

FREE



South Central Community Action Program

SCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

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

Safety~Net

July–October 2013

City of Bloomington Offers Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation Program

By Adam Wason
Communications Director,
Office of the Mayor,
City of Bloomington, Indiana
www.bloomington.in.gov

The City of Bloomington has a program in place that offers no interest loans for the rehabilitation of owner occupied homes to income eligible households. This federally funded program, administered through the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, can be used for both interior and exterior improvements.

An amount of up to \$38,500 is available to eligible homeowners for rehabilitation of their homes. This money can be used to fix a roof, a foundation, put in a new furnace, or any number of other items. A trained HAND staff member will assess your home's needs and advise you on the work necessary to bring your home up to code and make it a safe, decent and sanitary residence for you and your family.

Are you looking to spruce up the exterior too? Our conditional loan program allows up to \$7,500 for exterior rehabilitation.

The HAND Department's basic qualifications include:

Applicant's home must be located within Bloomington city limits.

Applicant's annual income must fall within the current HUD income guidelines which is 80% of the City's area median income (AMI) and dependent upon family size.

Applicant must satisfy the department's finance agreement standards.

Applicant's home must need eligible rehabilitation activities such as roofing, electrical and plumbing work, foundation, and heating systems.

For more information please contact Marilyn Patterson at 812.349.3577 or visit www.bloomington.in.gov/HAND

Unless— Why Low Barrier Services Matter

By Rev. Forrest Gilmore
Executive Director of Shalom Community Center
www.shalomcommunitycenter.org



Rev. Forrest Gilmore

At the Ending Homelessness Charrette meetings in late April, a speaker from Indiana's Department of Corrections helped me understand the importance of our services in a new way.

To paraphrase, he said, "Too many times the people trying to help are saying we can help you unless... unless you have an addiction problem... unless you have a felony... unless you are mentally ill... unless you can't get a job... unless, unless, unless. If your goal is to end homelessness, you can't say unless."

Shalom is a low barrier daytime resource center. Interfaith Winter Shelter is a low barrier shelter. The new Crawford Homes permanent supportive housing is also low barrier or what is sometimes called a Housing First program. The meaning of low barrier is simple... we get rid of the "unless." We try to place as few barriers as possible between the guest and our services. The only true requirement is safe behavior. Our business is hunger, homelessness, and poverty; if you're hungry, we'll feed you, if you're homeless, we'll shelter you, if you're impoverished, we'll support you.

See "UNLESS", page 7

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, doug@insccap.org. Place Safety-Net on the subject line, and state whether you would like your comments printed in the next issue. Past issues of Safety-Net are available at the Safety-Net website, <http://safety-net-newspaper.com/>.

Ciudad de Bloomington ofrece el Programa de Rehabilitación Casas ocupadas por el propietario

Por Adam Wason
Director de Comunicaciones,
Oficina del Alcaldé,
Ciudad de Bloomington, Indiana
www.bloomington.in.gov

La Ciudad de Bloomington cuenta con un programa que ofrece préstamos sin interés para la rehabilitación de viviendas ocupadas por propietarios, a los hogares con ingresos elegibles. Este programa financiado por el gobierno federal, administrado por el

Ver "PROGRAMA", página 7



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

Group Home Conversion

By Lori Garraghty, Director of Development, Stone Belt Arc, Incorporated
2815 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408 • (812) 332-2168 ext 314 • lgarraghty@stonebelt.org

On January 24, 2013, the State of Indiana announced its plan to change the funding structure for group homes. This change eliminates the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) licensure program in which Stone Belt operates group homes. However, this change does not eliminate our ability to continue providing services within the homes. Stone Belt is being given the opportunity to convert all of our homes to Medicaid Waiver funded programs. Stone Belt intends to continue to provide group home living for 5-7 residents, using a supported living model, for as many current clients as wish to receive it.

When Stone Belt goes through this conversion, all clients in the group home program will be given



The residents of Blackstone Home, a Stone Belt Group Home in Bloomington that is currently funded by the ICF licensure program

a Medicaid Waiver to fund their services. This individualized waiver can be used to stay in a group

See "GROUP HOME", page 7

	ICF Group Homes	Supported Living Group Homes
Transportation	Transportation van provided by Stone Belt as part of all-inclusive rate	Transportation becomes individualized including the use of public transit, staff vehicles, and agency owned vehicles
Meals	Provided by Stone Belt as part of the all-inclusive rate Meals planned by a dietician	Purchased with food stamps and client funds Meals may be shared or individualized, based on how clients arrange their mealtimes
Housing	Provided by Stone Belt as part of the all-inclusive rate	Client can remain in Stone Belt group home and pay a housing fee that covers rent, utilities and maintenance; or client can choose to live in an apartment or smaller house with 2-3 housemates
Staffing	Determined by licensure category for each home	Determined by budget allocation Shared staffing will be required for most hours of the day with some one-on-one supports allowable within individualized budgets

Free Community Tax Service Wraps Up a Record Tax Season

Laura Freeze
AmeriCorps VISTA at United Way of Monroe County

United Way of Monroe County and the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana helped area residents file a record number of tax returns this spring. The Free Community Tax Service brought together community partners, including both Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly (AARP/TCE) programs, and nearly 200 volunteers to assist in filing 2,847 federal returns and over 2,000 state returns for residents in Monroe and Owen counties.

This year, the Free Community Tax Service saved low- and moderate-income residents up to \$850,000 in tax preparation

See "TAX SERVICE", page 7

About *Safety~Net*

David White
Editor-in-Chief

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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.

Programs At The Monroe County Public Library

Monroe County Public Library Establishes Nonprofit Resource Center

By Marc Tschida, Nonprofit Central Coordinator

In conjunction with the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, Inc., the Monroe County Public Library has established a nonprofit resource center called Nonprofit Central.

The goals of Nonprofit Central are three fold in that the center exists to assist area organizations: improve management and governance, increase fund raising and resource development capacity, and strengthen the collaborative environment in

which Monroe County nonprofits operate. Nonprofit Central targets staff members, volunteers, board members, and donors to area nonprofits.

The center will accomplish these goals by offering expertise from staff knowledgeable about best practices in the nonprofit sector in general and in Monroe County; information on nonprofit management, governance and resource development in a variety of formats; free professional learning and networking opportunities on a variety of topics; one-on-one consultations for nonprofit board, staff, and volunteers; maintaining a comprehensive list of area nonprofit organizations; providing space in the library for meetings, and networking opportunities as well as regular communications with nonprofits through an e-newsletter and social media.

Nonprofit Central officially kicked off at our space in the library on May 1st

and held a well-attended open house on June 7th. Over that five week period Nonprofit Central received over 40 community members stopping in to discuss topics ranging from personal/



Marc Tschida

professional development, board development, finding opportunities, guidance on the steps to incorporate, suggestions on training programs, and networking opportunities.

The library has long offered services to

members of the nonprofit community through a specialized collection of books and periodicals related to nonprofit issues, access to the Foundation Center database (through support from the United Way of Monroe County), reference librarians and a searchable community organizations database. So the creation of Nonprofit Central is a natural extension of the community services already in place at the library.

Monroe County is a haven for many nonprofit and community organizations and there are many support services for community members working in this field. These support services include the City of Bloomington's Volunteer Network, the Nonprofit Alliance, the Community Foundation, United Way of Monroe County, Indiana University and Ivy Tech Community College just to name a few. Nonprofit Central

See **"NONPROFIT RESOURCE"**, page 7

VITAL Learner Shares His Story—Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners at Monroe County Public Library

By Terry Martin, VITAL Learner and Bethany Terry, VITAL Coordinator
MCPL contact info: bterry@mcpl.info, (812) 349-3173, www.mcpl.info/vital

Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) is a service of the Monroe County Public Library. Since it began in 1977, the VITAL program has helped more than 5,000 adults like Terry to improve their reading, writing, math or English language skills. More VITAL tutors are always needed. While nearly 60 new tutors are trained every year, some learners wait up to six months to be matched with a one on one tutor. Trainings are offered several times a year for both basic literacy and ESL tutors.

How you can help:

Become a VITAL Tutor:

Volunteers should be able to commit at least two hours per week for a minimum of six months. No experience is necessary, training and mentoring will be provided. Stop by the VITAL office or visit www.mcpl.info/vital to fill out an online application.

Refer a VITAL Learner:

Know someone who wants to improve their reading, writing, or English speaking skills? Let them know that VITAL is free and confidential. They can call to make an appointment or stop by to talk with staff. The VITAL office is located on the second floor of the Monroe County Public Library.

Terry Martin has been a student at VITAL since 2010. He is sharing his story with the hope that it encourages more adults to get involved.

"I just wanted to write in to tell you about how much I love the Monroe County Public Library, especially its VITAL Program. In 2010 I realized I needed to make better changes in my life. I love Southern gospel music and I hope to be blessed someday with the funds to receive vocal lessons. Eventually I would like to join a quartet. But in order to do this, I needed to improve my reading skills. I saw on a local TV channel about the VITAL Program. It offers many different free tutoring services for adults. At first, I was a little embarrassed to ask for help at my age, but more ashamed if I didn't. I also knew the staff was there to help, so I went ahead and called in and had an interview with the director. I was quite pleased talking to her and telling her about why I was there. She was very understanding and made me feel good about this major decision. It took a little while, but I was finally blessed with a great tutor named May Ang.

"My tutor, May, is so helpful, kind, and very understanding. We meet once a week, for at least two hours at the library. I look forward to it, and I feel more and more proud every time I go. We practice reading and writing together, and I feel I have improved considerably. We also tell stories and laugh a lot. She is my friend for life.

"On a final note, if anybody reading this feels ashamed and embarrassed as I did, I would just like to encourage you to make that phone call to VITAL. They have a great and friendly staff to help you with each new step of the way. I know I am very open about this, but VITAL is really respectful of each learner's privacy. I choose to be open to help others see how important this program is. Thank you for reading my letter and I hope it helps somebody out there needing the help."

South Central Community Action Programs

SCCAP Head Start Accepting Applications for Fall Enrollment

By Janet Ballard, Family Services Coordinator

Open enrollment has begun for Monroe County children to participate in Head Start at the South Central Community Action Program for the 2013–14 school year.

SCCAP offers 3-1/2 hour classes and 6-hour classes for low income families free of charge, as well as extended day classrooms that are open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for families who are working or going to school for \$30.00 a week. Available options include Early Head Start for infants and toddlers six weeks to three years of age and Head Start for children three to five years of age.

SCCAP will hold a Head Start Enrollment Open House on July 11 from 2 to 5 p.m. where parents can look at classrooms and learning centers, talk with teachers and schedule intake appointments. The open house will be held at the main SCCAP office at 1500 W. 15th Street in Bloomington.

Early Head Start and Extended Day classrooms will begin the school year on Aug. 7 and other Head Start classes will begin on Aug. 12.

Head Start is a family-centered child development program whose mission is to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social and other services.

For further information on enrollment including documentation needed to enroll your child, please call 812-334-8350, ext. 215 or email janet@insccap.org.

SCCAP's Circles Initiative Thanks Volunteers and Matches New Circles

By Linda Patton, Circles Initiative Coordinator

In April, the Leaders of the Circles Initiative hosted a thank you dinner and program highlighting our volunteers and connecting volunteer Allies with recently trained Leaders to form new circles.

During 2012, Circles received 6247 hours of donated service from 321 different volunteers from all walks of life. Volunteers included educators, business owners, retired citizens, public servants and others, including those who live in poverty—our leaders. These volunteers served on committees, led trainings, cooked meals and helped with children's programming, clerical work and other tasks that allowed Circles to continue to grow. Volunteer Allies also worked with Leaders directly to support Leader goals as they move out of poverty.

Circle Leaders volunteered 674 hours in 2012 to help out other agencies, services and events in our community. They spoke to classes at Ivy Tech and IU, and to faith groups and others; they participated in the Homeward Bound walk to raise awareness of homelessness and housing issues

See "CIRCLES", page 9



Tori Fryer was one of the many volunteers recently recognized by the Circles Initiative.

Allies and leaders who were matched through the Circles Initiative stand together to be applauded. (below)



Special Section: Voices Shalom Writers Circle Poems

Poems from the Shalom Writers' Circle

*The Shalom Writers' Circle meets at the Shalom Center and is facilitated by Professor Shannon Gayk.
For more information contact Professor Gayk at sgayk@indiana.edu*

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The Lion in Winter

By Rick May

I. When I was young and capable
All was in its place,
There was no need of compromise,
No so-called "saving grace."
My will was steel, as sturdy
As when Thor swung his mace.

II. My friends all knew they could
Depend on my logic and strength,
Our enemies would quickly fall,
I'd go to any length,
No chaos could defeat us
As we conquered woe with strength

III. The long thick coat is graying now,
The claws no longer sharp.
I hear the battle cry no more
Just a dirge played by a harp.
Must we age and cry? Grow and die?
I wonder as I wait.
Then the lion in winter shakes
His mane as he contemplates his fate.

.....

We the people

By Reva Duke

We the people,
the picked-on people
Every day, cry out.
Please, someone
Hear our cry and
Open up your hearts,

And your minds
Open your ears
And eyes to us.
Please listen.
Do not shut us out.

.....

Staring into the eyes of Jesus

A song by Billy Young

I WAS STARING INTO THE EYES OF JESUS
HE DIED FOR US UPON THE CROSS
HIS EYES THAT CRIED WHEN HE WAS
CRUCIFIED
AS PONTIUS PILATE TOOK THE WRONG
SIDE

AND THE SPIRIT OF SUFFERING WAS MORE
THAN PRESENT
THE SKIES WOULD RAIN IN CRYSTAL
TEARS
BUT THE SUN WOULD SHINE IN HIS SWEET
DIVINE
AND HIS SOUL WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR

(BRIDGE)
THE CLOCK WON'T TICK WAY UP IN
HEAVEN
AND THE MOMENTS HAVE BEEN CEASED
AND THE LIFE THAT DIED BECOMES
PURIFIED
AND THE FOLD OF DEATH BECOMES
UNCREASED

I WAS STARING INTO THE EYES OF JESUS
HE DIED FOR US UPON THE CROSS
I'LL NEVER HAVE NO WAY TO REPAY HIM
BUT HE'LL COME FOR ME IN MY LIFE LOSS

SO MANY DENOMINATIONS
CONVERSATIONS THEY GO ROUND AND
ROUND
BUT JESUS SPOKE SIMPLY OF LOVE AND
PEACE
AND NOW OUR LOVE BECOMES NO LIVE
ME DOWN

I WAS STARING INTO THE EYES OF JESUS
HE DIED FOR US UPON THE CROSS
HIS EYES THAT CRIED WHEN HE WAS
CRUCIFIED
AS JUDAS TOOK TO THE WRONG SIDE

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I have had so many deaths

By Reva Duke

I have been through
Much in my fifty years:
I have been homeless, jailed,
In prison, the state hospital.

I have had so many deaths.
My husband Bill was a good man
For our eleven years.
My husband died in my arms.

Oh hold on as long as you can.
I know if you let go,
We may lose everything.
So hold on until you can't anymore.

.....

See "SHALOM WRITERS", page 9

LifeDesigns: Employing Leading Edge Services Throughout the Community

By Cindy Fleetwood, Housing Options Manager
www.LifeDesignsInc.org • cfleetwood@LifeDesignsInc.org • 800-875-9615 x208

LifeDesigns envisions communities that support all people, where each person is valued, and where everyone belongs. Our mission is to partner with people of all ages and all abilities to lead meaningful and active lives. Creativity and innovation are keys to our success.

LifeDesigns employs pioneering strategies to solve problems and reduce barriers. We are a comprehensive resource for people with disabilities and their families in South-Central Indiana. We are CARF accredited and offer services for every stage of life, from childhood through adulthood and onward. Our goals are to facilitate active citizenship, fulfilling relationships, and rewarding employment through inclusive communities that foster dignity and respect.

Formed as the result of a merger between two well-established nonprofit organizations, Options and

Christole, LifeDesigns combines more than 30 years of experience with an innovative approach to enhancing communities. By bringing together broad expertise into one all-inclusive organization, LifeDesigns is able to provide a complete spectrum of services as well as continuity through long-term support.

LifeDesigns customers report high satisfaction with their services. LifeDesigns provides services to over 300 children and adults with disabilities and seniors through Residential Living, Supported Living, Respite, Supported Employment, Affordable Housing, Continuing Education, Behavior Support, Healthcare Coordination and Technology Options.

We employ leading edge services to support people toward independence. LifeDesigns is using technology to offer people a new type of residential support. We are working with Night Owl Support Systems to establish a monitoring and response ser-

vice provided by professional staff between the hours of 9:00 pm to 7:00 am to individuals living in the community. Using cellular and web-based technology, the service delivers nontraditional residential support, resulting in increased or maintained independence. More than just a push button support system, Technology Options builds long-term relationships with each participant, allowing for a familiarity with the monitors and the responding staff.

Residential services at LifeDesigns includes nine group homes in Owen, Monroe, Brown and Bartholomew counties staffed 24 hours a day to provide any support or guidance that residents may require. Services are also provided to assist individuals to participate in all phases of daily living to exert more control over their lives and develop greater access

See "LIFEDESIGNS", page 8

Helping Those Who Need Us Suicide Prevention Efforts in Monroe County

By Nancy Woolery, Health Projects Manager
City of Bloomington, Community and Family Resources Department and a Member of the Monroe County Suicide Prevention Coalition
812-349-3851 • wooleryn@bloomington.in.gov • spc@bloomington.in.gov
<http://mha-monroe.com/programs/monroe-county-suicide-prevention-coalition> • www.facebook.com/preventsuicide

A suicidal person may not ask for help, but that doesn't mean that help isn't wanted. Most people who commit suicide don't want to die—they just want to stop hurting. Suicide prevention starts with recognizing the warning signs and taking them seriously. If you think a friend or family member is considering suicide, you might be afraid to bring up the subject. But talking openly about suicidal thoughts and feelings can save a life.

The Monroe County Suicide Prevention Coalition was founded in 2010. The Coalition is dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide

through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people at risk and those impacted by suicide. Prior to 1998, suicide ranked in the top ten leading causes of death in the United States. The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrates that suicide ranks as the 11th cause of death for Americans. From 2002–2007, Monroe County had a total of 69 suicides. This is an average of 12 people per year. Would you know what to do if someone in your family or one of your friends was talking about killing themselves? Following are some

misconceptions about suicide:

FALSE: People who talk about suicide won't really do it.

Almost everyone who commits or attempts suicide has given some clue or warning. Do not ignore suicide threats. Statements like "you'll be sorry when I'm dead," "I can't see any way out,"—no matter how casually or jokingly said may indicate serious suicidal feelings.

FALSE: Anyone who tries to kill him/herself must be crazy.

Most suicidal people are not psychotic or insane. They must be upset, grief-

stricken, depressed or despairing, but extreme distress and emotional pain are not necessarily signs of mental illness.

FALSE: If a person is determined to kill him/herself, nothing is going to stop them.

Even the most severely depressed person has mixed feelings about death, wavering until the very last moment between wanting to live and wanting to die. Most suicidal people do not want death; they want the pain to stop. The impulse to end it all, however overpowering, does not last forever.

See "THOSE WHO NEED US", page 8

NONPROFIT RESOURCE

Continued from page 3

has established relationships with all of these organizations in the hope of being a centralized hub that understands the work of these groups and can help guide individuals with questions to the organization best suited to assist them in getting the answers.

Currently scheduled upcoming training sessions include an Overview of TechSoup and Open Source Alternatives, Grant Seeking Basics, Finding Funders and a program on how to use the IN/Sight search function on the Foundation Center Online. A full schedule of our training opportunities is available on the Monroe County Public Library website.

Nonprofit Central is housed on the second floor of the Monroe County Public Library and is staffed from 1-5 pm weekdays or by appointment. Additional information regarding Nonprofit Central and a schedule of upcoming training workshops, please visit www.mcpl.info/npc, email npc@mcpl.info, or call 812-355-7515.

UNLESS

Continued from page 1

The low barrier model is a national best practice for reaching the most people in need, especially the most vulnerable among us, the mentally ill and the addicted. It emphasizes safety, access, and engagement above all else. But it also saves the community money by reducing arrests and hospitalizations as we connect “frequent users” with essential services. It’s not always pretty, but it works.

Someone wrote a comment on an article in our local paper. “We only should help the worthy

TAX SERVICE

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fees. Additionally, the IRS-certified volunteers helped eligible individuals and families claim valuable credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This valuable tax credit resulted in a refund of up to \$5,891 for those who qualify.

Barry Lessow, United Way Executive Director, said, “The Free Community Tax Service provided a measurable impact on the lives of struggling individuals and families in our area. Volunteers and partner organizations came together and, according to national research, kept over 3,000 people, including 1,800 children, out of poverty. About 25% of local families reported they were using their savings to pay for food and clothing. More than 25% were reducing their debt by paying bills, and one in four were getting further on the road to financial stability by putting their refund in savings. When the Free Community Tax Service helps families make ends meet, that also reduces demand on local agencies already overburdened providing essential services.”

poor.” That’s exactly what we do. Because we believe everyone is worthy... worthy of dignity, worthy of a home, worthy of health care, worthy of life.

I recently spoke to John Fallon, the Program Manager for Reentry at CSH. When asking him about the value of low barrier approaches, he said that he always had a principle when deciding who he would help: “If not us, then who?”

That’s perhaps the simplest way of all to say what it means to be low barrier: If not us, then who?

If we truly want to end hunger, homelessness, and poverty, we cannot say unless.

PROGRAMA

Viene de la from página 1

Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo del Vecindario, se puede utilizar tanto para el interior como para mejoras exteriores.

Una cantidad de hasta \$38,500 está dispuesto para los propietarios de vivienda elegibles para la rehabilitación. Este dinero puede ser usado para reparar un techo, una base, poner una nueva calefacción, o cualquier número de otras cosas. Un miembro del personal HAND (como sus siglas en Inglés) entrenado evaluará las necesidades de su hogar

y le aconsejará sobre los trabajos necesarios para llevar a su casa a cumplir con el código y convertirlo en una residencia segura, digna y saludable para usted y su familia.

¿Está buscando para arreglar el exterior también? Nuestro programa de préstamo condicional permite un máximo de 7.500 dólares para la rehabilitación del exterior.

Reglas básicas para calificar con el Departamento HAND incluyen:

Inicio: El solicitante debe de residir dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Bloomington.

Ingresos anuales: del solicitante debe estar dentro de las directrices actuales de ingresos de HUD es decir

el 80% del ingreso medio del área de la Ciudad o Área de Mediano Ingreso (AMI Cómo sus siglas en Inglés) y depende del tamaño de la familia.

El solicitante debe cumplir las normas de los acuerdos de financiación del departamento.

Inicio del solicitante debe necesitar actividades de reparación elegibles, como los trabajos de techado, eléctricos y de plomería, cimientos y sistemas de calefacción.

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con Marilyn Patterson en 812.349.3577 o visite www.bloomington.in.gov/HAND

At the eight VITA sites this year, community volunteers completed 1,812 tax returns—a 29% increase from last year. The new site at Broadview Learning Center completed 71 returns. Ivy Tech, the largest of the sites, filed 744 returns, and the IU Maurer School of Law filed 430. Owen County Public Library increased its filing capacity to 215 returns, which represented a 32% increase over the previous year. The Ellettsville Branch Library filed 105 returns, while the South Central Community Action Program filed 58. The mobile site, which visited Bloomington Housing Authority, LifeDesigns, and Stone Belt, served more than 50 individuals and families, including many with disabilities. The new online option—MyFreeTaxes.com/Bloomington—allowed over 100 taxpayers to file their taxes for free from the comfort of home.

AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly (AARP/TCE) administered sites at Twin Lakes Recreation Center and the Monroe County Public Library. Those locations had similar success, filing 423 returns and 612 returns, respectively.

Ashley Hall, United Way’s Community Initiatives Director, agrees, “We were so thrilled with the success of the Free Community Tax Service this year. This program is truly a collaboration that depends on the dedication and commitment of so many organizations and volunteers. By helping hard working families get ahead, we’re building a financially stable and productive community that is better for everyone.”

Residents should be on the lookout each year for the Free Community Tax Service from January to April. Additional information about the Free Community Tax Service is available at www.MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes.

The Free Community Tax Service was made possible through generous grant funding from the IRS, Walmart Foundation, and AARP’s Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE). Along with United Way of Monroe County and the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana, partners include 2-1-1, AARP, Area 10 Agency on Aging, Broadview Learning Center, City of Bloomington, El Centro Comunal Latino, Ellettsville Branch Library, Indiana Legal Services, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Internal Revenue Service, Ivy Tech Community College, Monroe County Public Library, Owen County Public Library, South Central Community Action Program, Twin Lakes Recreation Center, Walmart, WorkOne Bloomington, and community volunteers.

GROUP HOME

Continued from page 2

home or to choose another living arrangement. Those who stay in the group homes will generally have four to six house mates (as they do now) or if they move to another type of residence in the community, they will have two or three housemates in a smaller home or apartment that they rent. Stone Belt will work with all individuals very carefully to minimize the impact this change has on them and facilitate any transitions that may be necessary.

The supported group homes will have much the same look and feel that as they do now, but will allow for more individual choice. The regulations for waiver funding provide for health, safety, and quality outcomes without some of the “institutional” regulations under which group homes were operated in the past.

LIFEDESIGNS

Continued from page 6

and participation in their communities.

Supported living services are designed so that individuals live to support people in their own home or their families home. The individual may live with family, roommates or reside alone. Services assist individuals to participate in all phases of daily living and gain independence so they are able to become self-sufficient.

Respite refers to short-term, temporary support to people with disabilities so that their families can take a break from the daily routine of care giving. Raising a child with disabilities can be a very rewarding experience, yet it can also be stressful. When a parent becomes consumed and overwhelmed with caring for their special child, the family can experience emotional and other stressors making it hard to deal with day to day activities. Respite service staff work with the family to lessen the pressures, avoid unnecessary institutionalization, and keep the family together.

Our goal is that everyone we serve who is working age is meaningfully employed. LifeDesigns supports individuals with disabilities to find and keep jobs in their communities. Using a team approach, the agency provides job-seeking skills, job placement, long-term career development services and ongoing support. We assist employers

in meeting their ongoing workforce needs by matching people's skills to job opportunities. Fully two-thirds of people with disabilities are unemployed. We believe everyone can work, that having a job provides stability and access to relationships and that employment is the key to economic self-sufficiency.

Continuing Education Options (CEO) is a community-based habilitation service that provides people with disabilities opportunities to make choices, create a community presence, and develop friendships. CEO offers classes in community settings in areas like: cooking, swimming, music, touring, walking, arts and crafts, movies, health and safety, computers, and more. CEO can supplement other services in that customers participate in, such as Employment or Community Living.

LifeDesigns defines Behavior Support as training, supervision, or assistance in the expression of emotions and desires, and assertiveness or acquisition of socially appropriate behaviors. This service also includes training and consultation with staff, family members, roommates and others.

Health Care Coordination provides a medical professional to coordinate health care services. The service ensures that everyone who provides medical services to a customer are informed about that person's unique support needs. LifeDesigns staff works with the individual and his or her team

to promote and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

LifeDesigns Housing services promote the development and availability of accessible affordable housing. The overriding vision of our housing program is that all of those in our community should have stable, decent and affordable housing. We are exploring the use of various technologies to diversify or increase accessible housing options. We refer to community services through established relationships with other service providers. LifeDesigns has successfully served members of the community in affordable housing since 2007.

The Crawford Apartments project, a supportive housing collaboration, at 2440 S. Henderson, officially broke ground on January 31, 2013. Our goal is to provide low barrier, permanent housing for up to 50 people with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness. We have developed an advisory council for community input into our Crawford communication plan and to assist with programmatic design. Crawford Apartments consists of a 25 unit apartment complex for individuals and couples.

The Crawford Apartments project, a supportive housing collaboration, came about through the efforts of the South Central Housing Network, a regional and joint body of agencies who have committed to work to end homelessness in our communities. The Housing Network identified a critical unmet



Recent Photo of Crawford Apartments During Construction

housing need through the point in time homeless count. The region was found to lack sufficient housing options available to people with disabilities experiencing homelessness. This resulted in the mobilization of several experienced partner agencies to coordinate the best possible housing resources and bring supportive services to people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness. Partners in this collaboration include LifeDesigns; Hayes-Gibson International; Shalom Center; Centerstone; Bloomington Housing Authority; Positive Link, A Program of IU Health Bloomington; and Milestone Ventures. The Contractor is Gilliatte General Contractors, Inc.

In the future we envision more housing in our catchment areas as we continue to develop new LifeDesigns Communities where accessibility and aging in place are the norm. We are confident that LifeDesigns will be seen as the community of choice.

THOSE WHO NEED US

Continued from page 6

FALSE: People who commit suicide are people who were unwilling to seek help.

Studies of suicide victims have shown that more than half had sought medical help in the six months prior to their deaths.

FALSE: Talking about suicide may give someone the idea.

You don't give a suicidal person morbid ideas by

talking about suicide. The opposite is true—bringing up the subject of suicide and discussing it openly is one of the most helpful things you can do.

So, with the above information, what should you do to keep someone from committing this act? Talking to a friend or family member about their suicidal thoughts and feelings can be extremely difficult for anyone. But if you're unsure whether someone is suicidal, the best way to find out is to ask. You can't make a person suicidal by showing that you care. In fact, giving a suicidal person the opportunity to express his or her feelings can provide relief from loneliness and pent-up

negative feelings, and may prevent a suicide attempt. If a friend or family member tells you that he or she is thinking about death or suicide, it's important to evaluate the immediate danger the person is in. Those at the highest risk for committing suicide in the near future have a specific suicide **PLAN**, the **MEANS** to carry out the plan, a **TIME SET** for doing it, and an **INTENTION** to do it. If a suicide attempt seems imminent, call a local crisis center, dial 911, or take the person to an emergency room. Remove guns, drugs, knives, and other potentially lethal objects from the

See "THOSE WHO NEED US", page 9

SHALOM WRITERS

Continued from page 5

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Jesus was Homeless

By Mandy Troxell

Jesus was homeless.
Yes, he died on the cross.
But he lived on the streets,
Where he prayed with the lost.

He slept in a pasture
Where animals dwelled.
He walked till he wearied;
He saved us from Hell.

He said, "Let the sinless
Cast the first stone."
Tell me: are YOU sinless?
Because you have a home?

Jesus was homeless.
He lived in the streets.
Where he prayed as He walked.
Till he bloodied his feet.

And here you are, ranting,
Like you're better than he
Begrudging your homeless
A simple tent off the street.

You argue they're drunkards,
Less useful than swine
And Jesus's first miracle?
He turned water to wine.

See, Jesus was homeless.
True, he died on a cross.
But he lived on the streets,
Hand in hand with the lost.

.....

Our Father

A song by Danny Lee Griffin
(to be sung to the tune of Jimmy Buffet's "A
Pirate looks at 40")

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy
name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as
in heaven the same.
I praise your name. I praise your name.

Father I ask you to give us, give us your daily
bread.
Forgive me Lord and others for anything we have
done or said.
Our daily bread, Father. Our daily bread.

Lead us not into temptation, keep us from the
evil one.
For thine is the kingdom and power and glory.
Forever and ever amen. Forever amen.

Jesus is my savior, for me he gave his life.
He gave his life freely, so we could be free
From the sin and shame in our lives.
He paid the price. Jesus paid it with his life.

Jesus is my healer. He healed my broken heart.
He set me free. I was captive, so blind. Now I see.
He set me free, so blind, now I can see.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy
name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as
in heaven the same.
I praise your name. I praise your name.

.....

THOSE WHO NEED US

Continued from page 8

vicinity but do not, under any circumstances,
leave a suicidal person alone.

The Monroe County Suicide Prevention
Coalition has initiated many projects to
reduce the loss of suicide in our community
through awareness, training, education, and
resources. Members of the coalition have
provided suicide prevention trainings, attended
presentations and workshops to learn about
suicide prevention, participated in the Out
of the Darkness Walk here in Bloomington
(a community walk to raise awareness of
suicide), Art of Mental Health Week, a 5k
Walk/Run sponsored by The Jason Foundation,
Bloomington Meadows Hospital and the
Coalition. The coalition will sponsor several

events on suicide and suicide prevention
in the near future. One has already been
scheduled for August 22nd at 6:30pm at the
Monroe County YMCA. A major goal of the
coalition is to get the appropriate staff trained
in both of our school systems who then have
the knowledge and skills to deal with suicide
crisis.

Membership to the Monroe County
Suicide Prevention Coalition is open to
service providers, representatives from
local communities of faith, law enforcement
and other organizations concerned with
the reduction of incidents of suicide in
our community and reducing the stigma
associated with suicide.

For more information, please contact
Nancy Woolery at 812.349.3851 or
wooleryn@bloomington.in.gov or
spc@bloomington.in.gov

CIRCLES

Continued from page 4

and in Bowl for Kids Sake to support Big Brothers Big Sisters work
with children. Leaders also worked with our partner dorm at IU,
Eigenmann Hall, to meet new students and their parents on move
in day and present an MLK program at Eigenmann which won the
Indiana University NRHH award for best program of the year.

The pictured volunteer, Tori Fryer, was honored for her years of
service because she has graduated from IU and will soon be leaving
the area. Tori came to Circles as a volunteer with the youth program,
stayed on as an intern and eventually became an AmeriCorps service
member. Tori and her family have reached out to Circles and
become part of the Circles Community and she will be sorely missed.

That same night, newly trained Allies and Leaders were matched,
three Allies for each Leader, to begin creating goals and learning
about each other's lives as they work together for a common goal—
enough resources, including financial, physical, mental, social and
community, for each person in our community to prosper.

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

People Power Is What Makes It Happen!

*Submitted by Bet Savich, Director, City of Bloomington Volunteer Network
www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer*

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, call 349-3433 or email volunteer@bloomington.in.gov. The inclusion of an organization in this list does not imply City endorsement or support of the organization's activities or policies.

American Cancer Society—Road to Recovery

Every day, cancer patients in Monroe County miss their life-saving treatment appointments simply because they do not have a ride to the clinic. You can help by volunteering with the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program! All it takes is a willingness to help others, reliable transportation, a driver's license and insurance, and some free time during the day. Training is provided. Volunteers may commit as few or as many hours as their schedule allows. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Terri Jones at 812-376-3148 or terri.jones@cancer.org for upcoming training opportunities. (www.cancer.org)

Area 10 Agency on Aging—Food for homebound seniors

Area 10 Agency on Aging food pantry volunteers serve over 200 homebound elders and people with disabilities in Monroe and Owen Counties, but many more are waitlisted due to a shortage of volunteers to deliver the food. Volunteer routes take one to two hours each month, on the second, third or fourth Wed. or Thurs. Other ways to assist

include weekly shopping for the pantry at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, calling clients to remind them when their food is arriving, and substituting as a packer or deliver driver. Volunteers can also organize a food drive. Minimum age is 16, 8 if accompanied by an adult. Families are welcome! Please contact Rebecca Nunley at (812) 876-3383 or munley@area10agency.org. (www.area10agency.org)

Bloomington Community Orchard—Workdays

Bloomington Community Orchard is holding weekly workdays to enhance the orchard, focusing on mulching, pruning, weeding and general maintenance of the nearly 100 fruit trees and plants. Workdays are open-house style. Food and drinks to share are always greatly appreciated! This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and contribute to the growth of your orchard! Upcoming workdays are: 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays from June 5–Aug. 7; and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays from Aug. 17–Nov. 23. Minimum age is 16; no minimum if with an adult. Please contact Keith Leonard at kleonard1075@gmail.com. (www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org)

Habitat for Humanity—ReStore Marketing Campaign

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is seeking volunteer groups for its door-to-door marketing campaign to increase awareness about the ReStore. The campaign will last until July 31, with groups of up to ten volunteers going door-to-door to hang informational doortags. The ReStore sells gently used home goods to the public and sponsors Habitat homes with the proceeds. Minimum age is 16. If interested in reserving one or more four-hour shifts, please contact Sandy Myers, ReStore Volunteer Coordinator, at (812) 331-2660 or myers@monroecountyhabitat.org.

(www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

Hoosier Hills Food Bank—Garden for Those in Need

Through the efforts of volunteers, the garden program of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank increases the amount and nutritional quality of food provided to area food pantries and soup kitchens. Regular volunteer hours for the Will Detmer Park Gardens are Mon. and Thurs. from 9–11 a.m. and Wed. from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Groups of up to 15 people looking for a one-time project are welcome to set up special hours. Potential volunteers are encouraged to join the Garden & Gleaning e-mail list to receive announcements about garden needs as well. No experience is necessary. This is a great way to learn and share about sustainable growing practices with other volunteers and the Garden Coordinator. Minimum age is 18; 14 if with an adult. Please contact Katie Haddad at (812) 334-8374 or volunteer@hhfoodbank.org. (www.hhfoodbank.org)

Hoosier Hills Food Bank—Repack Assistants

As part of the Meal Share program of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, small groups and individuals repackage prepared foods donated by local restaurants, catering companies and cafeterias. Many businesses have prepared more food than needed. The Food Bank provides them a place to donate what is not sold or served. 'Repack' occurs every Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 5:30–7 p.m. Sign yourself or your group up for a once-a-month commitment or come just once! Minimum age is 12. Please contact Katie Haddad at (812) 334-8374 or volunteer@hhfoodbank.org. (www.hhfoodbank.org)

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard—Garden Work Days

Garden Work Days: It's time to uncover that green thumb. Come out and help the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard gardens grow! Come once or join the crew for the whole season! Kids under 12 are welcome with adult supervision.

Please contact Kendra Brewer at (812) 355-6843 or garden@mhcfoodpantry.org. (www.mhcfoodpantry.org)

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard—Composter
Have you ever wanted to learn more about the wonder that is compost? At Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, they



Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary volunteers

See "VOLUNTEER!", page 11

VOLUNTEER!

Continued from page 10

collect the produce that cannot be consumed by patrons to turn into black gold in their community garden compost piles. They are looking for a volunteer with access to a pickup truck or van to help their oh-so-knowledgeable compost interns haul compost bins from the pantry to the gardens each week. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Kendra Brewer at (812) 355-6843 or garden@mhcfoodpantry.org. (www.mhcfoodpantry.org)

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard—Food Delivery

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard has a food delivery program for homebound clients and would like your assistance delivering the food. Once a week, between 3 and 6 p.m. on a day arranged by the shopper and the client, each volunteer shops at the food pantry for his or her household, then delivers the food. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard prefers that delivery nearby be done by bicycle. Car delivery is ok outside of this area. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Erin Marshall at (812) 355-6843 or erin@mhcfoodpantry.org. (www.mhcfoodpantry.org)

My Sister's Closet—Fabulous Female Mechanic

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County is seeking a fabulous female mechanic who can teach other women how to maintain their automobiles. If you or someone you know is good with maintaining or fixing your car, this is a great opportunity to share your knowledge. My Sister's Closet is interested in offering a free class to the women they help, teaching them things like how to check their oil and tire pressure and how to check other fluid levels. Minimum age is 18. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Laura Robinson at (812) 327-3581 or robinslj@indiana.edu. (www.sisterscloset.org)

Opportunity House—eBay Coordinator

Opportunity House receives many interesting donations from the community, some of which would generate more revenue if sold online rather than in the store. They need a volunteer to set up an eBay account on behalf of Opportunity House and list one or two items for sale per month. A dependable, ongoing volunteer who can work closely with the Opp House leadership is desired. Proceeds from sales benefit the programs of Monroe County United Ministries. You can make a difference for the community while indulging your love of online auctions! Minimum age is 18. Please contact Rebecca Stanze at (812) 339-3429 or opportunityhouse@mcum.org. (www.freewebs.com/opportunityhouse)



Sunday evening kitchen volunteer crew at the Interfaith Winter Shelter

St. Vincent De Paul Society—Furniture Pickup and Distribution Volunteers

Each Saturday morning, except holidays, St. Vincent De Paul Society volunteers distribute furniture from their warehouse to those in need. Volunteers are needed from 8:30–10:30 a.m. to help with distribution, as well as delivery. Volunteers are also needed to do furniture pickups during the week. Volunteer as often as you would like—once a year, twice a week, and everything in between! Volunteers should be able to lift and move furniture or have a pickup truck to use to haul furniture and appliances. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Donald Van Arman at (812) 361-3344 or donald@vanarman.com. (www.bloomingtonsvdp.org)

Salvation Army—Handyman or Handywoman

If you are good with your hands and you like fixing things, perhaps you would be able to assist Salvation Army staff troubleshoot—and occasionally fix—minor projects on the property. Tools and materials will be supplied and scheduling is flexible. Experience

is highly valued, but for those seeking experience, the minimum age is 16. Please contact Peter Iversen at (812) 336-4310 ext. 102 or peter_iversen@usc.salvationarmy.org. (www.bloomington.salvationarmyindiana.org)

Shalom Kitchen Volunteers

The Shalom Community Center's kitchen is cooking all week long! Why not put your skills to work helping with meal preparation, serving and clean up for their breakfast and lunch meals. Be a part of a team or go on your own—you'll always find friends in the kitchen at Shalom! Kitchen volunteers are needed from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mon. through Fri. A minimum two-hour a week commitment is requested. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Mark Emerson at volunteer@shalomcommunitycenter.org or (812) 334-5734. (www.shalomcommunitycenter.org)

Stepping Stones—Host Collection Drive

As the young adult residents of Stepping Stones transition into the community, donations of standard household supplies and furniture are very helpful to get them started.

Hosting a collection drive or collecting donations yourself is a great way to support these young people, who have worked so hard through the Stepping Stones program, to be able to transition successfully into adulthood. Please contact Alysia Fornal at afornal@steppingstones-inc.org or (812) 339-9771. View the Wish List online at www.steppingstones-inc.org/support/wishlist.html.



Mitchell Wade, Emma Winkler and Michael Kaderagbek volunteering at the Community Kitchen

Pathway Of Hope

By Peter Iverson, The Salvation Army
812-336-4310 ext. 102
www.facebook.com/SABloomington

“The Salvation Army’s Social Service department is rolling out a new approach on June 1st entitled **Pathway of Hope**. This approach provides targeted services to households with a desire to take action to break the cycle of crisis and enable a path out of intergenerational poverty. It is rooted in a case management approach, focusing on client needs through a strength-based lens.

In the most recent fiscal year, The Salvation Army of Monroe County assisted 1,919 households with food and allocated \$26,000 toward emergency financial assistance. These numbers indicate that some households repeatedly rely on Salvation Army services. The Salvation Army wants to reduce these numbers by helping motivated households move from reliance on agencies toward reducing barriers, improving hope, and making a positive change.

Monica Clemons is taking a leading role in Monroe County and has been talking to local households and other social service agencies. “We are going to start small and really make sure that we have people in here that have a desire to work towards sufficiency,” said Clemons. She added that, “This approach is not for everyone”.

Pathway of Hope has clear criteria for participation. Households should be working at least part-time or attending classes part-time. They need to have at least one child under the age of 18, and they must be willing to work toward breaking the cycle of crisis.

This approach is a wider effort of The Salvation Army in the Midwest. The approach was piloted in Elkhart, IN, Gary IN, and Green Bay, WI and has been successfully implemented in the Kansas City and Western Missouri Division. Currently the Indiana Division of The Salvation Army is helping Corps roll out this approach.”

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
Volunteer Contact: Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x10; 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
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
Volunteer Contact: Melanie Hunter (330-7731 x 52137; 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 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
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; mcmhelp@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.sisterscloset.org
Volunteer Contact: Laura Robinson, (812) 333-7710; info@sisterscloset.org
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)
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
Volunteer Contact: Scott Alber, ([812]335-

See “**DIRECTORY**”, page 13

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 12

1280 volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org)
About: A Catholic led ecumenical society of volunteers dedicated to helping those in need. Assistance is offered in the form of community resource information, vouchers for furniture, and in some cases limited financial help with a utility bill, rent, rent deposit or other essential need. Almost all funding comes through donations and assistance is given without regard to religion, race or creed. Volunteer opportunities abound.

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)

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)

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

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

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

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

Stone Belt

Address: 2815 E. 10 St.

Phone: (812) 332-2168

Web: www.stonebelt.org

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

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

Employment resources and job counseling

WorkOne

Address: 450 Landmark Ave.

Phone: (812) 331-6000

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

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

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/

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

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

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

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

Hoosier Healthwise for Children

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

Phone: (812) 349-3851

Web: www.hoosierhealthwise.net

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

Monroe County Public Health Clinic

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3244

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

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Planned Parenthood

Address: 421 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 336-0219

Web: www.ppin.org

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

Vistacare Hospice

Address: 1801 Liberty Dr., Ste. 103

Phone: (812) 330-9640

Web: www.vistacare.com

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

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

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Address: 811 West 2nd Street

Phone: (812) 333-4001

Web: www.vimmonroecounty.org

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

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

Housing (abused women)

Middle Way House

Address: 338 S. Washington St.

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

Web: www.middlewayhouse.org

About: Middle Way House is an emergency shelter that provides services to protect and help women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and women who feel they are in danger. Services include a safe place to stay, case management, in-house children’s programs, legal advocacy. There is also a transitional housing program called The Rise which has self-contained apartments for families leaving abusive relationships.

Women and their children can stay at The Rise for up to two years.

Housing (emergency, for adults)

Agape House, Shelter For Women And Their Children (part of Backstreet Missions)

Web: 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

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

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

About: A comprehensive residential program or pregnant women and teenagers. Offers access to prenatal and pediatric care. Also

offers life skills training and assistance in achieving longer-term educational and career goals.

Housing (Rental)

Bloomington Housing Authority

Address: 1007 N. Summit St.

Phone: (812) 339-3491

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

Housing and Neighborhood Development

Address: 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

Phone: (812) 349-3420

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

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

South Central Community Action Program, Inc.

Address: 1500 W. 15th St.

Phone: (812) 339-3447

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

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

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

Housing (homeless youth)

Stepping Stones

Address: PO Box 1366

Phone: (812) 339-9771

Web: www.steppingstones-inc.org

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

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

Legal and court-related services

Community Justice & Mediation Center

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

Phone: (812) 339-1551

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

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

About: Programs include the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program, Shoplifter’s Alternative Program, Workshops, Trainings, and Community Mediation Services for neighborhood, school, family or business conflicts.

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

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

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

Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

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

Phone: (812) 349-2670

Web: www.co.monroe.in.us

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Volunteer Contact: Sarah Lanman ([812]349-2670; slanman@co.monroe.in.us)
About: Helps to ease the trauma victim's burden by explaining the criminal justice process, accompanying victims to court, updating them on current cases and obtaining restitution.

Meals and pantries (no cost)

Meals

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429
Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

About: Area 10 Agency on Aging offers 5 main nutrition and food services for senior citizens.

Congregate Meals—We offer congregated meals at the following times and locations: Maple Shades Apts., Ellettsville, 10:30 am; Cambridge Square Apts., Bloomington, 11 am; Spencer Senior Center, 11:30 am; Unionville Senior Center, 11:30 am. Seniors must be 60+ and can complete a brief application at the meal site of their choosing. A \$2 donation is requested.

Mobile Meals—We deliver meals to homebound seniors who are 60+ and who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. An application to determine eligibility is required and a \$2 donation is requested. Contact Area 10 at (812) 876-3383 for more information.

Food Pantry—We provide homebound seniors with two bags of groceries and frozen food each month. Seniors must be 60+ and meet eligibility requirements. Call Area 10 at (812) 876-3383 to request an application.

Restaurant Vouchers—We provide restaurant vouchers to seniors 60+ to be used at the Village Inn in Ellettsville or the Stinesville Mercantile in Stinesville. A \$2 donation is requested. A brief application is required and vouchers can be picked up at Area 10 or the Stinesville Mercantile.

Farmers Market Vouchers—We distribute farmers market vouchers to seniors 60+ for use at the Bloomington Farmers Market or Spencer Farmers Market. Seniors must complete an application and meet income guidelines. Contact Area 10 at (812) 876-3383

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: 727 W. 1st Street

Phone: (812) 323-4982

Web: www.bloomingtonmealsonwheels.org

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

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

About: We share a home-based dinner every 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

Volunteer Contact: Annie Brookshire

([812] 332-0999; volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com)

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

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

Community Kitchen Express

Address: 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

Monday-Friday: Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m.;

Lunch: 12-1:30 p.m. (except Wednesday lunch, 12-1 p.m.)

About: A daytime resource center for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. The facility is open all day and functions as a

Day Shelter for guests, where they can use restroom facilities, make phone calls, and do their laundry. Guests can go there to see case workers, employment counselors, connect with visiting agencies, seek assistance through the Family Homelessness Prevention Project, store belongings, receive mail, use restroom facilities, and take a hot shower.

Pantries/Groceries

Area 10 Agency on Aging

See meals and pantries —meals

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Address: 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

Phone: (812) 334-8374

Web: www.hhfoodbank.org

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

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

MCUM Emergency Food Pantry

Address: 827 W. 14th Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: 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.mhcfodpantry.org

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

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

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Hours: 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
greenthcity@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: 631 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, Indiana 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

About: Offers programs and services, as well as being a resource of information about services for older and disabled citizens living in Monroe and Owen counties. Services that can be accessed include the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 2-1-1 Infolink, in-home health-related services and referrals, home-delivered meals, food pantry, congregated meal sites, support groups, education for family caregivers, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman program for residents of area nursing homes, RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in Ellettsville, and Rural Transit bus service.

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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: 807 N. College Avenue

Phone: (812) 334-2828

Web: 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.bgcblloomington.org

About: A guidance organization which fosters the physical, intellectual and social growth of boys and girls ages 6-18 with a special concern for those most in need of service.

Girls Inc.

Address: 1108 W. 8th St.

Phone: (812) 336-7313

Web: www.girlsinc-monroe.org

Volunteer Contact: Lucy Berger, Director of Operations ([812] 336-7313; lberger@monroe.girls-inc.org)

About: Girls Inc. of Monroe County, is an affiliate of a national youth organization dedicated to inspiring girls to be strong, smart, and bold through after school programming, organized sports, and summer/winter camps. Provides programming for girls ages 6 to 18. Services include transportation, organized sports, a teen room, technology, self-defense and homework help.

Harmony School

Address: 909 E. 2nd St.

Phone: (812) 334-8349

Web: www.harmonyschool.org

Volunteer Contact: Libby Gwynn ([812] 334-8349; libby@harmonyschool.org)

About: An independent pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade school providing education to youth ages 3 to 18 from a wide range of economic and educational backgrounds.

Rhino's Youth Center

Address: 331 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 333-3430

Web: www.rhinosyouthcenter.org

Volunteer Contact: Brad Wilhelm ([812] 333-3430; rhinosdirector@ameritech.net)

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

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

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/volunteer

About: The Volunteer Network, which has over 200 local partner nonprofit and governmental organizations, is your one-stop source for volunteer information in Bloomington and Monroe County. Member organizations post their volunteer needs on

the Network's online database so potential volunteers can see what community needs they can meet. The Volunteer Network also offers training in volunteer management to new volunteer coordinators and training in nonprofit board service to new and continuing board members. The Network partners with the Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Commission in the organization of the 'A Day On, Not a Day Off' day of service, in which thousands of Bloomingtonians participate. In addition, the Network matches the material needs of local nonprofit organizations with community members and businesses who can meet those needs through our partnership with the Herald-Times on the Community Wish List.

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Address: 213 E. Kirkwood Avenue

Phone: (812) 331-4069

Web: www.monroecountyhabitat.org

About: Habitat for Humanity helps families and volunteers to build homes for those living in inadequate housing. The homes are for families who have an income but do not have the funds to secure a bank loan. The money to build the homes comes from contributions from local churches, citizens, businesses, and other sponsors. Families pay back a zero interest mortgage over 15-25 years. That money goes into a fund which helps to pay for more houses.

Monroe County Safe Kids Chapter

Phone: (812) 353-5437

About: Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians will help you install your child's car seat and answer questions regarding general vehicle safety. If you need financial help with the purchase of a seat, let us know. All services are by appointment only.

Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project

Address: 310A S. Washington St.

Phone: (812) 339-8710

Web: www.pagestoprisoners.org

Volunteer Contact: Tess Hannah (339-8710; midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com)

About: Provides free reading material to inmates upon request. Encourages self-education among prisoners in the United States.

Monroe County Public Library

Address: 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Phone: (812) 349-3050

Web: www.mcpl.info

About: Offers free books, magazines, music CDs, and movies to check out; public Internet computers; downloadable audiobooks and ebooks; and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile, the Outreach Van, and

Homebound service. Library cards are available at no charge to all county residents. The VITAL literacy program offers one-on-one confidential tutoring to adult learners and ESL conversation groups. During the school year, the library offers homework help to elementary students and math and reading/writing homework help to teens. During income tax season, volunteers offer free tax help. The library also has public meeting rooms for use by nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community can produce a program through Community Access TV (CATS) for the Public Access Channel.

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

Web: www.newleaf-newlife.org

About: New Leaf-New Life runs therapeutic programs in the Monroe County jail, and provides products and services to ex-offenders at our office at 1010 South Walnut, Suite F. Services offered include: assistance in obtaining a birth certificate or social security card, employment help, support groups, family support, community referrals, clothing, bus tickets, hygiene products, and funding for GED testing. Volunteer opportunities can include: mentoring, transition services, office work, family outreach, and programming in the Jail. Office hours are 10-5 Monday and Tuesday, 2-5 Wednesday and Thursday. Check our Facebook page for news and updates.