

**FREE**



South Central Community Action Program  
**SCCAP**  
Empowering people to reach their potential

## Para ser una Ciudad Segura y Civil

Para Mark Kruzan  
Mayor of Bloomington  
(Traducido por Daniel Soto)

Pregunte a 10 personas que se encuentre al azar en la calle lo que significa para Bloomington ser una "Ciudad Segura y Civil" y obtendrá 10 respuestas diferentes.

Las definiciones de seguridad son bastante consistentes—los residentes quieren bajos índices de criminalidad, las necesidades básicas de todos los residentes se cumplieran en forma equitativa y en una sensación general de bienestar.

Ver "SEGURA Y CIVIL", página 2

## To Be a Safe and Civil City

By Mark Kruzan  
Mayor of Bloomington

Ask 10 random people on the street what it means for Bloomington to be a "Safe and Civil City" and you will get 10 different answers.

Definitions of safety are pretty consistent—residents want low crime rates, basic needs for all residents met in an equitable manner and a general feeling of well-being.

Civility is a different matter. Is it simply politeness in discourse or the act of tolerance of people who are different? In his book, *Civility: Manners, Morals and the Etiquette of Democracy*, author Stephen L. Carter suggests, "Civility creates not just a negative duty not to do harm, but an affirmative duty to do good." Through the City's Safe and Civil City Program,

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

# Safety-Net

September–November 2012

## City of Bloomington Promotes the Second Annual Monroe County VA Stand Down

The City of Bloomington will be partnering with the Veterans Administration, the Monroe County Red Cross, American Legion Post 18, and Ivy Tech Community College to hold the Second Annual Monroe County Stand Down Event.

The event is a one day event providing services to veterans such as food, clothing, health screenings, flu shots, haircuts, bus tickets, Veterans and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as employment and substance abuse treatment. Stand Downs are National collaborative events, coordinated between local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless.

The Monroe County VA Stand Down is an opportunity for in-need veterans seeking assistance to talk directly to community and governmental organizations.

**Who:** Open to all Veterans—Attendees must provide proof of their

veteran status in order to be admitted into the event—acceptable forms are DD 214 or VA issued identification card.

**Where:** American Legion, Post 18  
1800 West 3rd street, Bloomington IN  
47404

**When:** October 11, 2012 from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. LUNCH PROVIDED

**Details:** Information will be available to Hoosier veterans seeking assistance with food, clothing, medical assistance, employment services, veterans affairs claims, Social Security cards, food stamps and more.

Free Shuttle service to/from Shalom Community Center, 620 S. Walnut Street (every 15 minutes).

For more information about the event contact Maryjane McNabb at 317-496-9193 or Kathy Mayer at 359-3430.

**Participating organizations include:**  
WorkOne Employment & Training Services  
Indiana National Guard Family Programs

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## Bridges To Somewhere: People Helping People Building Bridges, Not Moats

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. 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, as well as to the assistant editor, blakely@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/>.

## Crop Hunger Walk 2012, Ending Hunger One Step at a Time

By Rev. Dr. Jack Skiles,  
First United Church

We walk on October 21st to raise awareness and funds for some of the most hungry people with whom we share the planet Earth. We walk to remind ourselves that the world over seriously hungry people walk many miles each day to access food and water. Our walking helps us to help them.

On Sunday afternoon, October 21st walkers from all over Bloomington and the surrounding areas will converge to walk either 4 or 2 miles from near College Mall in a circular route. We would not have to walk. We could just raise funds and write a check. People walk to stay in touch with the very surreal reality that over a billion

See "CROPWALK", page 3



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

## SEGURA Y CIVIL

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La civilidad es una cuestión diferente. ¿Es simplemente la cortesía en la forma de hablar o en el acto de la tolerancia de las personas que son diferentes? En su libro, *Civildad: las costumbres, la moral y la etiqueta de la democracia*, el autor Stephen L. Carter sugiere, "Urbanidad crea no sólo un deber negativo de no hacer daño, sino re-endosa el deber de hacer el bien." Por medio del Programa para una Ciudad Segura y Civil las oportunidades están disponibles para los residentes, empresas y organizaciones no lucrativas para crear un entorno propicio para la creación del "bien", sugerido en la declaración de Carter.

El ser una ciudad segura y civil no significa que Bloomington está libre de delincuencia, drogas y otros problemas sociales, sino que al hacer civilidad una prioridad, el impacto de estos problemas en los residentes puede minimizarse. No sólo se necesita una aldea para criar a un niño, se necesita el pueblo entero para mantener la comunidad y dar una acogida de la que todos quieren ser parte. En el último año, a través de la gestión de proyectos o mediante la prestación de apoyo administrativo, el Programa para una Ciudad Segura y Civil ha emprendido una serie de iniciativas, algunas de las cuales se destacan a continuación:

Seguridad Pública: y el

*Adoptar un enfoque proactivo para eliminar las causas de la violencia y la falta de civismo en Bloomington.*

• **Violencia Doméstica del Condado Monroe Task Force (comité en progreso)**— Provisto de Formación Letalidad y Evaluación para el personal local de aplicación de la ley. Esta evaluación funcionaria de una forma competente para determinar la probabilidad de una escalada de violencia doméstica y equipada para proporcionar apoyo y los recursos necesarios a las víctimas. En 2012 el Grupo de Trabajo llevará a cabo una conferencia para los líderes religiosos de la zona y personal de apoyo en las comunidades religiosas. Programa para una Ciudad Segura y Civil (S&CCP por sus siglas en Inglés) proporciona apoyo administrativo al Grupo de Trabajo, incluyendo el mantenimiento de su presencia en la web, la coordinación de las reuniones y dirigir el equipo de la conferencia anual de planificación.

• **La Coalición del Condado de Monroe para la Prevención del Suicidio**— S&CCP trabaja con proveedores de servicios de la zona para crear la Coalición en el Condado de Monroe para la Prevención del Suicidio. El Comité para la Prevención del Suicidio (SPC como sus siglas en Ingles) se enfoca en el creciente número de suicidios en la comunidad. La Coalición ha proporcionado una conversación segura y ha capacitado al personal de la Ciudad, MCCSC (El sistema de Educación del Condado de Monroe) facultad y el personal, y

toda la comunidad. La capacitación se llama QPR y significa Pregunta, Persuade y Consulta. Se trata de un entrenamiento en prevención de suicidio que las personas aprendan a reconocer las señales de advertencia de una crisis suicida y la forma de cuestionar, persuadir, y referir a alguien para ayudar. Las proyecciones SPC patrocinan exámenes para determinar la depresión y comunica a la comunidad de los recursos disponibles para combatirla.

• **Baje el Booom**— Desarrollando iniciativa en la educación pública para abordar los temas de salud y relacionados con la seguridad del ruido el auge en el coche. Desde el inicio de esta iniciativa, los servicios relacionados con el ruido se han reducido un 58%.

• **Los esfuerzos de Erradicación del Graffiti**— dirigimos un equipo para desarrollar mecanismos de cómo reportar graffiti en línea y por medio de iPhones, creamos un programa de eliminación de graffiti Piloto, y recursos en línea de eliminación de graffiti para ayudar a reducir el vandalismo del graffiti y apoyar la limpieza eficaz y eficiente.

• **Diversidad**— Proporcionar un medio para abordar las preguntas sobre la diversidad / y la multiculturalidad y celebrar la singularidad de las muchas culturas que se encuentran en Bloomington.

• **Latino Outreach Program (Un Programa de Alcance)**— Es una ayuda para nuestra comunidad

*Ver "SEGURA Y CIVIL", página 3*

of which are highlighted below:

**Public Safety: Taking a proactive approach to eliminating the causes of violence and incivility in Bloomington.**

• **Monroe County Domestic Violence Task Force**— Provided Lethality Assessment Training for local law enforcement personnel. This assessment trained officers to determine the probability of escalation of a domestic violence situation and equipped them to provide needed support and resources to victims. In 2012 the Task Force will host a conference for area religious leaders and support personnel in religious communities. S&CCP provides administrative support to the Task Force, including maintaining its web presence, coordinating meetings and

## About Safety~Net

**David White**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Blakely Clements**  
Assistant Editor

**Joe Lee**  
Editorial Cartoonist

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

The special sections in this issue are:  
**Agency Reports, Volunteer Opportunities, Agency Guide, SCCAP, Therapeutic Jail and Reentry 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. Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.

leading the annual conference planning team.

• **Monroe County Suicide Prevention Coalition**— S&CCP worked with area service providers to create Monroe County's Suicide Prevention Coalition. The SPC addresses the rising number of suicides in the community. The Coalition has provided Safe Talk and QPR trainings to City staff, MCCSC faculty and staff and throughout the community. The SPC sponsored depression screenings and informed the community of available resources.

• **Lower the Booom**— Developed public education initiative to address the health- and safety-related issues of boom car noise. Since the inception of this initiative, calls for service related to noise have decreased 58%.

• **Graffiti Eradication Efforts**— Led team to develop mechanisms to report graffiti online and from

*See "SAFE AND CIVIL", page 3*

## SEGURA Y CIVIL

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y para la población inmigrante latina, proporcionando referencias, interpretación y traducción para los hispanohablantes y organizaciones no lucrativas de la zona que sirven a clientes que hablan español. Producimos Hola Bloomington en WFHB Radio, el único programa de radio en español en nuestra área, y un Boletín comunitario.

• **Cultura / Patrimonio Celebraciones**— Bloomington, su diversidad es parte de lo que hace que sea una comunidad vibrante y llena de vida. Cada año el personal de S&CCP y sus voluntarios trabajan con los líderes comunitarios para

coordinar las celebraciones del mes de Historia Afroamericana, Historia Hispana / Latina, Herencia de Asia y las Islas Pacificas y Honramos al mes de historia Native American. Esta diversidad brinda oportunidades para Bloomingtonians para que aprendamos más sobre nuestros vecinos.

• **Ciudades Hermanas**— apoya a los voluntarios de la comunidad para crear y fortalecer las alianzas entre las comunidades estadounidenses e internacionales e incrementar la cooperación global a nivel local. Ciudades Hermanas de Bloomington incluyen: Santa Clara, Cuba; Poseltaga, Nicaraqua y Lu Chou provincia de Taiwan.

### Respuesta de la Comunidad: *Gestionar los esfuerzos para ayudar a la*

*comunidad frente a circunstancias inesperadas.*

• **Dirigir la mendicidad agresiva**— desarrollar recursos para educar a la comunidad sobre la mendicidad de una forma legal, incluyendo las respuestas adecuadas a la pordiosería agresiva y recursos para ayudar a los miembros sin hogar y de bajos ingresos de la comunidad.

• **Read for the Record (Leamos Recordemos)**— Junto con la Agencia de Tecnología Instruccional y MCCSC, coordinamos la participación de Bloomington en el Nacional Read for the Record Leamos y Recordemos un programa que promociona la educación para niños en edad escolar. El programa ha otorgado más de 1500 libros a las escuelas primarias del área, y es Bilingüe.

• **Fifth Third Financial Empowerment móvil**— Fifth Third Bank, Autoridad de Vivienda de Bloomington, S & CCP y otras agencias comunitarias proporcionan acceso a un asesoramiento profesional, financiero y orientación. El eBus da servicios financieros de calidad directamente a las personas y les da poder para tomar el control de su futuro financiero.

Los interesados en obtener más información sobre las iniciativas del Programa para una Ciudad Segura y Civil o su voluntariado para un proyecto específico deberá ponerse en contacto con la Directora del Programa, Beverly Calender-Anderson en [safeandcivil@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:safeandcivil@bloomington.in.gov) (812) 349-3560.

## SAFE AND CIVIL

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iPhones, a Graffiti Removal Pilot Program, and online graffiti removal resources were developed to help reduce graffiti vandalism and support effective and efficient cleanup.

• **Diversity: Providing a means to address diversity/multicultural issues and celebrate the uniqueness of the many cultures found in Bloomington.**

• **Latino Outreach Program**— Serves our community's Latino immigrant population by providing referrals, interpretation and translations to Spanish speakers and area nonprofits serving Spanish speaking clients. Produces Hola Bloomington on WFHB Radio, the area's only Spanish language radio program.

• **Cultural/Heritage Celebrations**— Bloomington's diversity is part of what makes it a vibrant, lively community. Each year S&CCP staff and volunteers work with community leaders to coordinate month-long celebrations of African American History, Hispanic/Latino History, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage and Native American History honor this diversity and provide opportunities for Bloomingtonians to learn more about their neighbors.

• **Sister Cities**— Supports community volunteers to create and strengthen partnerships between U.S. and international communities to increase global cooperation at the local level. Bloomington's Sister Cit-

ies include: Santa Clara, Cuba; Poseltaga, Nicaraqua; and LuChou Province, Taiwan.

### Community Response: *Managing efforts to help the community cope with unexpected circumstances.*

• **Addressing Aggressive Panhandling**— Developed resources to educate community members about legal panhandling, including appropriate responses to aggressive panhandling and resources for helping homeless and low-income members of the community.

• **Read for the Record**— Along with Agency for Instructional Technology and MCCSC, coordinates Bloomington's participation in the National Read for the Record program promoting literacy to school-aged children. The program has provided more than 1500 books to area elementary schools.

• **Fifth Third Financial Empowerment Mobile**— Fifth Third Bank, Bloomington Housing Authority, S&CCP and other community agencies provided access to professional, financial advice and guidance. The eBus takes quality financial services directly to people and empowers them to take control of their financial future.

Anyone interested in more information about Safe and Civil City Program initiatives or volunteering for a specific project should contact Safe and Civil City Director, Beverly Calender-Anderson at [safeandcivil@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:safeandcivil@bloomington.in.gov) or (812) 349-3560.

## CROPWALK

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of our co-human beings who have the least extra calories must walk many miles, ten to twenty miles, just to get clean water and when they return home they have very little food to strengthen their bodies in order to do it again the next day. The Bloomington CROP WALK begins and ends at First United Church 2420 East Third Street on Sunday, October 21st. Registration is at 1:30 PM and the walk begins at 2:00 PM. Advance promotional materials and walk forms to assist in individual fund raising efforts are available by calling 812.332.4439 and asking for Jack Skiles.

The CROP WALK, [www.church-worldservice.org](http://www.church-worldservice.org), has been a significant arm of relief to the most at risk people in the world since 1946. Administrative costs are less than 4 cents of every dollar. CROP WALK dollars were so of the first that came to the long term aid of the southern Indiana tornado victims last spring through the CWS Kits Program that provides among other things cleaning supplies. Twenty-five percent of all dollars raised stay in Bloomington for local hunger relief efforts. CROP WALK money helps build simple dams in rural African environments so that rain parched areas can store water in the rainy season enabling women to have better lives closer to home and provides the ability for young girls to go to school because they are no longer walking immense distances to access water.

## STAND DOWN

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Family and Social Service Administration  
Social Security Administration  
Indiana Legal Services  
Jacob Atz Law Office  
Dept. of Veteran Affairs  
Indianapolis Vet Center  
IU School of Optometry  
Monroe County VA Clinic  
Shalom Community Center  
Pure Style Hair Salon  
Backstreet Missions  
Positive Link  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles  
VA Hospital Community Rehab Services  
Mobile Vet Center  
One Employment & Training Services  
Indiana National Guard Family Programs  
Family and Social Service Administration  
Social Security Administration  
Indiana Legal Services  
Jacob Atz Law Office  
Dept. of Veteran Affairs  
Indianapolis Vet Center  
IU School of Optometry  
Monroe County VA Clinic  
Shalom Community Center  
Pure Style Hair Salon  
Backstreet Missions  
Positive Link  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles  
VA Hospital Community Rehab Services  
Mobile Vet Center

# WHAT IS YOUR NATURE?

by Rev. Forrest Gilmore  
Executive Director  
Shalom Community Center

Some years ago, I read a story from the Buddhist tradition:

*Two monks were washing their bowls in the river when they noticed a scorpion drowning in the water.*

*The elder monk scooped the scorpion up and set it upon the bank. In the process he was stung.*

*The monk returned to washing his bowl and again the scorpion fell in the water. The monk rescued the scorpion again... and again was stung.*

*The younger monk asked him, "Master, why do you continue to save the scorpion when you know its nature is to sting?"*

*"Because," the monk replied, "it is my nature to help."*

When I first read this story, I hated it. "Why does kindness have to mean suffering," I thought. "Shouldn't our true nature blend joy and compassion? Do we have to be martyrs to help people?"

But with the years, I've come to see this story differently—not so much a story about suffering and service but a teaching tale about being who we are no matter the circumstances.

An anonymous author wrote, "Homeless people are spirits sent from the heavens to test everyone's true character."

St. Francis wrote something similar when he said, "No one knows his name—the man who lives on the streets and walks around in rags. Once I saw that man in a dream. He and God were building an extraordinary temple."

I don't like to minimize the suffering of people experiencing extreme poverty as merely a tool for our own awakening. But, I understand the sentiment.

How we treat people experiencing homelessness teaches us about who we truly are.

As Gandhi said, "You can judge a society by how they treat their weakest members."

I think the greatest aspiration in human ethics is the ability to connect with the 'other', to empathize, to feel with (the root meaning of compassion).

Eugene Debs expressed this marvelously when he said, "Years ago, I recognized my kinship with all living beings, and I made up my mind then that I was not one bit better than the meanest on earth. I said then, and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; and while there is a criminal element, I am of it; and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

Some criticize the Shalom Community Center for acting on this, what many have called the greatest of human values. And yet, here we stand... with the poor, the imprisoned, the mentally ill, the addict. We stand here because this is who we are.

To Love is our nature.



*"The Shalom Center gave me a family again and gave me more hope than anything. I was very hopeless in so many ways. I re-found myself in the time I've been at Shalom. It's been a very empowering and humbling thing."*

- Crystal Banks

When Crystal Banks first discovered Shalom, she had been sleeping on the streets.

Fleeing an unhealthy relationship, she found herself homeless, despite working full-time at night as a certified nursing assistant. She temporarily gave up her kids to their father as she struggled to get back on her feet.

Shalom was able to help Crystal with our new respite room, where she could sleep after working at night, our laundry and showers, our hunger relief program to help her save money for an apartment, and our case management, which helped her connect with many essential resources at Shalom and in our community.

Crystal now has a home and a better job and will soon have her children living at home with her again. She's returned to school, studying to fulfill her dream of one day becoming a nurse.

Crystal spoke incredibly eloquently of what it was like to be homeless. She said, "I was so afraid to tell anybody that I was homeless. You get looked down upon, because people don't even stop to try and hear your story and understand why you're homeless. You're just automatically put in that box of, 'You're homeless. You're a bad person. You obviously did something wrong...' I've felt so humbled and so grateful that there are people that care for people they don't know. It's just amazing to me how much people care. That just takes away from the shame of being homeless."

## Project Safe Place Launches New Logo

By Vanessa Schmidt  
Safe Place Coordinator  
Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County  
812-349-2043

Following a website redesign and the re-launch of the successful TXT 4 HELP service, National Safe Place (NSP) announces the launch of their updated brand logo. The Safe Place® logo not only signifies the organization's corporate brand image, but also represents safe havens for youth in crisis in communities across the country. After 29 years, a brand audit was conducted and feedback suggests it was a good time to refresh the Safe Place logo. The new logo, as pictured, reads the words "Safe Place" with a small house replacing the letter "a" in the word "place". Locally, the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County operates the Safe Place program and has helped hundreds of young people as a result. We are currently in the process of replacing our signs at our 128 local Safe Place sites with the updated logo. All materials, images, and signs will be replaced with the new Safe Place logo by March, 2013. While preserving features of the organization's original image, the new National Safe Place logo aims to stand out in local communities as a trusted source for immediate assistance. During this transition, there are no aspects of the Safe Place program changing and youth may continue to seek assistance at any near Safe Place location. For more information about Project Safe Place, please contact 812-349-2507 or visit [www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net).



# A VITAL Resource: Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners

by Bethany Terry, VITAL Coordinator, and Margaret Harter, Community Relations Coordinator, Monroe County Public Library



A VITAL learner and tutor.

Think you know all that Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) does to strengthen our community? Maybe not. VITAL is a free-and-confidential, one-on-one tutoring service that has been helping adults in our community improve their reading skills since 1977. But VITAL has grown to offer much more. Today's VITAL also includes:

- help with math and everyday survival skills
- English as Second Language (ESL) tutoring and conversation practice groups for intermediate-to-advanced English language learners
- General Education Degree (GED) preparation
- job search skills and interview preparation

New VITAL Coordinator Bethany Terry, formerly the Parent Involvement Coordinator for the SCCAP Head Start program, brings to Monroe County Public Library her passion for family literacy and adult education.

"VITAL is unique," she says. "It's not very often you find a program that provides learners with one-on-one assistance, and that's what makes a difference. Many of our learners were unsuccessful in a classroom setting. The encouragement and support of an individual tutor can help them build their confidence to try again."

VITAL not only impacts individual learners, but families as well. "Having a parent come to VITAL for tutoring in reading sets a great example for the rest of the family,"

says Bethany. "If children see that education is important to their mom or dad, it will become important to them too."

VITAL trains nearly 60 new tutors every year, but more are always needed. The average wait for a learner to receive one-on-one services is typically about two months. VITAL offers training several times a year for both basic literacy and ESL tutors. No tutoring experience is needed. VITAL gives tutors the skills and ongoing support they need to be successful.

Here are several ways to get involved with VITAL and make a difference in someone's life.

- Become a VITAL tutor: Tutors commit 1-2 hours per week to each learner for at least

See "**VITAL RESOURCE**", page 10

## Big Brothers Big Sisters 40<sup>th</sup> Year of Service Gala

By Alexandra Hall, Special Events Marketing Coordinator, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana  
807 N. College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404 • [www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org) • (812) 334-2828

Bloomington, IN August 27, 2012: Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana hosted their 40th Year of Service Gala on Wednesday, August 22, at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

There were wonderful guest speakers that spoke about their experiences and relationships with Big Brothers Big Sisters from the past and present. The guest speakers included Jason Lunderman, former Little and Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs at Comcast Cable, Barry Lessow, Executive Director of United Way, Mayor Mark Kruzan of Bloomington, Mary Leffler, Director of Community Engagement at Volunteers of America of Indiana, and Judge Vi Taliaferro. Monroe County Big Sister of the Year, Sandy Garrett, and Monroe County Big Brother of the Year, J.C. Hulls, gave their insights on what it is like to be a Big and how the community can

help. Jack Harlow, George Taliaferro, and Reverend Paul Crafton received Lifetime Achievement Awards as the founders of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Little Brother Felix Merback and Big Brother Mike Peek, a community match, spoke about their new positions as Bowl For Kids' Sake Ambassadors for this year's campaign and their energy was contagious. They announced this year's campaign goal of \$150,000 and encouraged everyone to get involved. Big Brothers Big Sisters vision is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring professionally supported mentored relationships that change the life of the child for the better forever. To learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana, check out their website at [www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org), email [bbbs@bigsindiana.org](mailto:bbbs@bigsindiana.org), or call (812)-334-2828 ext. 222.



Shown above are award winners George Taliaferro (left) and Jack Harlow (right).

# Therapeutic Jail and Reentry Programs

## New Leaf—New Life

By Anne Patterson, Office Manager

New Leaf—New Life

1010 S. Walnut St., Suite F, Bloomington, IN 47401.

The New Leaf—New Life office at 1010 S. Walnut, Suite F, will now be regularly open for business from the hours of 10–5 on Monday and Tuesday, and 2–5 on Wednesday and Thursday. Our office is located next to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and the Perry Township offices. At our office, ex-offenders are welcome to get clothing, hygiene products, bus tickets, and information about jobs and social services. New Leaf—New Life is dedicated to helping ex-offenders in Bloomington get what they need to succeed. Starting in October, clients can work with Job Links volunteers to receive job coaching and employment information. Staff and volunteers are developing other programs as well. For more information, search for New Leaf—New Life on facebook; like our page to stay informed of our news and newest offerings.

If you work with ex-offenders, please refer your clients to us. We welcome any volunteer help as well. Volunteers can choose from tasks such as starting and running programs, assisting clients, organizing the space, filing paperwork, and cleaning. Any other ideas for volunteer work are welcome.

For more information, please contact us at newleaf1010@gmail.com or 812-355-6842.

**La nueva oficina de** New Leaf—New Life en 1010 S. Walnut, Suite F, ahora será regularmente abierta al público a partir de las 10:00 a 5:00 los lunes y martes, y de 2:00 a 5:00 los miércoles y jueves. Nuestra oficina se encuentra al lado de Mother Hubbard y las oficinas de Perry Township. En nuestra oficina, los ex-delincuentes son bienvenidos a recibir y tomar ropa, productos de higiene, billetes de autobús, así como información acerca de los trabajos y servicios sociales. New Leaf—New Life se dedica a ayudar a los ex-delincuentes en Bloomington a obtener lo que necesitan para tener éxito. A partir de octubre, los clientes pueden trabajar con los voluntarios de Job Links para recibir entrenamiento de trabajo y la información de empleo. El personal y los voluntarios están desarrollando otros programas para ejecutar en la oficina. Para obtener más información, busque New Leaf—New Life en facebook, así como en nuestra página de internet para mantenerse informado de nuestras novedades y nuevas ofertas. Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con nosotros llamando al 812-355-6842 o en el correo newleaf1010@gmail.com.

# Special Section: SCCAP Moving Out of Poverty from Judge Hill's Perspective

*The following column was written by Judge Francie Hill after she and other judges visited a weekly meeting of South Central Community Action Program's anti-poverty group, the Monroe County Circles® Initiative.*



Circles® Coordinator Linda Patton, Judges Francie Hill, Viola Taliaferro and Teresa Harper (not pictured) listened to Circle Leader Tawana King.

As one of the Judges of the Monroe Circuit Court I regularly deal with people in financial and emotional crisis. People going through a divorce or those who are defendants in credit card debt collection, housing eviction, and mortgage foreclosure are obvious candidates for financial stress. Parents of abused and neglected children also face financial issues in court. They are often under court orders to obtain sustainable housing and employment.

This is not to suggest that financial problems only arise in the courtroom. That's far from true. But Judges see their fair share of folks who have been driven to the brink with financial issues, and it is good to know there is help available.

The Bloomington Community offers many services for

families in short term financial crisis and for those experiencing long term issues of chronic poverty. I want to focus on the latter. Judge Viola Taliaferro, Judge Teresa Harper, and I were invited to observe the Circles Initiative in action on a Thursday night. I met 5 men and women who were extremely warm, friendly and articulate in explaining how the program works for them. They have experienced poverty—what I define as a long term inability to access necessary food, clothing, stable housing, and other basics to provide for themselves and their children. They were each committed to shedding the constant worry and fears caused by poverty. They talked about the tyranny of the moment—the unexpected car accident, child's illness, raise in rent, loss of job—that might cause a tailspin. They

talked in excited tones about the way out—the Circles Initiative.

This is the Circles Initiative as I understand it from the compelling group of 5 I met that night. Each of them is labeled a Leader in the program. They control their destinies in terms of how the program will help them and if it will make a difference. Each Leader is surrounded by volunteer Allies. One Ally is a volunteer who commits to help the Leader with planning in critical financial areas which might include housing, employment, medical bills, and other debt payment. Another volunteer Ally serves as a friend, listener, confident, problem solver, and all round encourager. Together, Leader and Allies tackle the day to day challenges.

In addition to privately working

**See "OUT OF POVERTY", page 10**

# The Circles Youth Community— made possible by a partnership between the Monroe County Circles Out of Poverty Initiative and Catholic Charities

By Marsha McCarty, Agency Director, Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Bloomington, 631 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404 • 812-340-4873

Nearly every Thursday night throughout the year, a group of children who live in poverty accompany their parents to St. Mark's Methodist Church on the east side of Bloomington. They arrive in time to enjoy, as a family, a 6PM meal provided by volunteers from various faith communities and other organizations. For the rest of the evening, until around 8:30PM, the parents are very busy working to understand and change the barriers that keep them in poverty. The community of people and organizations who come together to make this happen is called the **Monroe County Circles Out of Poverty Initiative** and is staffed and administered by the **South Central Community Action Program**. The children, infants through teens, make up the **Circles Youth Community**. The evening that lies ahead for these young people, is filled with fun and learning and is made possible by a partnership between **Circles and Catholic Charities**.

The Youth Community of Circles is essential to Circles because it is not feasible for the parents to work toward their goal of moving out of poverty without having some parenting-free time to do the learning, goal setting, and problem solving required. From the beginning, the Monroe County Circles Initiative wanted to offer more to the children than "baby-sitting" or even, simply, a recreational program. The Circles Community wanted to provide the opportunity for the children to learn and practice a variety of skills that would enhance their ability to establish positive relationships, to become good goal setters and problems solvers, and to develop positive attitudes about the future. The hope, really, is for these



children to have a chance of breaking the cycle of poverty that some of their families have lived in for generations. The Circles staff alone did not have the resources to do this. Because the Circles Initiative reaches out to the wider community to expand its resources, it was not difficult for Catholic Charities and Circles to find one another. It was a partnership that seemed meant to be.

Catholic Charities, in Bloomington, is primarily an agency which provides professional counseling and psychological services. Its mission is to reduce barriers to acquiring quality mental health care for individuals and families in Bloomington and the surrounding area by providing counseling services on a sliding fee scale. But, the mission to impact poverty in the community and to

promote mental health does not stop there. Another way Catholic Charities fulfills its mission is by finding ways to reach out to persons living in poverty in order to promote the importance of mental health and the treatment of mental health problems. Partnering with the Circles Initiative provides an ideal opportunity for helping people in poverty explore how mental health and economic health are related and the importance of mentally healthy families and communities.

Another group of people gathering on Thursday evenings at St. Mark's is small group of graduate students who help plan and lead the activities of the Circles Youth Community. Catholic Charities is a training site for these graduate students who are on their way to becoming mental health care providers.

**See "PARTNERSHIP", page 10**



# The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

## *Volunteer to Fight Poverty*

**The volunteer opportunities listed below will enable you to work to prevent poverty (through sex education or assistance with getting a job) or to assist those in need (of food, housing, furniture, reading material, education or simply a kind word and listening ear). The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network is the primary 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.**

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **CASA Child Advocates Needed**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) change the lives of abused and neglected children by representing their best interests in court. Monroe County CASA needs community members like you to become child advocates! Advocates monitor the child's health and education, help identify the child's best interests, submit recommendations, and are sworn officers of the court. Training is Sept. 24-Oct. 29 and classes meet Monday and Thursday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Advocates need to be 21 with reliable transportation and daytime flexibility. Volunteers work 10-15 hours a month. Applications are due Sept. 10th and are found at [www.monroecountycasa.org/volunteer](http://www.monroecountycasa.org/volunteer). Please contact Tiffany Kinney at (812) 333-2272 ext. 14 or [info@monroecountycasa.org](mailto:info@monroecountycasa.org). ([www.monroecountycasa.org](http://www.monroecountycasa.org))

#### **Gleaning Program: Harvesting on Local Farms**

Did you know that twenty percent of all produce grown in commercial agriculture is lost because it is aesthetically not fit to sell? This is significant in South-Central Indiana, where over 278,000 households are food-insecure. Help Hoosier Hills Food Bank harvest excess produce from local farms, for free distribution to those in need of emergency food assistance. No prior experience is necessary to volunteer and an ability to drive to the farm isn't necessary but greatly appreciated. Gleaning opportunities are announced through an e-mail list or by phone. If you

wish to be added to the list, please contact Nicole Richardson at (812) 334-8374 or [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@hhfoodbank.org). ([www.hhfoodbank.org](http://www.hhfoodbank.org))

#### **Receptionists, Screeners and Interviewers**

Indiana Legal Services is seeking volunteers with good communication and computer skills for three positions. Receptionists assist with general office work; prior experience is preferred but not required. Screeners gather income information from clients by phone and complete income eligibility forms. Interviewers conduct in-depth interviews about the client's legal problem by phone and log the information. Volunteers will work with a support staff person for a short training period. Please contact Micki Fountain at (812) 339-7668 ext. 4238 or [micki.fountain@ilsi.net](mailto:micki.fountain@ilsi.net). ([IndianaJustice.org](http://IndianaJustice.org))

#### **Furniture Pickup and Distribution**

Each Saturday morning, volunteers with the St. Vincent De Paul Society distribute furniture and appliances from their warehouse to those in need. Additional volunteers are needed from 8:30-10:30 a.m. to assist them. Volunteers are also needed for furniture pickups during the week. You are welcome to volunteer once a year, twice a week and everything in between! Volunteers should be able to lift and move heavy items. Those with pickup trucks are also needed. Adults and teens welcome. Please contact Donald Van Arman at (812) 361-3344 or [Donald@VanArman.com](mailto:Donald@VanArman.com). ([www.bloomingtonsvdp.org](http://www.bloomingtonsvdp.org))

#### **Garden for Those in Need**

The Hoosier Hills Food Bank garden program at Stranger's Hill Organic Farm increases the amount and nutritional quality of the fresh fruits and vegetables they provide to area food pantries and soup kitchens. You can either garden with them during their regular volunteer hours (Mon. and Thurs. from 9-11 a.m.; Wed. from 5:30-7:30 p.m.) or join their 'Garden & Gleaning' e-list to receive announcements about volunteer opportunities. Special hours can be arranged for groups. Volunteers will not only contribute to raising thousands of pounds of nutritious and delicious food, but also learn and share sustainable growing practices. The minimum age for volunteering is 14 unless supervised by an adult. No experience is necessary as training is provided. Please contact Nicole Richardson at (812) 334-8374 or [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@hhfoodbank.org). ([www.hhfoodbank.org](http://www.hhfoodbank.org))

#### **Area 10 Receptionist**

As a volunteer receptionist for the Area 10 Agency on Aging, you will explain the services they offer, greet visitors and assist with general office projects. Shifts are usually four hours per week. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Jeni Waters at (812) 876-3383 ext. 524 or [jwaters@area10agency.org](mailto:jwaters@area10agency.org). ([www.area10agency.org](http://www.area10agency.org))

#### **Entertain Senior Citizens**

Garden Villa is a long-term care facility on Bloomington's west side, which provides services to residents with

a range of abilities and cognitive levels. Their residents appreciate performances of all kinds, such as musical entertainment, dramatic performances, magic shows and dance recitals. Many of their residents also benefit from community donations of lap blankets, stuffed animals, books, CDs and magazines, so bringing an armload of goodies could be another entrée into their facility. All ages welcome! Whether you are interested in a one-time volunteer experience, an ongoing opportunity or a group activity, please contact Kaylee Joergens at (812) 330-6755 or [kjoergens@gardenvillahealth.com](mailto:kjoergens@gardenvillahealth.com) or stop by the facility to pick-up a volunteer packet and fill out a volunteer application. (<http://site.gardenvillahealth.com>)

#### **Fingerpainting and Fun at Head Start**

Head Start is looking for fun, energetic friends to read stories to their kids and help with craft projects. You will have more fun if you are comfortable sitting on the floor and lifting 30 to 50 pounds. The classrooms are open Mon. through Fri. between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at multiple sites around Bloomington, although schedules vary at different sites. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old or accompanied by an adult. Head Start is a program of the South Central Community Action Program and provides early childhood education and support for low-income families. Please contact Bethany Terry at (812) 334-8350 ext. 212 or [parent@insccap.org](mailto:parent@insccap.org). ([www.sccap.monroe.in.us](http://www.sccap.monroe.in.us))

**See "VOLUNTEER", page 9**

## VOLUNTEER

Continued from page 8

### Genesis House Summer Homeless Shelter

Genesis House is looking for volunteers to serve at its overnight

homeless shelter, which is open every night from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. until Oct. 15. Monitors are needed from 8 p.m.-12 a.m., 12-4 a.m., or 4-8 a.m. Security volunteers are needed from 8-10:30 p.m. Bus drivers are needed from 8-9 p.m. or from 7-8 a.m. Genesis House is a low-barrier

shelter at Genesis Church, which seeks to provide people who are homeless with proper shelter and a good night's rest no matter what their emotional, physical or economic circumstances. Volunteers must be over 18. Please contact Genesis Church at (812) 336-5757 or [shelter.genesis@](mailto:shelter.genesis@)

[gmail.com.](mailto:genesischurch.com/genesis-house) ([igenesischurch.com/genesis-house](http://igenesischurch.com/genesis-house))

### Stories of Service: Preserving Veterans' Histories

Please join Area 10's Veterans History Project and the Monroe County History Center as they collect oral histories of veterans and their families. The Project assembles first-hand accounts of U.S. veterans from World War I to the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts, so that future generations can better understand the realities of war. U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts, such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors and medical volunteers, are also invited to share their valuable stories. Stories can be told through personal narrative, correspondence, and visual materials. The Project is looking for interviewers and editors. Interviewers must be able to travel independently. Editors can use their own software or Area 10's. Recording equipment is provided. All volunteers are screened with a Limited Criminal History check. Adult and teen volunteers welcome. Please contact Rebecca Nunley at (812) 876-3383 or [rnumley@area10agency.org](mailto:rnumley@area10agency.org). ([www.area10agency.org](http://www.area10agency.org))

### Caring Companion

Bring cheer, socialization and some home assistance to a lonely, home-bound senior in your neighborhood by volunteering as a Caring Companion through Area 10 Agency on Aging! Matches are carefully made, taking into consideration location, schedules, needs and interests. The time commitment is usually one hour per week. Ongoing support and training are provided. There is a waiting list for Caring Companions, so they are looking forward to hearing from you soon! Adults, teens and families welcome. Please contact Cecelia Trueblood, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, at (812) 876-3383 or [ctrueblood@area10agency.org](mailto:ctrueblood@area10agency.org). ([www.area10agency.org/rsvp](http://www.area10agency.org/rsvp))

## Volunteer and Outreach Fair

On Saturday, August 18—a beautiful day—the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network hosted a Volunteer and Outreach Fair on the plaza of City Hall during the Farmers' Market. Forty eight local organizations participated and combined spoke to over 1000 people about the services they provide and how volunteers participate in meeting their important missions. The attendees were excited about the networking opportunities and the variety of people which the event drew, the visibility the Farmers' Market provided, and the exposure to potential volunteers. It was steadily busy and the people who went through consisted of a wide variety of Bloomington residents that were genuinely interested in volunteering. "If you missed it this year, be sure to come out next year", said Bet Savich, Director of the Volunteer Network. "It's high energy and lots of fun. Being surrounded by such wonderful people is a joy!"



## OUT OF POVERTY

*Continued from page 6*

on individual problems, a small group of Leaders and Allies meet for dinner, fellowship, and discussion one evening a week. There is a coordinated program for the children on the same evening.

The goal of the program is to reach that point in time in which the Leader is not just "getting by" or avoiding crisis, but has arrived at a stable financial and emotional situation.

If you or someone you know is looking to escape poverty and all the worries and problems that accompany it, I encourage you to look into the Circles Initiative by contacting Linda Patton, Circles Coordinator, at 339-3447, ext. 206 or [lindap@insccap.org](mailto:lindap@insccap.org). And if you are financially stable and are interested in working together with people in poverty to help them improve their lives, please contact Linda.

I was blown away by the level of commitment I witnessed at the Circles Initiative meeting I attended and I hope that more local people will get involved in this effort.

## VITAL RESOURCE

*Continued from page 5*

six months.

- Refer a VITAL learner: Do you know individuals who would like to improve their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills? Tell them that VITAL is free and confidential.

- Lead a conversation group: Conversation group leaders offer intermediate-and-advanced ESL students the chance to practice their English conversation skills in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. (It's a great way to hone teaching skills, meet new people and learn about different cultures.)

- Join the VITAL Quiz Bowl: Next spring will be the 30th anniversary of the VITAL Quiz Bowl, the annual fundraiser for tutor-learner resources and materials. VITAL needs 32 teams of trivia buffs to compete in this lively, fun trivia extravaganza. Mark your calendars for

## PARTNERSHIP

*Continued from page 7*

Many of these students want to work with children, some have had some experience with children living in poverty, and most will spend some or most of their career trying to help people in poverty. Catholic Charities' partnership with Circles gives them the opportunity to work with the Circles Youth Community. This chance, to really get to know families from a economic class different than their own, greatly enhances their cultural competence. Hopefully, it will impact the rest of their careers and their ability to work with families in poverty. The benefits of a good partnership, would seem, can be far reaching.

Many other groups and individuals provide additional resources to the Circles Youth Community. If you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities with the Youth Community please contact Marsha McCarty at Catholic Charities by phone at 812-340-4873 or by email at [mmccarty@catholiccharitiesbtown.org](mailto:mmccarty@catholiccharitiesbtown.org).

April 15-18. It's never too early to form a team and start practicing.

Learn more about VITAL programs by visiting [www.mcpl.info/vital](http://www.mcpl.info/vital) or calling (812) 349-3173. The VITAL office is located on the second floor of Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington.

Monroe County Public Library has a range of volunteer opportunities at Monroe County Public Library for those aged 16 and older—from tutoring for VITAL and helping to keep the library's shelves in order, to supervising the action in the Learn and Play Space for preschoolers and much more. Contact MCPL's volunteer coordinator at 349-3050.



# 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.

## Adult Education

### MCCSC Adult Education

**Address:** Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

**Phone:** (812) 330-7731

**Web:** [www.adult.mccsc.edu](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu)

**Volunteer Contact:** Melanie Hunter (330-7731 x 52137; [mhunter@mccsc.edu](mailto:mhunter@mccsc.edu))

**About:** The Monroe County Community School Corporation's Adult Education program offers free, individualized instruction and guidance to teen and adult learners who

**See "DIRECTORY", page 11**

## DIRECTORY

Continued from page 10

need to get their GED diploma, want to improve basic job and literacy skills or learn new ones, are trying to learn English as a Second Language, or who aspire to create better opportunities for themselves and their families. There are also low-cost beginning computer classes for people age 55 and over. Classes start again August 16. Orientation for new students is Monday August 22; check for times. Located on Coolidge between Rogers St. & Rockport Rd., on the #2 South BT route.

## 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

### Monroe County United Ministries

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

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Rebecca Gordan ([812] 353-9150; [mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumhelp@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:** 404 W. 2nd 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 x100; [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, 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:** <http://auids.org/>

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

**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.

### LifeDesigns, Inc.

**Address:** 200 East Winslow Rd.

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

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Cindy Fleetwood

**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)

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

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

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

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

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## DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 11*

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 evaluate job needs, inventory skills, review available jobs, develop a resume, prepare for an interview, and link with potential employers. Services are free, confidential, and non-discriminatory for job-seekers of all ages. Job Links counselors are available at Shalom Center (334-5728), and Area 10 Agency on Aging (876-3383).

### Family Services

#### El Centro Comunal Latino

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

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

**Web:** [www.elcentrocomunal.org](http://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.

#### Head Start Program

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

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

**Web:** [www.headstart.bloomington.in.us/](http://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:** 1711 N. College Ave.

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

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

#### Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

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

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

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

**Hours:** 6:30am-5:30pm

**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

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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**Volunteers in Medicine Clinic**  
**Address:** 811 West 2nd Street  
**Phone:** (812) 333-4001  
**Web:** [www.vimmonroecounty.org](http://www.vimmonroecounty.org)

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

**Agape House, Shelter For Women And Their Children (part of Back-street Missions)**  
**Web:** [www.backstreet.org](http://www.backstreet.org)  
**Phone:** (812) 333-1905.  
**Address:** 300 Opportunity Lane, off W. 3rd Street.

**Backstreet Missions**  
**Address:** 215 Westplex Ave.  
**Phone:** (812) 333-1905  
**Web:** [www.backstreet.org](http://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)  
**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 (Family Shelter)

**New Hope Family Shelter**  
**Phone:** (812) 334-9840  
**E-mail:** [newhope@nhfsinc.org](mailto: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:** [www.cpcbloomington.org](http://www.cpcbloomington.org)  
**About:** A comprehensive residential program for 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate)

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

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

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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:** 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 104  
**Phone:** (812) 339-1551

**Web:** [www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp](http://www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp)

**Volunteer Contact:** Sandy Rampley ([812] 339-1551 x23; [casakids@bloomington.in.us](mailto: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](http://www.co.monroe.in.us)

**Volunteer Contact:** Sarah Lanman ([812]349-2670; [slanman@co.monroe.in.us](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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:** 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

**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:** 1515 S. Rogers St.

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

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

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

### 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](http://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*

### Hoosier Hills Food Bank

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

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

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Kai Westerfield

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(334-8374; [voluteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:voluteer@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 Food Pantry

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

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

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

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8-11:30 a.m.; 1-3:15 p.m.

**About:** Distributes non-perishable food, three days' supply provided. Must be Monroe County resident and complete a brief intake form.

### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

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

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

**Web:** [www.mhcfoodpantry.org](http://www.mhcfoodpantry.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:** Mon, Wed, Fri 9-11:30 and Tues, Thurs 1-3:30 pm.

**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.

### SLO FoodS garden pantry

**About:** The program emphasizes locally grown produce and dispenses food to those in need on a weekly basis.

**When:** Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Where:** 615 N. Fairview Street (Trained Eye Arts Center) (on the B-Line Trail just south of 11th St. underpass)

**Volunteer Contact:** Mylo Roze, Director - Eco Media Center Coordinator - SLO FoodS garden pantry  
**Web:** <http://ecomediacenter.org>  
[greenthecity@yahoo.com](mailto:greenthecity@yahoo.com)

### 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:** Alexandra Hall, Alex@bigsindiana.org, 812-334-2828, ext. 226.

**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)

**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)

**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@harmony-school.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@

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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.

### 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.

#### City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

**Address:** 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260

**Phone:** 812-349-3433

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.gov/](http://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](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 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.

#### 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:** 1010 S. Walnut St., Suite F

**Phone:** (812) 355-6842

**Email:** [newleaf1010@gmail.com](mailto:newleaf1010@gmail.com)

**Web:** [www.newleaf-newlife.org](http://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. Office hours are 10-5 Monday and Tuesday, 2-5 Wednesday and Thursday. Check our Facebook page for news and updates.