent living program serves youth in our housing program, former residents and other at-risk youth in the community. These programs and services are the essential skills youth need in order to achieve a successful transition into

adulthood and become self-sufficient. We provide one-on-one and group coaching and case management to help residents reach their self-identified, staff-assisted goals in a "Life Map."

## Educational Assistance

We believe that one instrument for successful independent living is education. For those residents who have not obtained a high school diploma or GED equivalent, we require them to be enrolled in school during their time in our program. Of the 41 youth who have been in our program since 2005, only 20% have come into our program with a high school diploma or GED. 100% of those residents who had not graduated from school attended high school or a GED program. In collaboration with teachers, counselors and school administrators, we monitor their progress by reviewing progress reports, report cards and attendance to help ensure their success.

For those who have already graduated, we provide ongoing encouragement and support to those interested in obtaining higher education. We also provide or coordinate tutoring, as needed.

## Job Coaching

Another essential instrument for success that is often a barrier for youth is employment. Residents are expected to be employed while in our housing program. This can be a challenge given their inexperience, youthfulness and, sometimes, poor work history; however, from the time they are looking for jobs and filling out applications to actual on-the-job coaching (if necessary), we provide them with assistance they need to be successful.

## Life Steps

Our career exploration program is designed to help youth think about their fu-

ture and how to reach their goals. In both group and individual sessions, residents complete a personal career plan; learn about various occupations; develop job searching skills such as résumé writing, interview skills and professionalism; and they develop an awareness of their personal strengths and abilities.

## Financial Counseling

In an attempt to educate and provide relevant experience to residents, while in the program, they are required to pay a portion of their housing expenses (e.g. rent, utilities, phone, etc). We couple the experience with monthly budgeting meetings to facilitate understanding of income vs. expense, need vs. want and to encourage them to live a fiscally responsible life.

## Educational Group Sessions

Once a week, residents and staff come together for an evening of community, education and food. We provide a nutritious group meal that residents take turns preparing. Local organizations like Middle Way House, Ivy Tech, Positive Link and other speakers come help us focus on core topics such as drug awareness, conflict resolution and stress management. This experience also fosters a sense of community and is a safe place for our residents to interact with their peers and staff.

## Health & Wellness

Our holistic approach to personal health and wellness begins with preventative measures like accessing health professionals and understanding personal health to providing them with healthy lifestyle alternatives through physical recreational activities and alternatives to substance abuse. In addition to education, we provide our residents with fresh fruits and vegetables of their choosing on a biweekly basis.

## Health Care

Many of our residents have not seen a health professional in years and have used emergency centers as their primary care. When a resident enters our program, we provide them with guidance to navigate the complicated medical systems as well as other governmental assistance programs. While they are in our program, we also have them create a personal Health Profile and meet with a Community Health Educator to discuss ways to improve their health. By the time they leave our program, it is our goal that they have taken over their own health coordination. Educating our youth on the available community resources and how to access them is an essential component of our program. This provides them with information and networks so that, when they leave the program, they have the resources to be self-sufficient.

## Be Active!

By offering a wide variety of recreational activities like rock climbing and swimming, this program promotes regular, healthy physical activity and is open to high school-aged youth in the community. While rock climbing at Hoosier Heights, one resident noted that she "forgot how much fun it is to be active!"

## Alternatives & Awareness (AA)

This program educates youth on the negative effects of drug use and gives them healthy alternatives. To ensure the success of our residents, we couple educational sessions and positive alternative activities with drug screenings when use is suspected. In a non-punitive setting, we provide our residents the supplemental counseling and encouragement to break negative habits.

## EL ROBO DE SALARIOS

*Continued from page 19*

porque los ladrones tienen menores costos salariales del trabajo. Se le pasa la factura a las comunidades locales, porque los trabajadores estafados de Compensación para Trabajadores y seguro de desempleo tienen que confiar en el servicio de urgencias en los hospitales y los programas de servicios sociales. Y socava el seguro social.

En Indiana en el período 2007-2008, Kelsay y Sturgeon estiman los siguientes promedios de pérdida de ingresos anuales, debido exclusivamente a la mala clasificación de los trabajadores:

- 245,8 millones dólares en impuestos estatales
- 36.700.000 dólares en impuestos de seguro de desempleo
- 99,8 millones dólares en impuestos del gobierno local
- \$24,1 millones en pagos de Compensación para Trabajadores

¿Cómo combatir el robo de los salarios? La mejor manera es apoyar a los sindicatos fuertes. La organización que yo trabajo es el -Centro-Sur de Indiana Trabajos con Justicia-apoyan a los sindicatos a hacer más fuerte. Pero nos gustaría contar con usted para ayudarnos a emprender acciones adicionales en conjunto: la educación de los empleadores sobre las leyes

de salario, educar a los trabajadores sobre sus derechos, mediante la acción directa a los empleadores la vergüenza de los que roban los salarios a sabiendas, exigiendo que el Departamento del Trabajo de Indiana se esfuerce por resolver las violaciones y robos de salarios, y la promulgación de ordenanzas sobre el robo de salarios a los niveles locales y estatales, los ciudadanos del condado de Dade, Florida, y Nueva York lo han hecho.

Si usted ha sido víctima de robo de salarios o conoce a alguien que ha sido víctima de robo de salario, tenga en cuenta que el Centro - Sur de Indiana Trabajos con Justicia tiene previsto abrir un centro de trabajo en Bloomington, en

colaboración con otros grupos, donde los trabajadores, cualquiera que sea su estado migratorio conozcan sus derechos legales y recibir ayuda para recuperar los salarios robados. Vamos a necesitar voluntarios para ayudar al personal de ese centro de trabajo.

Mientras tanto, tenemos necesidad de documentar testimonios, las historias locales de robo de salarios! Para contarnos su historia, por favor llamen al 812-332-2392 para concertar una cita, reunión cara a cara.

- John Clower

Trabajos con Justicia en Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=288734498146>

# Directory of agencies and services

This directory outlines several agencies and services available to residents of Monroe County. Additionally, many listings provide contact information for prospective volunteers. For more extensive articles about many of these agencies and services, see earlier issues of Safety-Net at <http://safety-net-newspaper.com/>. Several of the agencies and services described provide multiple forms of aid. Unless otherwise noted all services and agencies are located in Bloomington.

## Addiction Counseling

### Amethyst House

**Address:** 645 N. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-3570

**Web:** [www.amethysthouse.org](http://www.amethysthouse.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x10; [amethyst@bloomington.in.us](mailto:amethyst@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** Provides structured living environments, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with addictions. Amethyst House operates three transitional living facilities: (1) a men's 1/2 way house, (2) a women's 1/2 way house that serves women and their dependent children up to 6 years old, and (3) a men's 3/4 way house. Amethyst house also operates an outpatient treatment facility in Bloomington as well as Evansville.

### Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.

**Address:** 645 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-1691

**About:** Provides services for people with behavioral and mental health challenges, such as depression, stress, panic disorders, alcohol and chemical dependencies, phobias, child behavioral disorders, grief and loss, marital and family problems, and severe and persistent emotional disorders. Services provided include psychiatry, 24-hour emergency services, and vocational and residential services. Centerstone hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments must be made for services in the evening and weekend.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

**Address:** Hours and locations vary.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8191

**Web:** [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org)

**About:** Provides support for those wanting to stop alcohol consumption.

## AIDS/HIV Services

### Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

**Address:** 333 E. Miller Dr.

**Phone:** (812) 353-9150

**Web:** [www.bloomingtonhospital.org](http://www.bloomingtonhospital.org)

**About:** About: HIV testing and extensive care coordination for those living with HIV/AIDS. Serve as a community resource regarding HIV/AIDS education and awareness. Also offer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing.

## Clothing, furniture, housewares

### Backstreet Missions Thrift Store

**Address:** 1911 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 333-3341

### Monroe County United Ministries

**Address:** 827 W. 14 Ct.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3429

**Volunteer Contact:** Rebecca Gordan ([812]353-9150; [mcmuhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcmuhelp@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** Provides a subsidized Child-Care Program for low-income families in Monroe County, which includes a year-round program for children two to six years old, and a summer camp subsidized child-care for children ages six to ten, when school is out of session. All care-givers in the families either work full time or attend school part-time and work part-time. There is also an Emergency Services Program that assists families who are experiencing a short-term crisis. The Emergency Services Program includes a food pantry, a clothing program, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

### My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.

**Web:** [www.mysistersclosetofmonroeco.org](http://www.mysistersclosetofmonroeco.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** JoAnne Bunnage ([812]335-6603; [jbunnage@indiana.edu](mailto:jbunnage@indiana.edu))

**About:** Provides low-income women with free interview and workplace apparel, helping them overcome hurdles they face to independence and family self-sufficiency. Also sells used, affordable clothes to the public.

### Salvation Army

**Address:** 111 N. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-4310

**Volunteer Contact:** Monica Clemons ([812]336-4310 x10; [monica\\_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:monica_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org))

**About:** Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, furniture, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, summer child care, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, child care connection, nursing home visitation, gas vouchers, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store. All services are without charge with the exception of Child Care Connection and thrift store.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Address:** 4607 West State Road 46

**Phone:** (812) 961-1510

**Web:** [www.bloomingtonsvdp.org](http://www.bloomingtonsvdp.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Scott Alber, ([812]335-1280 [volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org](mailto:volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org))

**About:** A Catholic led ecumenical society of volunteers dedicated to helping those in need. Assistance is offered in the form of community resource information, vouchers for furniture, and in some cases limited financial help with a utility bill, rent, rent deposit or other essential need. Almost all funding comes through donations and assistance is given without regard to religion, race or creed. Volunteer opportunities abound.

## Disabilities assistance programs

### Abilities Unlimited

**Address:** 2620 N. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-1620

**Web:** [www.abilitiesunlimited.net](http://www.abilitiesunlimited.net)

**Volunteer Contact:** Lynne Argent ([812]332-1620; [au@abilitiesunlimited.net](mailto:au@abilitiesunlimited.net))

**About:** Supplies free services to citizens with disabilities, including the elderly. Services include the temporary loan of durable medical equipment after an accident or illness, such as a wheelchair, walker, bath seat. Individuals who do not have insurance can borrow equipment for as long as they need it. Other services include the supply of Home Modifications for Accessible Living to low income City of Bloomington residents. This includes installation of wheelchair ramps, safety railings, and bathroom renovations. Also offers camp scholarships to young people with disabilities.

### Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1732

**Volunteer Contact:** Jo Gilbertson ([812]219-5566; [j.gilbertson@insightbb.com](mailto:j.gilbertson@insightbb.com))

**About:** Facilitates the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and interests of people with disabilities through Volunteer Advocates.

### Options

**Address:** 200 E. Winslow Rd.

**Phone:** (812) 332-9615

**Web:** [www.optionsfbl.com](http://www.optionsfbl.com)

**Volunteer Contact:** Karen Scherer, ([kscherer@optionsfbl.com](mailto:kscherer@optionsfbl.com))

**About:** For over 26 years, Options has provided customer-oriented, community-integrated services to people of all ages with disabilities. Options offers customize services in community living, employment and continuing education. Other services include health care coordination, behavior supports and respite. Options services are available in seven South-Central Indiana counties. Options' mission is to partner with people with disabilities and their communities to bring about self-directed and fulfilled lives.

### People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

**Address:** 680 W. That Rd.

**Phone:** (812) 336-2798

**Web:** [www.palstherapy.org](http://www.palstherapy.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Jan Gavin ([812]325-7863; [jbgavin@indiana.edu](mailto:jbgavin@indiana.edu))

**About:** Provides Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) such as therapeutic riding and hippotherapy to children and adults with disabilities and to at-risk youth from South Central Indiana. PALS is a NARHA Premier Accredited Center ([www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org)) and a United Way of Monroe County Member Agency.

### Stone Belt

**Address:** 2815 E. 10 St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-2168

**Web:** [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Amy Jackson (332-2168 x314; [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto:ajackson@stonebelt.org))

**About:** A community-based organization with over 48 years of experience in serving persons with developmental disabilities. Supports include residential, employment, life skills training and psychological services. With locations in Monroe, Lawrence, Owen, Bartholomew and surrounding counties, Stone Belt's mission is to prepare, empower, and support persons with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.

## Employment resources and job counseling

### WorkOne

**Address:** 450 Landmark Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 331-6000

**About:** Assists individuals and businesses in meeting their employment and training needs. WorkOne provides employment services, job counseling and assessment services, training services through WIA, older worker services through Experience Works, vocational rehabilitation services through Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation, veteran services and unemployment insurance benefits.

### Options

*See disabilities assistance programs.*

### Stone Belt

*See disabilities assistance programs.*

### Job Links

**About:** An Area 10 Agency on Aging RSVP program that helps people write resumes, find employment, and prepare for job interviews. Job Links takes place at several locations, including the Shalom Community Center at 334-5728.

## Family Services

### El Centro Comunal Latino

**Address:** 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11

**Phone:** (812) 355-7513

**Web:** www.elcentrocomunal.org

**About:** CCL is a grassroots, community-based organization that seeks to provide an accessible and safe space for all Latinos, with a focus on Spanish-speaking people, to find information, access to resources and a place to hold community events. CCL's work includes tutoring services for all ages, the medical interpretation network, direct service, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, the Legal Advice Project, Informate—series of educational presentations, health programming, and the Bienvenidos program; a support group that helps immigrants acculturate to life in the United States.

### Family Resource Center at Templeton School

**Address:** 1400 Brenda Lane

**Phone:** (812) 330-7735 x 50117 and 50120

**About:** Provides pre-school play groups and story hours, a Free Family Market (a free food source) on Fridays, 2:00-3:30 p.m., and programming for families focused on literacy and family fun; information and referrals for the needs of children and families.

### Head Start Program

**Address:** 1520 W. 15th St.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8350

**Web:** www.headstart.bloomington.in.us/

**About:** Guides children aged 3 to kindergarten towards gaining cognitive skills, patience, sharing, problem solving, hygiene, safety, and practice in good decision making. Free to income eligible.

### IN Dept. of Child Services

**Address:** 1717 W. 3rd St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-6351

**About:** Services are designed to protect children from abuse and neglect by partnering with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing, and stable homes. To make a report of child abuse or neglect the public can call 1-800-800-5556.

### Division of Family Resources

**Address:** 1787 W. 3rd St.

**Phone:** 1-(800)-403-0864

**About:** Provides aid to families with dependent children (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF), food stamps, Medicaid.

### WIC Program

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive

**Phone:** (812) 353-3221

**About:** Provides nutritional support for underprivileged mothers, babies and children up to five years of age in Monroe and Greene Counties. Applicants must meet income guidelines, live in Indiana, and have a nutritional need. All services are provided free of charge.

## Food stamps

### Division of Family Resources

*See family services.*

## Health care

### Futures Family Health Clinic

**Address:** 338 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 349-7343

**About:** provides family planning health services for adolescents, men, and women. Services are provided on a sliding fee schedule based on income. Services offered include annual exam and Pap smear, pregnancy testing, STD and HIV testing, birth control counseling, emergency contraception, health education, birth control pills, birth control shots, IUD (intrauterine device), and condoms.

### Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice

**Address:** 619 W 1st St.

**Phone:** (812) 353-9818

**Web:** www.bloomingtonhospital.org

**Volunteer Contact:** Melanie Miller ([812]353-9818; mmiller@bloomhealth.org)

**About:** Provides care and support for people who are terminally ill and their families. Training classes for new volunteers are offered twice a year.

### Hoosier Healthwise for Children

**Address:** 401 Morton St., Suite 260 (City Hall)

**Phone:** (812) 349-3851

**Web:** www.hoosierhealthwise.net

**About:** A state sponsored health insurance program for children, pregnant women, and low-income families. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria. Free or low cost, depending upon income.

### Monroe County Public Health Clinic

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive

**Phone:** (812) 353-3244

**About:** Services provided include screenings for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, elevated blood sugar, anemia, elevated lead, tuberculosis, head lice and pregnancy; health and wellness assessments; communicable disease education. Call for appointment.

### Planned Parenthood

**Address:** 421 S. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 336-0219

**Web:** www.ppin.org

**About:** Services provided include pelvic exams, breast exams, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and counseling, pregnancy tests, various types of birth control, emergency contraception (the "morning after pill"), as well as abortion services.

### Vistacare Hospice

**Address:** 1801 Liberty Dr., Ste. 103

**Phone:** (812) 330-9640

**Web:** www.vistacare.com

**Volunteer Contact:** Cathi Counterman ([812] 340-3467; cathi.counterman@vistacare.com)

**About:** Provides caregiver relief and companionship for terminally ill patients and bereavement support for family members.

### Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

**Address:** 811 West 2nd Street

**Phone:** (812) 333-4001

**Web:** www.vimmonroecounty.org

**Volunteer Contact:** Shelley Sallee ([812]333-4001 x109; info@vimmonroecounty.org)

**About:** Provides free medical care, including dental care at the offices of participating dentists, for people living in Monroe or Owen County who lack health insurance and have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. This means that the income must not exceed \$20,420 for a 1-person household. For each additional person, add \$6,960. To qualify for medical care individuals must fill out an eligibility form about their economic situation and set up an eligibility interview. Children or adults who qualify for health care at the clinic will receive free care at Southern Indiana Pediatrics.

## Housing (abused women)

### Middle Way House

**Address:** 338 S. Washington St.

**Phone:** (812) 333-7404 (admin phone), (812) 336-0846 (crisis line)

**Web:** www.middlewayhouse.org

**About:** Middle Way House is an emergency shelter that provides services to protect and help women who are victims of domestic

violence and sexual assault, and women who feel they are in danger. Services include a safe place to stay, case management, in-house children's programs, legal advocacy. There is also a transitional housing program called The Rise which has self-contained apartments for families leaving abusive relationships. Women and their children can stay at The Rise for up to two years.

## Housing (emergency, for adults)

### Backstreet Missions

**Address:** 215 Westplex Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 333-1905

**Web:** www.backstreet.org

**About:** A men's shelter with services including a crisis and 12 month housing program, meals, the provision of clothing, ministry to spiritual needs, job and life skill training, GED classes, and employment and volunteer opportunities.

### Martha's House

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St. (office) 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

**Phone:** (812) 335-6841 (812) 332-1444 (office)

**Volunteer Contact:** Bobbie Summers

**About:** An emergency shelter with 28 beds for homeless men and women. Services provided include case management, food, and clothing. Opens at 4:30 p.m.

## Housing (Intact Families/Adults)

### Bloomington Catholic Worker

**Address:** 573 & 577 Graham Place near Bloomington High School

**Phone:** (812) 339-4456

**About:** We offer short-term, home-based hospitality to people facing homelessness.

## Housing (Pregnant women)

### Hannah House Maternity Home

**Address:** 808 N. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 334-2662

**Web:** www.cpcbloomington.org

**About:** A comprehensive residential program or pregnant women and teenagers. Offers access to prenatal and pediatric care. Also offers life skills training and assistance in achieving longer-term educational and career goals.

## Housing (Rental)

### Bloomington Housing Authority

**Address:** 1007 N. Summit St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3491

**About:** Subsidized housing, Section 8, Public Housing. Cost varies to income eligible.

### Housing and Neighborhood Development

**Address:** 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

**Phone:** (812) 349-3420

**Web:** www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

**About:** Creates affordable housing opportunities in the City of Bloomington by working through its partnerships with local non-profit and for-profit developers and through its in-house housing programs. HAND provides housing counseling to individuals with housing needs or difficulties and provides a variety of learning opportunities for the community on housing related issues. In addition, HAND enforces the Property Maintenance Code and the City's weed and trash ordinances.

### South Central Community Action Program, Inc.

**Address:** 1500 W. 15th St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3447

**Web:** http://www.sccap.monroe.in.us/

**Volunteer Contact:** Beth Pankoski ([812]339-3447 x233; beth@sccap.monroe.in.us)

**About:** State and federal anti-poverty programs for low income individuals and families. Weatherization Assistance, Energy Assistance, Owner Occupied Rehabilitation, Section 8 rent subsidy program.

## Housing (homeless youth)

### Stepping Stones

**Address:** PO Box 1366

**Phone:** (812) 339-9771

**Web:** www.steppingstones-inc.org

**About:** Transitional housing program and supportive service for homeless young people aged 16-20.

### Youth Services Bureau

**Address:** 615 S. Adams St.

**Phone:** (812) 349-2506

**Web:** www.youthservicesbureau.net

**About:** Provides short-term residential care and crisis intervention for youth ages 8-17. Provides other services as well.

## Legal and court-related services

### Community Justice & Mediation Center

**Address:** 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 310

**Phone:** (812) 339-1551

**Web:** www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate

**Volunteer Contact:** Amanda Nickey ([812] 336-8677; vorpcm@bloomington.in.us)

**About:** Programs include the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program, Shoplifter's Alternative Program, Workshops, Trainings, and Community Mediation Services for

neighborhood, school, family or business conflicts.

### Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

**Address:** 214 S. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 339-7668

**About:** Cannot help people in criminal cases. Helps people in civil cases, including: Housing (eviction, foreclosure, landlord/tenant); Public Benefits (food stamps, SSI, unemployment, poor relief, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)); Health (Medicaid, Medicare); Divorce or child custody where there is child abuse or spouse abuse; Child In Need of Services (CHINS); Consumer (collections and repossessions); Education (including expulsion and access to special education services and Vocational Rehabilitation); Access to Justice (e.g. denial of a court-appointed attorney in certain civil cases).

### Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

**Address:** 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 104

**Phone:** (812) 339-1551

**Web:** www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp

**Volunteer Contact:** Sandy Rampley ([812] 339-1551 x23; casakids@bloomington.in.us)

**About:** Provides direct advocacy for child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Volunteer advocates represent children in the court process to protect the child's best interests.

### Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

**Address:** 301 N. College Ave., Rm. 211

**Phone:** (812) 349-2670

**Web:** www.co.monroe.in.us

**Volunteer Contact:** Sarah Lanman ([812]349-2670; slanman@co.monroe.in.us)

**About:** Helps to ease the trauma victim's burden by explaining the criminal justice process, accompanying victims to court, updating them on current cases and obtaining restitution.

## Meals and pantries (no cost)

### Meals

#### Area 10 Agency on Aging

**Address:** 630 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

**Phone:** (812) 876-3383

**Web:** www.area10agency.org

**About:** Area 10 Agency on Aging offers 3 main nutrition and food services for senior citizens.

**Congregate Meals** — We offer congregate meals at 11 am at the following locations: Spencer Senior Center, Fairview United Methodist Church—Bloomington, Cambridge Square Apts.—Bloomington, Unionville Senior Center, and Maple Shades Apts.—Ellettsville. Seniors must be over 60, and a \$2 donation is requested.

**Mobile Meals** — We home deliver meals to seniors who are 60 years of age or older and

who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. A \$2 donation is requested to help cover the cost of the program. For more information seniors can contact Mary Boutain at 812.935.2505 or e-mail her at mboutain@area10agency.org.  
**Food Pantry** — We provide seniors with two bags of groceries and frozen food each month. Seniors must be over 60 and can call 812-876-3383 to request an application for eligibility.

#### Backstreet Missions (Gino's Cafeteria)

**Monday-Friday:** Lunch: 11-12 p.m.; Dinner: 4-5 p.m.

**Saturday:** Breakfast 8-9:30 a.m.; Lunch 11-12 p.m.

#### Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

**Address:** 714 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 323-4982

**Web:** www.bloomington.in.us/~meals

**About:** Provides meals to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves. No age or economic restrictions. To enroll, call number listed. A volunteer will arrange for meal delivery and special dietary needs, explain the costs and how payments can be made.

#### Bloomington Catholic Worker

**Address:** 573 & 577 Graham Place near Bloomington High School

**Phone:** (812) 339-4456

**About:** We share a home-based dinner every night of the week at 6:00 on the southside to which all are welcome. Thursday nights have the largest feast. Please call so we can direct you to the correct house.

#### Community Kitchen

**Address:** 917 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-0999

**Web:** www.monroecommunitykitchen.com

**Volunteer Contact:** Annie Brookshire ([812] 332-0999; volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com)

**Monday-Saturday:** Dinner: 4-6 p.m.

**About:** Provides hot meals in a sit-down area as well as cold carry-out boxed meals. Also provides meals for afterschool programs at Boys and Girls Club, The Rise, Girls, Inc., Monroe County Community Corrections JAMS Program, Teen Learning Center, and Rhino's Youth Center.

#### Community Kitchen Express

**Address:** 100 W. 11th St.

**Monday-Saturday:** Dinner: 4-6 p.m.

**About:** Provides hot and cold meals as carry-out only. See Community Kitchen listing (above) for phone and volunteer information.

#### First Christian Church

**Address:** Corner of Kirkwood Ave. and Washington St.

**Sunday:** Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m.

#### Harvest House Soup Kitchen

**Address:** 1107 S. Fairview Dr.

**Phone:** (812) 339-4462

**Sunday:** Lunch: 2-4 p.m.

#### Shalom Community Center

**Address:** 620 South Walnut Street

**Phone:** (812) 334-5728

**Web:** www.shalomcommunitycenter.org  
**Volunteer Contact:** Pam Kinnaman ([812] 334-5734; pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org.)

**Monday-Friday:** Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m.; Lunch: 12-1:30 p.m. (except Wednesday lunch, 12-1 p.m.)

**About:** A daytime resource center for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. The facility is open all day and functions as a Day Shelter for guests, where they can use restroom facilities, make phone calls, and do their laundry. Guests can go there to see case workers, employment counselors, connect with visiting agencies, seek assistance through the Family Homelessness Prevention Project, store belongings, receive mail, use restroom facilities, and take a hot shower.

## Pantries/Groceries

### Area 10 Agency on Aging

*See meals and pantries — meals*

### Hoosier Hills Food Bank

**Address:** 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

**Phone:** (812) 334-8374

**Web:** www.hhfoodbank.org

**Volunteer Contact:** Kai Westerfield (334-8374; volunteer@hhfoodbank.org)

**About:** Collects, stores and distributes donated food to 84 nonprofit organizations with feeding programs that directly serve needy and hungry people. Distributes about 2 million pounds of food to hungry people each year.

### MCUM Emergency Pantry

**Address:** 827 W. 14th St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3429

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8-11:30 a.m.; 1-3:30 p.m.

**About:** Canned goods only. One week's worth provided. Must be Monroe County resident. Must present photo ID, SS#, last 30 days income.

### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 355-6843

**Web:** www.mhcfodpantry.org

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m.

**About:** Provides nutritious food to people in need. Most of the food is received from the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Also operates a Nutrition Education Program and an organic Community Gardening Program.

### Salvation Army

**Address:** 111 N. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-4310

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon; 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

**About:** Need ID. Depending upon income and resources, can offer one week's supply of groceries. Will not provide again for at least 30 days.

**First United Methodist Church**  
**Address:** 219 E. 4th Street  
**Hours:** Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30 p.m.  
**About:** Provides brown bag lunch, groceries.

**Township Trustees Food Pantries—Bloomington**  
**Address:** 2111 W. Vernal Pike  
**Phone:** (812) 336-4976  
**Hours:** Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**About:** Provides canned goods. Must be a resident of Bloomington Township.  
**Township Trustees Food Pantries—Perry**  
**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.  
**Phone:** (812) 336-3713  
**Hours:** Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
**About:** Provides canned goods. Must be a resident of Perry Township.

## Medicaid

**Division of Family Resources**  
**About:** Medicaid is a federal and state funded medical assistance program that pays for approved and needed medical care for persons who meet eligibility requirements. For more information on the Division of Family Resources see the family services listing.

## Older citizen programs

**Area 10 Agency on Aging**  
**Address:** 630 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, Indiana 47429  
**Phone:** (812) 876-3383  
**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~area10](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~area10)  
**About:** Offers programs and services, as well as being a resource of information about services for older and disabled citizens living in Monroe and Owen Counties. Services that can be accessed include in-home health-related services, home-delivered and congregate meal sites for the elderly, support groups, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman program for residents of area nursing homes, a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, an Older Workers Program for those 55 and older seeking employment, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in Ellettsville, and also manages the Rural Transit bus service.

## Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

**Planned Parenthood**  
*See health care.*

**WIC Program**  
*See family services.*

## Rent, utility, bill assistance

First call the Township Trustee in the Monroe County Township in which you live: Bean Blossom (876-5109), Benton (332-6081), Bloomington (336-4976), Clear Creek (824-7225), Indian Creek (824-4981), Perry (336-3713) Polk (837-9446), Richland (876-2509), Salt Creek (332-9777), Van Buren (825-4490), Washington (331-0809).

## Youth programs

**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
**Address:** 418 S. Walnut St.  
**Phone:** (812) 334-2828  
**Web:** [www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Contact Kathy Delaney Willett, Director of Outreach and Enrollment  
**About:** Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana helps children in Monroe and Owen counties reach their potential through professionally supported, one to one relationships with measurable impact.

**Bloomington Boys and Girls Club**  
**Address:** 311 S. Lincoln St.  
**Phone:** (812) 332-5311  
**Web:** [www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Lily Kleinlein ([812] 334-2828 x232; [lklein@bigsindian.org](mailto:lklein@bigsindian.org))  
**About:** A guidance organization which fosters the physical, intellectual and social growth of boys and girls ages 6-18 with a special concern for those most in need of service.

**Girls Inc.**  
**Address:** 1108 W. 8th St.  
**Phone:** (812) 336-7313  
**Web:** [www.girlsinc-monroe.org](http://www.girlsinc-monroe.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Lucy Berger, Director of Operations ([812] 336-7313; [lberger@monroe.girls-inc.org](mailto:lberger@monroe.girls-inc.org))  
**About:** Girls Inc. of Monroe County, is an affiliate of a national youth organization dedicated to inspiring girls to be strong, smart, and bold through after school programming, organized sports, and summer/winter camps. Provides programming for girls ages 6 to 18. Services include transportation, organized sports, a teen room, technology, self-defense and homework help.

**Harmony School**  
**Address:** 909 E. 2nd St.  
**Phone:** (812) 334-8349  
**Web:** [www.harmonyschool.org](http://www.harmonyschool.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Libby Gwynn ([812] 334-8349; [libby@harmonyschool.org](mailto:libby@harmonyschool.org))  
**About:** An independent pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade school providing education to youth ages 3 to 18 from a wide range of economic and educational backgrounds.

**Rhino's Youth Center**  
**Address:** 331 S. Walnut St.  
**Phone:** (812) 333-3430  
**Web:** [www.rhinosyouthcenter.org](http://www.rhinosyouthcenter.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Brad Wilhelm ([812] 333-3430; [rhinosdirector@ameritech.net](mailto:rhinosdirector@ameritech.net))

**About:** Provides entertainment as well as other programs for the youth of our community in an alcohol, tobacco, and drug free environment. In addition to music and shows, provides programs in partnership with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department through the week after school. Several creative and practical classes and workshops, as well as mentoring, tutoring, counseling, and more, are available.

**Youth Services Bureau**  
**Address:** 615 S. Adams St.  
**Phone:** (812) 349-2506  
**Web:** [www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net)  
**About:** Alongside youth shelter (see housing [youth]), provides counseling, education, supervised recreation, and transportation to and from school, as well as referrals to a variety of agencies for other needed services. The Youth Outreach Program, in collaboration with MCCSC, works with suspended and expelled middle school youth, and provides these students with intensive, one-on-one teaching to help them keep up with their education while they are out of school.

## Additional services

**Catholic Charities-Bloomington**  
**Address:** 631 North College Avenue  
**Phone:** (812) 332-1262  
**Web:** [www.CatholicCharitiesBtown.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesBtown.org)  
**About:** Provides education, social service delivery, and advocacy. Takes special interest in poor, disabled, and otherwise disadvantaged persons. Serves residences of Brown, Lawrence, Morgan, Monroe, Orange and Owen counties, especially through mental health services. Provides individual, family, couples and group counseling to the English- and Spanish-speaking clients.

**Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County**  
**Address:** 213 E. Kirkwood Avenue  
**Phone:** (812) 331-4069  
**Web:** [www.monroecountyhabitat.org](http://www.monroecountyhabitat.org)  
**About:** Habitat for Humanity helps families and volunteers to build homes for those living in inadequate housing. The homes are for families who have an income but do not have the funds to secure a bank loan. The money to build the homes comes from contributions from local churches, citizens, businesses, and other sponsors. Families pay back a zero interest mortgage over 15-25 years. That money goes into a fund which helps to pay for more houses.

**Monroe County Safe Kids Chapter**  
**Phone:** (812) 353-5437  
**About:** Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians will help you install your child's car seat and answer questions regarding general vehicle safety. If you need financial help with the purchase of a seat, let us know. All services are by appointment only.

**Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project**  
**Address:** 310A S. Washington St.  
**Phone:** (812) 339-8710  
**Web:** [www.pagestoprisoners.org](http://www.pagestoprisoners.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Tess Hannah (339-8710; [midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com](mailto:midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com))  
**About:** Provides free reading material to inmates upon request. Encourages self-education among prisoners in the United States.

**Monroe County Public Library**  
**Address:** 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.  
**Phone:** (812) 349-3050  
**Web:** [www.mcpl.info](http://www.mcpl.info)  
**About:** Offers books, magazines, audiovisual materials, Internet computers, and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile (with over 25 stops weekly), and the Outreach Van. Library cards are available at no charge to all county residents. The VITAL literacy program offers one-on-one confidential tutoring to adult learners and ESL classes. During the school year the Main Library offers homework help to elementary students and math homework help to teens. During tax season volunteers offer tax help. The library also offers public meeting rooms to nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community may produce a program through CATS for the Public Access Channel

**Monroe County Wrap-Around**  
**Address:** 645 S. Rogers St.  
**Phone:** (812) 337-2225  
**About:** Monroe County Wrap-Around is a multi-agency committee that provides needed services to families with children. For example, a case is brought to a particular agency, then a representative from that agency can present the case to Wrap-Around and all participating Wrap-Around agencies can play a role in coordinating help to the family in the most effective way. The planning process is done with the families "in the driver's seat". Each family identifies a "team" that works with them, and the team develops a plan based upon the strengths and needs of the specific family. Representatives from families also serve on committees that examine the policies and goals of Wrap-Around. This summer, the Lost Child Fund, which operates within Wrap-Around, is accepting funds to send children of working single parents to camp.

**New Leaf–New Life, Inc.**  
**Address:** PO Box 7071  
**Phone:** (812) 349-2890  
**Web:** [www.newleaf-newlife.org](http://www.newleaf-newlife.org)  
**About:** Volunteers work both inside and outside the jail to help inmates, and those recently released from jail transition successfully back into society. Services offered include: employment help; support groups; family support; and community referrals. Volunteer opportunities can include: mentoring; transition services; office work; family outreach; or programming in the jail.