

FREE



South Central Community Action Program

SCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

A social service publication about our community — Brought to you by the South Central Community Action Program

Safety~Net

January-March 2022

Monroe County Healthy Families-Give your baby the best beginning!

By: Veronica Rodriguez

Healthy Families is a free program for families who are expecting a new baby or have an infant under three months old. Families are paired with a Family Support Worker who meets at the family home (or virtually if indicated) and builds an individualized plan based on each family's strengths and needs. The mission of Healthy Families is: To promote nurturing relationships as the foundation for optimized development and resiliency of strong families, using an evidence-based home visiting model.

Research shows that the first three years of a child's life are the most important for development. We have learned that children who have a secure attachment tend to develop stronger self-esteem and better resilience, tend to be more independent and perform better in school, have successful social relationships, and experience less depression and anxiety. Healthy Families is here not just for the new baby, but for the entire family to be able to create an environment in which everyone can thrive. We understand that having a child is one of the most difficult journeys one can go on and believe that all families benefit from support and encouragement.



Healthy Families
Indiana™

Some of the services that can be offered include building healthy family strategies such as: promoting parent-child bonding and attachment, increasing knowledge of child development, reducing social isolation, improving use of preventative healthcare, and providing access to community resources for families. We also focus on basic child development with use of screening tools to help families track development along with developmental activities that they can use to promote healthy development across all areas. If a parent has concerns, their support worker will provide them with supplemental information or access to referrals for further intervention. We also offer support with other family challenges such as housing, employment, finances and budgeting, mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Healthy Families believes in building on every family's individual set of strengths and helping families to recognize them.

Signing up is easy! We take referrals from WIC, healthcare providers, case workers and others as well as self-referrals which can be made on our website or simply by calling our main office. An initial visit will take place which provides an opportunity to learn what services are going to be most beneficial for each family. A welcome gift is given after completion of the first visit. For more information or to submit a referral visit us at www.villageskids.org/healthy-families or contact Jennifer Bush at (812) 332-1245 or jbush@villages.org



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Editorial Comment

Our Guiding Principle is to reach out to others who are coping with practical and emotional crises, and to say, we are here as one community, interconnected with each other in a positive way. This means, among other things, providing shelter, food, medical care, opportunities to step out of poverty, peace, and mutual respect. This whole world would be a much better place for all people if everyone felt this way about our brothers and sisters. As individuals, we cannot change the world. However, we can all come together and help others in our own community. Let us show others, what we can do right here in Bloomington by reaching out to each other, and climbing that mountain together. To paraphrase Pete Seeger, We WILL Overcome.



Digital Equity and Lifelong Learning at the Library

By Aubrey Dunnuck, Monroe County Public Library

Digital equity is an essential component for participating in daily life activities. Technology and internet access is not optional for job seekers, those in need of telehealth services, distance learners, and many more people. The Library's core mission is to provide equitable access to information, materials, and services. In support of this mission, the Library offers resources to support lifelong learning and technological literacy.

Technology at the Downtown Library and the Ellettsville Branch Library includes public computers with free high-speed WiFi, internet access, Microsoft Office Suite, free printing for library cardholders, and self-service scanning and faxing stations. Additionally, laptops are available for in-building use. Patrons can check out a laptop to use in a study room for Zoom meetings or online classes.

In addition to in-building technology, the Library offers iPads and mobile hotspots for check out. Cellular-enabled iPads are pre-loaded with apps and programs for everyday use. WiFi access is not needed and iPads come with unlimited data. Mobile hotspots offer free, unrestricted internet access at home or on the go. The hotspots easily connect up to five personal devices at once and can be used anywhere that receives a T-Mobile cellular signal.

For those with internet access, barriers may still exist. Some community members experience frustration with email and online forms, and concerns about internet safety, leaving them feeling increasingly isolated from social connections and workforce opportunities. Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) teaches computer skills through Northstar Online Learning. These free, self-paced online courses offer step-by-step instruction, practice, and review for basic computer skills, email, and Microsoft Word.



VITAL provides a safe and respectful learning environment for adults who want to improve their reading, writing, math, basic computer, or English-language skills. VITAL offers tutoring and English language groups, and helps learners prepare for the high school equivalency exam, driver's license test, and citizenship test.

Adults of all ages, nationalities, and economic and social backgrounds are welcome. VITAL's learner-centric approach accommodates different learning styles by providing individualized lesson plans and high-quality resources.

The Library also offers free resources to help patrons find jobs, get workforce training, and learn about local organizations available to help. A dedicated job search computer station and job search print collection are available at the Downtown Library. Those interested in business skills, web development, graphic

design, audio and video production, general professional development, and more can try LinkedIn Learning, free with their library card. LinkedIn Learning has replaced the former well-known Lynda.com and delivers thousands of easy-to-follow video tutorials and much more in a user-friendly interface.

Library locations include the Downtown Library in Bloomington, and a branch in Ellettsville, along with extensive outreach services, like the Bookmobile, which has weekly stops in the community and offers high-demand materials for all ages. Additionally, a new Southwest branch is planned for early 2023. To learn more about any of the above resources, visit mcpl.info, or call 812-349-3050.

About *Safety~Net*

David White
Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Yeary
Director of
Communications,
SCCAP
Associate Editor

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. Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.

YES, I am a Locavore (my family eats mostly locally grown vegetables)

By: Joan Foor White

For two years now I have been buying 1/2 of a share (this is enough for 1-2 people) of a CSA box from Earth Song Farm. CSA stands for community supported agriculture, and although I've known about them for many years, it took a while for me to try it. Why?

For one thing, I don't get to choose which vegetables we get every week. So choosing to partner with a farmer has made me not only more adventurous in the kitchen, but also, not picky about which vegetables we eat. And...there are so many delicious ways to experience new foods and it's healthier to incorporate more vegetables into one's diet.

Also, we pay upfront (and this can be a challenge for some) which is beneficial for the farmer as they are able to plan their crops to fit the demand. This model allows us to feel a connection with the farm and our food that is just not possible at the grocery store.

On the other hand, how did I come to choose this farm? By taking part in the tomato tasting contest at the summer farmer's market! They had the best Brandywines, in my humble estimation! The "salad" turnips are truly a marvelous

addition to any salad, but sautéed in olive oil are equally delicious.

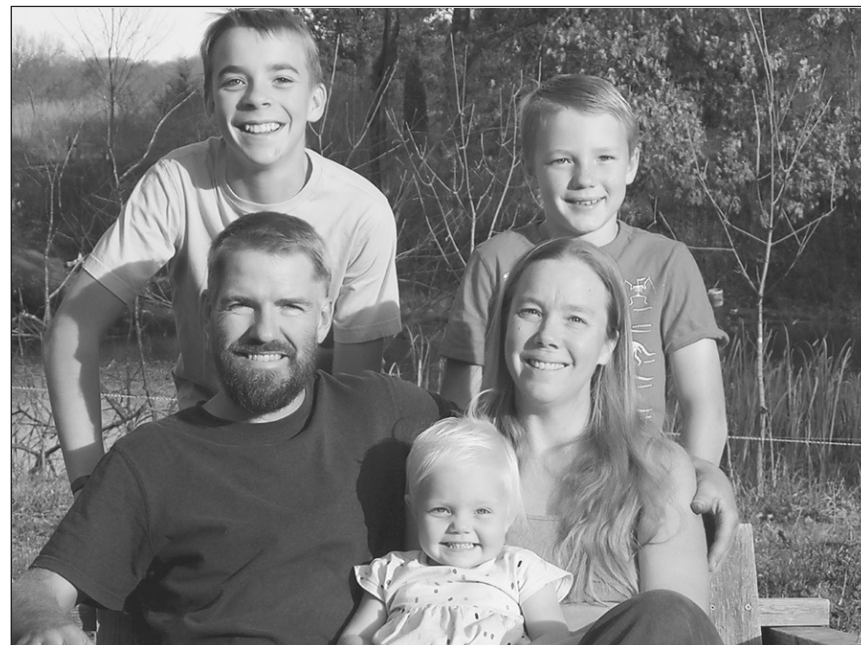
In addition to the beautiful vegetables we receive every week from May to September, we get in our email a lovely missive from Rosie, often with pictures of the farm and family. The one I have chosen for this article, below, was especially meaningful to me as the other half of this family is pescatarian and Rosie's explanation of how a farm works, is tender and true.

"Animals on the Farm"

Animals are an integral component to any farm. Each animal on this farm has a purpose. The animals bring food, fertility, protection, pest control, and friendship. We honor all life on this farm and treat our animals with great respect. They are truly part of the family. However, if an animal is no longer serving its purpose, it is time for it to move on. It has always been this way, and our children have never known anything else. Regardless, it can still be hard to say goodbye, especially to our beloved milk cows. Once they can no longer be bred, we butcher them for meat. This might be hard to understand, but it is the way of farm life and we are extremely grateful for all that our animals give us. Mike and I are cow people. We have always

had cows. We love them...the way they smell, the sound of their grazing, using their manure for garden compost, all of the amazing additions they bring to our diet, and just their presence. I would

out of the garden. One of our favorite things to do is to look at our plates and figure out what percentage of food comes from our farm. Then we ask ourselves what percentage is local. Often times,



much rather snuggle up to a cow than to a dog or cat. It's true. We raise most of our meat (all of our beef & pork), all of our eggs, and most of our dairy. Of course, nearly all of our produce comes straight

only the salt, spices, and oil is not local or from our farm."

MY EXPERIENCE WITH ALZHEIMER'S

By: Marcia Stalnaker

If you have learned that you have Alzheimer's disease, you have probably been driven to that conclusion by having unsettling experiences, confusion, and worry which caused you to seek medical advice. If you are lucky and your doctor is competent, you now know that like six million other Americans you now have Alzheimer's disease. At least you now know why your brain has become a much shakier guide to understanding things that are happening in your life and you are bracing yourself for a new, tricky, unsettling reality. One

thing that can be surprising is that people treat you differently than you were accustomed to being treated...

This happened to me on several occasions when, accompanied by my 50-year-old son, Aaron, we spoke to a doctor or a nurse in the medical office of a doctor we knew, of a well-trained nurse in that office, or a new doctor or nurse in an office to which we had been referred.

In each case, I was startled and then unsettled to find the medical professional addressing his or her questions, not to me, the patient, who has normal hearing and pretty normal mental functioning, but to my son. This was startling to me. I am

now 82 years old, but I still have a brain that can deal with facts, speculations, analysis, and other functions. Because I was exhibiting symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, I was apparently not considered a trustworthy source of information.

I think I found this unsettling because I was always deemed competent and even superior as a source of factual information in recent years.

I was one of those students who habitually loved school, got straight A's, and liked intellectual challenges. It was a shock to me to find myself no longer trusted as a reliable source of information by an outsider. It also made me very

determined to work diligently to use the part of my brain that still seemed to be working to keep up my analytical skills and using them to the best of my ability.

I find I cannot read large volumes of material on a continual basis, as I used to, but I do voluntarily read short excerpts of poetry, of familiar passages in the Bible, the daily newspaper, and occasional brief essays and articles. That brain is injured, but it is definitely not dead, and its efforts still give me pleasure, challenge, new ideas, and hope on a regular basis.

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

The Birds (or just a few black specks?)

By: *Olivia K. Hamilton*

Just a few black specks in a white sky.
Winters snow falling making it seem black and white.
Alfred Hitchcock comes to mind.
And I run inside letting my childhood fears fly.

The Birds are headed South just like I feel my life is,
but after every winter ... a summer comes back in.
The sun will come out tomorrow, so they say.
So like them, I'll keep my head down and continue to fly away.

Away towards my hopes, and towards my dreams.
No matter how black and white the future seems.
Just a few black specks in a white sky ...
I'll try again tomorrow.
But for now Goodnight.

By: *Sabrina Carter*

clouds dark and heavy with the promise of rain
waves throwing themselves on the beach
looking back as if through a telescope
rather than through a magnifying glass

the abundance of things had left them empty
death reminds us of the brevity of life
she defied categorizing
a fire burnt so bright it wasn't meant to last

right on the periphery of your vision
the only reality you have is the one you believe
fears flare in the unconscious and leads us back to
the monsters we thought we'd left behind

a gift you cannot repay
a memory that never dies
just because she knew it was lost
didn't mean she knew how to let it go

somewhere between sleeping and waking
not quite able to manage either extreme
still there
not instead of me ... in my stead

By: ♥ *Liv (O. Hamilton)*

I don't think yall understand, what it means today to be the man. We got LGBT and all that scene and I'm just floating somewhere in between. She calls me King and He calls me Queen, but I'm just LiviKate, aint that how I seem? I'm always asking the world, how yall really want me while I'm writing these raps but I'm for real just straight country! Everybody's confused by who I am and I tell them straight up, that I'm THE MAN. When I walk in the room they sit up straight, I DGAF how long I made them wait. With my hair done and my nails done too, right down to the red bottom heels on my shoes. I'm a lady up front till you see my hustle, and underneath all this drag is hella muscle. My homebois is hollering what up lil lady, but my chicks is screaming that's the man, Baby! So don't get it twisted maybe some of us aint in a group. Maybe we just us and yall are you ..? So all Im saying is chill on ya clownin, I'm the man every day so don't worry about it! Society today says be this or that, and everything has to have a label, or some kind of fact. I cant get with it, just know that. Be who you are ONLY. Your persona should never have to be an act. Long hair and makeup looking like I'm a Queen and still no matter what I'm the man on the scene! Just be you! Society can't tell you who or how to be. Everyone is beautiful in their soul. Know THAT!

By: ♥ *Liv (O. Hamilton)*

Give it all back, that's what I'd do.
To have just one more moment with a love so true.
My wife, my Queen, my everything.
I wish the day you passed I could say you looked serene.
You gave me security and I gave you strife.
You gave me a family and I took over yalls life
Between the work and the dope you never had my time,
But I did give you anger at the drop of a dime.
I gave heroin my heart and everything in between.
Cuz I was way too broken to give anyone all of me.
The day we wrecked took a part of my soul,
I didn't give us up so why the hell did you have to go?!
I miss my kids and I miss my Queen. I miss doing the whole family scene.
To be real I gave everything to heroin over and over again. I'm giving it up now I swear that I am. I'm gonna try to be a better man. The drugs are nothing compared to your love. So I'm giving it all up to the big man above. Thank you lord for another day and giving me the chance to actually change.



Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

By: Samantha Glenn

My “True North” is Christianity, from which I believe all morality stems.

If we refer constantly back to something, it should be “The Unconditional”, to quote W. H. Auden, otherwise, life with its changes and complexities will destabilize us, and as Auden points out, the Unconditional makes us good and moral. I refer back to God when I need guidance because as I learned recently, God is the only one who does not change. I think all of humanity shares this “True North” – to quote Presbyterian pastor Timothy Keller, we are “built for God.”

As far as my understanding of my True North – God – I don’t think we can fully comprehend God because this power and goodness and love are limitless, and humans can only comprehend things that have limits. In my limited, human understanding of God, He is the source of all life, immortal, inexhaustible, good, and love personified. I think we have to understand things not only by themselves, but also what they are in relation to other things, and again to quote Timothy Keller, the purpose of life is a person – Jesus – who is also God—and a relationship with that person. A relationship with Jesus is our function as human beings. That is why God is my True North!

By: Samantha Glenn

As I read the description of the act of giving that Alberto Rios offers [in the poem “When Giving is All We Have”], the immutability of goodness came to mind – Rios describes giving in all types of circumstances—when we are rewarded or not, when we have abundance or are living in poverty—this brings to mind a principle of Christianity for me – that God expects us to act Christlike in all circumstances – both good and bad. Goodness, which giving is an aspect of, should be our default—something we always do no matter what else is going on. Rios also describes how giving, even when we are lacking, seems to create something “out of the difference. However I think he attributes too much causality to humans and not enough to God – there is a reason why 12-step programs revolve around God’s will – only He can take “voids” (emptiness, nothingness, lack) and “fill them” (create, overflow, give life). I think Rios’ poem is an awesome example of a kind-hearted understanding of goodness and is beautifully written and worded. It’s an uplifting piece for those of us who are in tough circumstances where we may struggle to find the motivation or capacity to give.

“Answer me when I call on You, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.” –Psalm 4:1



Special Section: South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP)

Anthem and SCCAP partner to improve lives through Sustainable Employment

Sustainable Employment is defined as work that is safe, stable, makes fair work demands, pays a self-sufficiency wage, uses an individual's skills and talents, provides opportunities for growth and advancement, and features supportive leadership.

(Names have been changed to protect privacy.)

When Sally joined Thriving Connections (TC), she went through a 24-week training for low-income individuals, where she learned about being the captain of her own ship, choosing her crew, and setting goals to help her sail towards self-sufficiency. She began to set goals in three focus areas – Personal Growth, Education, and Sustainable Employment. With the support of her crew – volunteers, staff, family, and friends- she charted her course. Sally wanted to focus on Sustainable Employment first, because she was currently supporting herself and her daughter on \$12/hr.

Sally didn't know how much she would need to earn in order to be self-sufficient. She and her TC crew looked up the Indiana Self-Sufficiency wage at www.indianaselfsufficiencystandard.org. According to the calculator, for herself and her preschool age child in Monroe County, she would need to earn \$42,876 a year, equal to \$20.30 hourly to meet her basic needs of shelter, food, healthcare, and transportation.

Anthem  

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation

That was \$8/hour more than she was currently making. Her crew also determined that she would lose Medicaid benefits whenever she started earning more than \$12.50/hour. She

had already lost Food Stamp benefits when she began making more than \$11.43/hour. Sally was facing a long path through what's known as the Cliff Effect, when you lose more in benefits than you earn with a pay raise.

At the same time, another Captain, Alice, was working in home healthcare and the company was shorthanded.

Alice was being asked to take on more work, and was frustrated. She talked through the situation with her crew. Alice felt pressured to do the work, but was worried that her employer would be angry with her or fire her if she asked for more money. She really cared about the people that she worked with, and didn't want to leave them. Her crew reminded her that part of finding and maintaining Sustainable Employment is to communicate your needs and to try to



find solutions that work for everyone with your employer. They suggested she schedule some time to talk to her employer and to advocate for herself. More work should equal



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more pay, they reasoned. Fortunately, Alice's employer recognized how valuable she was to the team and advocated for Alice's pay raise.

Thriving Connections Captains go through these situations often. They are trying to move towards self-sufficiency at a time when the gap between what they currently make and what they need to

make to be self-sufficient has never been wider. It's frustrating and it takes a real toll on their motivation and their mental health. It's no wonder that when faced with juggling work, rent, transportation, childcare, and healthcare, that healthcare is the ball that gets dropped first.

This is why SCCAP teamed up with Anthem Foundation to

strengthen and expand Sustainable Employment workshops, resources, and tools. This year, Sally and Alice

attended TC workshops where they reviewed Sustainable Employment lessons, talked about how to apply them to the COVID-19 environment, and learned new ways to take care of their mental health in the workplace. TC was also able to share Sustainable Employment workshops with the organizations that serve people in re-entry, supported housing, and community mental health, as well as connect them to partner resources at WorkOne, My Sister's Closet, and HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org.



Interested in learning more about Thriving Connections and Sustainable Employment?

Contact: Linda Patton, TC Coordinator, lindap@insccap.org

Visit our website: www.insccap.org

Find Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SCCAPThrivingConnections

Self-Sufficiency Calculator: www.indianaselfsufficiencystandard.org

Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute: <http://iiwfs.memberclicks.net>

The Courage to Change

By: Eric Spears

When Marilyn Burrus got out of prison, she began the hard work of turning her life around. This included obtaining a BA in substance abuse from Ivy Tech/Indiana Wesleyan, and working for New Leaf/New Life, at first as an intern.

New Leaf/New Life, Inc. provides services for newly released offenders, but lacks a housing program. Marilyn wanted to do something about this missing piece of support and worked with Brandon Drake in 2016 to create housing opportunities for people recovering from incarceration and addiction. They called it Courage to Change.

The program started with one apartment, housing two women. Initially self-financed, Courage for Change incorporated as a nonprofit in 2017. Marilyn was president of the board and acted as the first case manager for clients. This September, she took on the role of executive director. They now house 10 women and 14 men and receive state funding from the CARES Act, as well as support from the Community Foundation, the Jack Hopkins Social Services Committee of Bloomington, the Salvation Army, the Sophia Travis Community Service Grants, the Smithville Charitable

Foundation, Bloomington's Sober Joe Coffee, and others.

Clients are referred from probation, drug court, reentry court, mental health court, and treatment centers. People can also self-apply, which is how Erin became a resident of Courage to Change.

Erin had graduated from Amethyst's four-month program and heard about Courage to Change through word of mouth in the recovery community. "I just didn't want to put myself in a situation of being on my own yet... It gave me an opportunity to get stable mentally and financially, to make that move."

Affordable housing is tough to find in Monroe County, especially for people with felony records. New Leaf/New Life has lists of places that will take felons, but many places will refuse to rent to ex-offenders, and unlike other counties in Indiana, Monroe County doesn't remove expunged records.

Courage to Change is not a treatment facility; it is a structured, sober living facility. Being currently unhoused is not a requirement for acceptance into the program. There is an interview process and some requirements for residents. First and foremost, residents must attend several 12-step meetings per week. They do their own housework and are required to obtain a job within two weeks of



moving in. Residents have a case worker assigned to them who can help them find employment and provide other support.

Erin finds that Courage to Change has the right balance of autonomy and structure. It allows residents to make their own life decisions with just enough support "to make sure we're on the right path." She says that the program and the people are very supportive. "They maintain a healthy environment for us."

A resident since early November, Erin has steady employment at a Wendy's near her home. With assistance from the state's Recovery Works program, Erin's share of the rent is \$200/mo. "It's a great program," says Erin, providing "that stepping stone to be in 'normal' society."

Erin really doesn't know where she would've ended up without Courage to Change. After successfully completing

Amethyst's program, she had no money, no clothes, no safe place to live. "I am truly grateful - getting my life back slowly and surely, and I know this program is helping me to do that. And I know that I'm not alone." Courage to Change "Gives you an opportunity to be successful in life."

"Really, change is possible for anybody," says Erin. "Some people need the right guidance, hope and trust to live a better life, and programs like this make it possible for that to happen. We can lose that stigma of 'once an addict always an addict.' That place is a blessing to all of us."

Courage to Change Sober Living can be reached at (812) 391-5440. Their website is www.couragetochangehouse.org.



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

Agency Contact: Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x203; glovell@amethysthouse.org)

About: Provides structured living environments, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with addictions. Amethyst House operates two residential treatment facilities; one that serves men and one that serves women and their dependent children up to 6 years old. Amethyst House also operates an outpatient treatment facility in Bloomington.

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

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

Adult Education

MCCSC Adult Education

Address: Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

Phone: (812) 330-7731

Web: www.mccsc.edu/adulted

About: The Monroe County Community School Corporation's Adult Education program at Broadview Learning Center offers free, individualized instruction and guidance to teen and adult learners. We offer support for

successful preparation for the High School Equivalency and other work placement tests as well as Adult Basic Education. Are you looking to improve your basic job and literacy skills or learn new ones, we can help. English as a Second Language course and supportive tutoring for students to create better opportunities of themselves and their families. Call 812-330-7731 to register for orientation and also visit our website www.mccsc.edu/adulted. Located on Coolidge between Rogers and Rockport Road, on the #2 South Bloomington Transit Route.

AIDS/HIV Services

IU Health Bloomington Positive Link

Address: 333 E. Miller Dr.

Phone: (812) 353-9150

Web: : <https://iuhealth.org/find-medical-services/positive-link-hiv-services>

About: HIV testing, case management and primary medical care for those living with HIV/AIDS. Serve as a community resource regarding HIV/AIDS education and awareness. We also offer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing. Access to Hepatitis C treatment. Access to Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)..

Clothing, furniture, housewares (Material and Financial Assistance):

Monroe County United Ministries

Address: 827 W. 14 Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Volunteer Contact: Madison Silvers, (812) 339-3429 x16, mcum@mcum.org

About: Provides a Self-Sufficiency Center that provides families with basic needs assistance and longer-term self-sufficiency services. The Self-Sufficiency Center includes a food pantry, cleaning and hygiene products, clothing and small housewares, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

See Employment resources and job counseling.

Bloomington St. Vincent de Paul Society

Mailing Address: 1413 E. 17th Street

Warehouse Address: 1999 N. Packing House Road

Phone: (812) 961-1510

Web: www.bloomingtonsvdp.org

Volunteer Contact: Scott Alber, ([812]335-1280 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.

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Volunteer Contact: Monica Clemons ([812] 336-4310 x100; monica_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org)

About: Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, nursing home visitation, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store.

Disabilities assistance programs

LifeDesigns, Inc.

Address: 200 East Winslow Rd.

Phone: (812) 332-9615

Web: www.lifedesignsinc.org

Agency Contact: Kristen King

About: LifeDesigns, Inc. offers comprehensive services for people with disabilities in south central Indiana including education, housing and employment assistance. We offer services for every stage of life from childhood through adulthood. Our mission to partner with people with disabilities and the community to bring about self-directed and enriched lives through education, information and support. LifeDesigns is a grassroots organization formed by the merger of two well-known agencies, Christole and Options, who have provided leading-edge programs for over three decades.

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

Facility Address: 7644 W Elwren Rd, Bloomington,

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1033, Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: 812-336-2798

Web: www.palstherapy.org

Volunteer Contact: Helen Seik, (812-336-2978 ext 15, volunteer@palstherapy.org)

About: PALS provides therapeutic Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) to individuals with disabilities, veterans and at-risk youth in South Central Indiana. PALS programs are designed by professionals and aim to develop and restore functional skills, enhance well-being and improve quality of life. Services are available to individuals ages three and up. PALS is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl) Premier-Accredited Center and United Way of Monroe County Member Agency.

Stone Belt

Address: 2815 E. 10 St.

Phone: (812) 332-2168

Web: www.stonebelt.org

Volunteer Contact: Sarah McKenney (332-2168 x314; smckenney@stonebelt.org)

About: A community-based organization with over 50 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

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

Address: 414 S. College Ave.

Web: www.SistersCloset.org

Phone: (812) 333-7710

About: Provides women facing issues of poverty, homelessness and domestic violence—who are looking for employment, with free interview and/or workforce attire, interview skills training & coaching through job mentors, image consulting, and life skills training

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through workshops with the Success Institute. All services assist women to overcome the hurdles they face on the road to independence & family self-sufficiency. All new and gently-used Clothing & Accessories, Undergarments, New Make-up, and Personal Hygiene items are provided free to those with vouchers from referral agencies, and for sale to the general public.

WorkOne

Address: 1531 S. Curry Pike, Suite 200
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 WIOA, vocational rehabilitation services through Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation, and veteran services.

Stone Belt

See disabilities assistance programs.

Family Services

El Centro Comunal Latino

Address: 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 206
Phone: (812) 355-7513
Web: www.elcentrocomunal.com

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.

Healthy Families of Monroe County

Address: 2405 N. Smith Pike
Phone: (812) 332-1245

Web: www.villageskids.org/healthy-families
Agency Contact: Jennifer Bush, jbush@villages.org

About: Monroe County Healthy Families is a free program for expected parents and parents with newborns under 3 months old. Family Support Specialists visit with families to provide encouragement, access to community resources, and the most current information on how babies grow and develop. Services can last up to 3 years and will help parents establish strong parent-child relationships, reduce stress, and reach personal and family goals.

SCCAP Head Start

Address: 1502 W. 15th Street
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: 1531 S. Curry Pike, Suite 600
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: 1531 S. Curry Pike, Suite 300
Phone: 1-(800)-403-0864

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

División de Programas y Alcance Latino Latino Programs and Outreach Division

Address: 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260
Phone: (812) 349-3430

Web: https://bloomington.in.gov/latino
Contact: Josefa Madrigal, latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov

Acerca: El Departamento de Recursos Comunitarios y Familiares de la Ciudad de Bloomington ha enfocado sus esfuerzos para alcanzar a la comunidad Hispana ofreciendo una gran variedad de programas. Eventos culturales, educación cívica, servicios directos y traducciones. El programa de radio Hola Bloomington en WFHB y la publicación Del Boletín Comunitario.

About: The City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Department has focused its outreach efforts on the Hispanic and Latino community by offering a variety of programs. Cultural events, civic education, direct service and translations, The Hola Bloomington Radio Show on WFHB and The Boletín Comunitario.

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

Address: 827 W. 14th Court
Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm

Volunteer Contact: Madison Silvers, (812) 339-3429 x16, mcum@mcum.org
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. All care-givers in the families either work full time or attend school part-time and work part-time. NAEYC-accredited center.

About: Full-time care for children ages 2-6 on a sliding fee scale, parents must be employed or attending school, NAEYC-accredited center

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 Services

Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Service – Community Health

Indiana University Health Bloomington
Phone: 812-353-9299

Contact Person: Dayna A. Thompson M.S., CDP, LMHC, PAC Trainer

Email: DThompson6@iuhealth.org

Web: www.AlzResourceIndiana.org

About: The Alzheimer's Resource Service (ARS) is a service of IU Health Bloomington Community Health. We seek to provide support, resources and assistance to those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families. We also work with professional staff who support those with a diagnosis. All services are offered to the community at NO CHARGE, thanks to the Bloomington Hospital Foundation and IU Health Bloomington Hospital.

Futures Family Planning Clinic

Address: 119 W. 7th St.

Phone: (812) 349-7343

About: Provides family planning health services for adolescents and adults. Birth control counseling and supplies available on the sliding fee schedule include pills, shots, patch, diaphragm, vaginal ring, subdermal implant (Nexplanon), and IUD (intrauterine device). Service offered include exams including pap, breast exam, pelvic exam, pregnancy counseling, testing and referral, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, including HIV testing, gonorrhea and chlamydia, emergency contraception (Plan B), health education, and condoms provided at no charge.

IU Health Home Health & Hospice

Address: 1155 W. 3rd Street

Web: iuhealth.org

Volunteer Contact: Tia Farley, tconradfarley@iuhealth.org

About: Volunteers offer companionship to patients who are terminally ill and their families.

Training provided. All it takes is time to make a difference in the lives of families

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.

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; vaccinations; communicable disease education. Call for appointment.

See "DIRECTORY", page 10

Local Health Care Enrollment Assistance

All U.S. residents are required by law to have health insurance. If you are uninsured, there are coverage options that meet your needs and fit your budget:

- Affordable Care Act "Health Insurance Marketplace"
- Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP 2.0)
- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (Hoosier Healthwise)

There are several free local resources that can guide you through the process, explain coverage options, answer questions, and help you enroll. Indiana Navigators provide free unbiased assistance and can work with you one-on-one to enroll in health care plans.

ASPIN Health Navigators:

Call (877) 313-7215 for Navigator assistance.

City of Bloomington:

Call (812) 349-3851 for enrollment assistance. Para Español, (812) 349-3860 o latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov

Individual Solutions-IU Health:

Call 1-888-531-3004 to make an appointment to see a certified Navigator, or visit iuhealth.org/individual-solutions

Monroe County Health Department:

Call Scott Stowers at (812) 349-2075 or e-mail sstowers@co.monroe.in.us

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Planned Parenthood

Address: 421 S. College Ave.

Phone: (317) 205-8088

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.

Housing (abused people)

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 all survivors who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and those 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.

Housing (emergency, for adults)

Friend's Place

Address: 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

Phone: (812) 332-1444

About: Beacon provides overnight shelter through its program Friend’s Place, to people experiencing homelessness. Friend’s Place is the only year-round, nonreligious, emergency shelter for adults (age 18+) in our region. We provide 40 safe and sober beds, 28 for men and 12 for women. Opens daily at 5:15 p.m. To access an available bed, guests should arrive at Friend’s Place at that time.

Wheeler Mission- Center for Men

Phone: (812) 333-1905

Web: wheelermission.org

Address: 215 S. Westplex Ave

About: Offers emergency shelter to assist the needs of men who need immediate shelter, as well as case-managed programs to assist the needs of men requiring long-term solutions. Featuring meals, shelter, community day room, and residential programs. No appointment necessary for emergency shelter.

Housing (Family Shelter)

New Hope Family Shelter

Phone: (812) 334-9840

E-mail: newhope@nhfsinc.org

About: The mission of the New Hope Family

Shelter (NHFS) is to provide temporary shelter for homeless families in Bloomington and Monroe County and, in collaboration with other agencies, to help those families regain housing by addressing the problems that led to homelessness.

Housing (Intact Families/Adults)

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

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: hannahcenter.org

Email: angie@hannahcenter.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.

Housing4Hoosiers

Website: Housing4Hoosiers.org

Email: info@housing4hoosiers.org

Phone: (317) 222-1221

About: Housing4Hoosiers.org is a one-stop website for renters and landlords in Indiana seeking resources on finding, renting, and keeping a stable and affordable rental home. Housing4Hoosiers offers guidance on where to find an affordable place to live, understanding your lease, and rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords. The site also includes a Google map of 150 rental properties in Bloomington/Monroe County with details on

rental costs, unit sizes, and those accepting Section 8 vouchers.

Housing (homeless youth)

Stepping Stones

Address: PO Box 1366

Phone: (812) 339-9771

Web: www.stepsstones-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

About: Provides short-term residential care and crisis intervention for youth ages 10-17. Provides other services as well.

Legal and court-related services

Community Justice & Mediation Center

Address: 205 S. Walnut Suite 16

Phone: (812) 336-8677

Web: www.cjamcenter.org

Volunteer Contact: Liz Grenat, cjam@

cjamcenter.org

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.

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

About: Purpose is to match income eligible clients with an attorney who will take their case for free. Potential clients must apply by phone on Monday from 10 AM to 12 PM, and Thursday from 2 PM to 5 PM. Please, no walk-ins, by phone only.

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: 201 N. Morton Street

Phone: (812) 333-2272

Web: www.monroecountycasa.org

Volunteer Contact: Kelli Shannon ([812] 333-2272, ext. 11; kelli.shannon@monroecountycasa.org)

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: 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

About: Offers congregate meals, please call or visit website for the most up to date sites and times. Seniors must be 60+ and can complete a brief application at the meal site of their choosing. A \$2.50 donation is requested. We also provide home delivered meals to homebound seniors who are 60+ and who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. An application to determine eligibility is required and a \$2 donation is requested. We also have a mobile food pantry to provide homebound seniors with two bags of groceries and frozen food each month. Seniors must be 60+ and meet eligibility requirements.

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Address: 727 W. 1st Street

Mailing Address: 2620 N. Walnut Street, Suite 925

Phone: (812) 355-8224

Web: www.bloomingtonmealsonwheels.org

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: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

About: We share a home-based dinner every

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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: 1515 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 332-0999

Web: www.monroecommunitykitchen.com

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

Volunteer Contact: June Taylor, june@monroecommunitykitchen.com .

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 and The Rise.

Community Kitchen Express

Address: 1100 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.

First Presbyterian Church

Address: Corner of Lincoln and 7th Streets

Saturday: Breakfast: 7:30-9:00 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

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

City Church Healing Hands Outreach

Address: 1917 S Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 272-2515

Web: healinghandsbloomington.org

Email: info@healinghandsbloomington.org

About: City Food Outreach gives a bag of groceries to those in need. To receive a bag of groceries please call our Healing Hands ministry to set up an appointment.

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Address: 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

Phone: (812) 334-8374

Web: www.hhfoodbank.org

Volunteer Contact: Ryan Jochim, volunteer@hhfoodbank.org.

About: Collects, stores, and distributes donated food to over 100 nonprofit organizations, including emergency food pantries, daycare centers serving low-income children, youth programs, shelters, residential homes and soup kitchens. These agencies collectively serve 25,800 people each year. Individuals seeking food assistance should visit Finding Food. We also administer 4 mobile pantries in Lawrence, Martin and Orange County that serve over 400 households each month. In addition, we have a CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) that serves around 1,000 seniors each month and supplies them with a 40-lb box of food.

MCUM Self-Sufficiency Center

Address: 827 W. 14th Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: M, T, Th, and F from 12-4 p.m.

About: Distributes non-perishable food, three days' supply provided. Must be Monroe County resident and complete a brief intake form. We also offer online ordering where individuals can place an order online at mcum.org for pick-up or delivery

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Address: 1100 Allen Street

Phone: (812) 355-6843

Web: www.mhcfoodpantry.org

Hours: Monday-Friday 12-6 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.

Pantry 279

Address: 501 W. Temperance, Ellettsville, IN 47420

Phone: (812) 606-1524

Web: https://pantry279.org

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 3-6pm, Saturday p.m.

About: We are a low barrier pantry, meaning

anyone in need of food can come. You may also pick up for other families as well, but we will need a name, address, and how many in household. Boxes of food vary depending on donations, but there is always a meat, canned food, dry goods, and produce is unlimited. We try to provide food for between 4-7 days. We are currently doing drive thru style distribution due to COVID. We post all updates immediately on our Facebook page.

'Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Hours: Tue, Thurs 1-3:30 and Wed, Fri 9-11:30

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.

Older citizen programs

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 631 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, Indiana 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

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 the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 2-1-1 Infolink, in-home health-related services and referrals, home-delivered meals, food pantry, congregate meal sites, support groups, education for family caregivers, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman program for residents of area nursing homes, RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in Ellettsville, and 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 (339-6593), 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: 501 N. Walnut

Phone: (812) 334-2828

Email: bbbs@bigsindiana.org

Web: www.bigsindiana.org

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.bgcblloomington.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

Volunteer Contact: Lucy Berger, Director of Operations ([812] 336-7313; 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

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.

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WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology

Address: 308 W. 4th St.

Phone: (812) 337-1337

Web: www.wonderlab.org

Volunteer Program: (812) 337-1337 ext. 20 or volunteer@wonderlab.org

About: WonderLab is an award-winning science museum with hands-on exhibits and programs for children and their families. WonderLab offers a free Teen Night monthly during the school year. WonderLab also participates in the Access Pass Program, which provides reduced admission of \$1 per family member per visit for eligible families. The museum also offers many half-price admission events. Volunteering is a natural next step for teens. Those entering grade 7 are eligible to become volunteers at the museum. Additionally, high school students are eligible to apply for summer internships at WonderCamp, the museum's summer science day camp.

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: 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.

Additional services

Catholic Charities-Bloomington

Address: 803 N. Monroes St, Bloomington

Phone: (812) 332-1262

Web: 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. Do not currently have anyone on staff who speaks Spanish, so they provide only English language mental health counseling.

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

Address: 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260

Phone: 812-349-3433

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer

About: The Volunteer Network, which has over 200 local partner nonprofit and governmental organizations, is your one-stop source for volunteer information in Bloomington and Monroe County. Member organizations post their volunteer needs on the Network's online database so potential volunteers can see what community needs they can meet. The Volunteer Network also offers training in volunteer management to new volunteer coordinators and training in nonprofit board service to new and continuing board members. The Network partners with the Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Commission in the organization of the 'A Day On, Not a Day Off' day of service, in which thousands of Bloomingtonians participate. In addition, the Network matches the material needs of local nonprofit organizations with community members and businesses who can meet those needs through our partnership with the Herald-Times on the Community Wish List.

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Address: 213 E. Kirkwood Avenue

Phone: (812) 331-4069

Web: 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

Volunteer Contact: Tess Hannah (339-8710; 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

About: Offers free books, magazines, music CDs, and movies to check out; public Internet computers; downloadable audiobooks and ebooks; and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile, the Outreach Van, and Homebound service. 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 conversation groups. During the school year, the library offers homework help to elementary students and math and reading/writing homework help to teens. During income tax season, volunteers offer free tax help. The library also has public meeting rooms for use by nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community can produce a program through Community Access TV (CATS) for the Public Access Channel.

New Leaf-New Life, Inc.

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St., Suite F

Phone: (812) 355-6842

Email: newleaf1010@gmail.com

Web: www.newleaf-newlife.org

About: New Leaf-New Life runs therapeutic programs in the Monroe County jail, and provides products and services to ex-offenders at our office at 1010 South Walnut, Suite F. Services offered include: assistance in obtaining a birth certificate or social security card, employment help, support groups, family support, community referrals, clothing, bus tickets, hygiene products, and funding for GED testing. Volunteer opportunities can include: mentoring, transition services, office work, family outreach, and programming in the Jail. Check our Facebook page for news and updates.

Reach High Consulting & Therapy LLC.

Autism ABA and Diagnostic Clinic

Address: 2101 W Tapp Rd. Bloomington IN 47403

Website: reachhighconsulting.org

Phone: 812-330-4460

Fax: 812-330-4461

Email: aba@reachhighconsulting.org

About RHC: Reach High is Bloomington's first ABA clinic. Reach High was birthed out of a growing need in the City of Bloomington. Providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has meant families and clients are equipped with the tools to reach their maximum potential. Reach High strives to have clients in multiple environments within the community, this allows for skill sets to be strengthened and become more natural overtime.

Reach High Consulting & Therapy LLC.

Address: 1501 Tapp Road

Email: services@reachhighconsulting.org

About: Founded in 2010, Reach High was Bloomington Indiana's first Autism Therapy Clinic that specialized in 1:1 ABA Therapy Services. In 2020, Reach High became Bloomington's first, and only, accredited provider through the Behavior Health Center of Excellence (BHCOE), which continues to hold providers accountable to high-quality clinical standards and ethical business operations. In 2021, Reach High expanded its service offerings to include Behavior Support Services through the Medicaid Waiver Program in order to continue supporting families at home and in the community. Most notably, Reach High has created a Human Rights Committee to champion client rights as part of its long-term agenda to strengthen the client's voice by promoting self-advocacy and inclusivity. Reach High is an in-network provider for the majority of common insurance payers in the Bloomington locale and is prepared to join more networks should the need arise.