



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

March–May 2013

La Caminata De la Vuelta a Casa, da Esperanza a las Personas sin Hogar

Para Mark Kruzan
Mayor de Bloomington

No me atrevería a entender lo que sería la vida sin el consuelo de saber que tengo un hogar que proporciona calor y refugio. Por desgracia, hay muchos entre nosotros que viven fuera, o al borde de perder la comodidad de la “casa”.

Bloomington es bendecido con muchas organizaciones locales sin fines de lucro, agencias cuyo principal objetivo es ayudar a los menos afortunados. Organismos como la Casa Amatista, Centerstone, Cocina Comunitaria, Hills Hoosier Banco de Alimentos, Casa de Martha, Casa Middle Way, Ministerios Unidos de Monroe County, Alacena Madre Hubbard, Refugio Familiar en Nueva Esperanza, Shalom Community Center, Stepping Stones, y el Youth Services Bureau que participan en uno de los eventos más respetados de Bloomington—Recuperemos la casa Bound Walk—y dar esperanza a muchos en nuestra comunidad.

Falta de vivienda es un problema que puede afectar a cualquier población, incluidos los niños. En el año escolar 2011–12, 224 estudiantes el MCCSC informó que estaban viviendo doblemente en familia o con amigos, 58 estudiantes que estaban viviendo en refugios, dos estudiantes que viven en la intemperie, y estudiantes de 18 años que viven en un hotel o motel. Estas cifras muestran un incremento con respecto al año pasado que reportó una combinación 228 estudiantes, y nos dicen que aunque podemos tener muchos programas grandes en nuestra comunidad la necesidad de asistencia está siempre en aumento.

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Middle Way House Children’s Programs

By Dorothy Granger, Communications and Events Coordinator
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Much of the literature on homelessness never mentions domestic violence as a cause of homelessness, yet the reality is that domestic violence was named as a primary cause of homelessness in nine of the 25 cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2003.¹ In the US, approximately 7 to 14 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year,² which has a potential negative impact on the well-being of children.

Research indicates that children exposed to violence may be affected physically, emotionally, behaviorally, socially and cognitively and without the appropriate intervention, the consequences can be life-long. Since the effects of violence

vary greatly based on each child’s experiences, interventions should be individualized based on the needs of the child/youth survivor.

A child who lives with violence is forever changed, but not forever damaged.³ Middle Way House provides immediate safety to battered women and helps them gain control over their lives. Equally important, is the direct and tangible support trained staff members provide to children while in the shelter. Exposure to violence—especially when it is ongoing and intense—can harm children’s natural, healthy development unless they receive support

See “MIDDLE WAY HOUSE”, page 2

1. U.S. Conference of Mayors. (2003). Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America’s Cities at 72 (December 2003).
2. Carlson, B.E. (2000). Children exposed to intimate partner violence: Research findings and implications for intervention. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, 1(4), 321-342.
3. Cunningham, A. & Baker, L. (2007). Little Eyes, Little Ears How Violence Against a Mother Shapes Children as They Grow. Center for Children and Families in the Justice System. Ottawa, Ontario.

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/>.

Homeward Bound Gives Hope To The Homeless, And Our Community As A Whole

By Mark Kruzan
Mayor of Bloomington

I would not presume to understand what life would be like without the comfort of knowing I have a home providing warmth and shelter. Unfortunately, there are many in our midst who live without, or on the brink of losing, the comfort of “home.”

Bloomington is blessed with many local non-profit agencies whose main goal is to help those less fortunate. Agencies like Amethyst House, Centerstone, Community Kitchen, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Martha’s House, Middle Way House, Monroe County United Ministries, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, New Hope Family

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Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

LA CAMINATA

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El año pasado, La Caminata en Bloomington vuelta a casa, recaudó \$69.000 para las 12 agencias de servicios sociales a través de la participación de más de 900 participantes entre, voluntarios y patrocinadores. Con su apoyo podemos superar el éxito de los esfuerzos del año pasado para combatir la falta de vivienda. De los fondos recaudados, el 100 por ciento se distribuye a nivel local, ayudando a las agencias que ofrecen sus servicios y que salvan vidas.

Desde su creación en 2003, los esfuerzos de la caminata de vuelta a casa en todo el estado han recaudado más de \$3.100.000, lo que es uno de los estados con más nuestra en la colaboración a eventos. La Caminata trae conciencia y recauda fondos para las agencias de

servicios sociales que trabajan para combatir la pobreza y abogan por la vivienda asequible y servicios sin hogar en todo el estado.

Me gustaría dar las gracias a los organismos participantes de La Caminata De vuelta a casa por todo lo que hacen para hacer de Bloomington un lugar mejor para vivir para todos nuestros ciudadanos. Para los que donaron, caminaron, y crearon un equipo y ofrecieron voluntariamente su tiempo para hacer que la caminata sea un éxito—gracias. Y a los patrocinadores del evento, gracias por ayudar a nuestra comunidad sin hogar dar “un paso a la vez.” Animo a todos a participar este próximo mes de abril como la caminata celebra su 11avo año.

Para obtener más información sobre cómo usted puede ser parte de este año está Homeward Bound Walk <http://bloomington.in.gov/homewardbound> visitar o contactar a su presidente Kathy Mayer a 349.3467 o mayerk@bloomington.in.gov.

HOMeward

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Shelter, Shalom Community Center, Stepping Stones, and the Youth Services Bureau who participate in one of Bloomington's most respected events—the Homeward Bound Walk—give hope to many in our community.

Homelessness is an issue that can affect any population, including children. In the 2011–12 school year, MCCSC reported 224 students who were living doubled up with family or friends, 58 students who were living in shelters, two students living unsheltered, and 18 students living in a hotel or motel. These numbers show an increase from the reported combined 228 students last year, and tell us though we may have many great programs in our

community the need for assistance is always rising.

Last year the Bloomington Homeward Bound Walk raised \$69,000 for these 12 social service agencies through the participation of more than 900 hundred walkers, volunteers and sponsors. With your support we can build on the success of last year's effort to fight homelessness. Of the funds raised, 100 percent were distributed locally, helping agencies deliver their life-saving services.

Since its inception in 2003, the statewide Homeward Bound Walk's efforts have raised more than \$3,100,000, making it one of our state's most collaborated events. The Walk brings awareness and raises funds for social services agencies working to combat poverty and advocate for affordable housing and homeless services statewide.

I would like to thank the Homeward Bound Walk's participating agencies for all they do to make Bloomington a better place to live for all of our citizens. To those who donated, walked, created a team and volunteered their time to make the walk a success—thank you. And to the event sponsors, thank you for helping our community end homelessness “one step at a time.” I encourage everyone to participate this coming April 14 as the Walk celebrates its 11th year.

For more information on how you can be part of this year's Homeward Bound Walk visit <http://bloomington.in.gov/homewardbound> or contact Chair Kathy Mayer at 349.3467 or mayerk@bloomington.in.gov.

MIDDLE WAY HOUSE

Continued from page 1

to help them cope and heal. Facilitating quality programs for children helps ensure a better tomorrow... for everyone.

Staff believes that children have the right to the best possible psychosocial care as part of their experience with Middle Way House. The goals of the children's programs include helping mothers and children realize the impact of exposure to domestic violence on the children, understand “appropriate” behaviors for a specific aged child and behaviors that may be the result of exposure to violence, helping children develop appropriate strategies for coping, and facilitating resiliency in children.

Within a trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate approach, the focus of the childcare curriculum is on the social development of children and how mothers can nurture their children through play; intellectual development and school success, including ways to help children learn through everyday experiences; and finally, healthy physical development.

With appropriate intervention, the negative consequences of violence on a child's development can be lessened.

Homeward Bound is a series of annual events that raise funding for and awareness about affordable housing and homeless needs. One hundred percent of the funds generated from the walk support programs here in Bloomington. Middle Way House will utilize funds raised to support vital children's programs at the shelter.

Interfaith Winter Shelter

The Interfaith Winter Shelter in Bloomington provides sleeping facilities and evening food for the homeless during the cold winter months from October through April from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. The Shelter schedule is:

Sunday Night:	First United Methodist Church (FUMC)
Monday Night	First United Church (FUC)
Tuesday Night	First United Church (FUC)
Wednesday Night	Trinity Episcopal Church
Thursday Night	First Christian Church (FCC)
Friday Night	First Christian Church (FCC)
Saturday Nights:	
each 1 st Saturday	Trinity Episcopal Church
each 2 nd Saturday	First Christian Church
each 3 rd Saturday	First United Church
each 4 th Saturday	First United Methodist Church
each 5 th Saturday	First United Church

To find out more, go to <http://interfaithwintershelter.org>

About *Safety~Net*

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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.

The Eighth Annual Bloomington AIDS Walk

By Meredith Short, www.btownaidswalk.org

In Indiana, almost 10,000 people are known to be living with HIV/AIDS, over 200 live in Monroe County. HIV affects all sexual orientations, all genders, all ages, and all races. It can happen to anyone. HIV is transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. Transmission is most frequently a result of unprotected oral, vaginal or anal sex or sharing a needle.

We have made a lot of progress in thirty years. Ignorance and stigma still make some afraid to take the test, to protect their own health while protecting others—but people today are talking about the need to get tested in places where the whole subject would have been off-limits ten or twenty years ago. Vaccines and cures stay disturbingly just out of reach, but the “cocktail” drugs let most who have access to health care live normal and healthy lives.

On March 23, South Central Community AIDS Action Group will be hosting the 8th Annual Bloomington AIDS Walk. The AIDS Walk raises money to deliver direct services to those living with HIV/AIDS. It helps purchase food and nutritional supplements, provide transportation, utility assistance, clothing, household items, individualized case management and other emergency services.

How can you participate? Create a team. Make team t-shirts. Raise money. Make signs to carry on the walk. Raise awareness. Invite your friends. Research HIV. Join the South Central Community AIDS Action Group. The possibilities are endless...

To learn more about the South Central Community AIDS Action Group or to find out more about the Walk, contact Patrick Battani at (812) 353-3276 or pbattani@iuhealth.org. You may also check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CAAGBloomington.

Bloomington Meals on Wheels

By Kathy Romy, Executive Director,
Meals On Wheels
727 West First St, Bloomington, IN 47403
www.bloomingtonmealsonwheels.org

Founded by the Local Council of Women in 1973, Bloomington Meals on Wheels has been delivering 2 well-balanced meals per day to Bloomington residents who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness, accident or declining abilities. There is no age or economic restriction. Besides the nutritional benefits, the emotional and social impact of a daily visit from Meals on Wheels greatly enhances the quality of life for Bloomington shut-ins. The fee-for-service program offers a sack lunch and a hot meal at a minimal cost, based on a physician's diet order for each client. It is the only agency in town that provides diabetic home-delivered meals. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

Meals are prepared by IU Health Bloomington dietary department and Meadowood Retirement Community. A registered dietician approves the menu.

Currently, a network of almost 200 volunteers deliver over 40,000 meals annually to needy residents of Bloomington. A handful of Meals on Wheels volunteers have been with the organization since the beginning—devoting 40 years of continual service to Meals on Wheels and the community.

To find out more about Meals on Wheels service or to become a volunteer, please contact us at 323-4982 or email mow@bloomingtonhospital.org.



Meals on Wheels drivers load coolers filled with the day's meals from the Meals on Wheels pick-up site.



Mayor Mark Kruzan delivers a meal as part of National "Mayors for Wheels" Day 2012.

Project HOPE

by J.D. Lawson

My name is J.D. Lawson. I am an addict in recovery. I am 37 years old and the father of three. I am tattooed head to toe but I enjoy reading, writing, and learning as much new information as I can. I am a compassionate person that has a huge heart but until now I have been unable to show the real me. I have recently been released from Monroe County Jail and Branchville Correctional Facility. Out of the last four years, I have spent three years incarcerated for crimes ranging from theft to possession of illegal drugs. My addictions have led to multiple felony convictions in that I am facing eleven years in prison if I make another mistake. My history of drug addiction has left me to be in trouble with the law since I was 18 years old. I have tried to do the right thing so many times but I am always being sidetracked by the views that are in place for those like me, with felony convictions. I know what it is like to want to better yourself but the opportunities are not present because society in general looks at you as a bad guy, a criminal, a DOC number; because of the number of arrests you have had. As a father, it becomes difficult to be a good role model for your children after they have watched you fail so many times before. I am trying to be more than an offender to them. I am trying to be productive in society and kind of reduce the stigma associated with felons in general. There is always that stigma of saying "I am a convicted felon," that never goes away.

I was informed about Project HOPE while incarcerated at the Monroe County Jail. After reading the handout about the program I decided that it sounded like a worthwhile project and I had my referral submitted. Jennifer, the HOPE Project Manager, came to see me and told me more about the program and I felt that it was even more worthwhile. I think one of the best things I have done upon my release is to pursue community resources through Project HOPE. With my HOPE/Employment specialist we have come up with an employment plan customized to my needs which included my short and long terms as well as goal action steps. We assessed what it would take to meet those goals from basic needs like glasses to resumes to providing me with transportation to fill out applications and things of that nature. In addition, I will be receiving an eye exam and glasses that fit, clothes and shoes that are interview appropriate, ability for employers to contact me, a back brace so my health and safety needs are met and I will be attending a Safe Serv class to make myself more marketable.

After assessing my needs they provided me with the things I need like employment classes, weekly one-on-one meetings and support in things I don't have a lot of experience in like what to say at an interview. With the help of the Job Developer, who goes into the community to build relationships with companies that are felon-friendly, it becomes easier for me to go to an employer and present myself because the barriers and stigma are not staring me in the face. I feel more comfortable going to these employers because the road has been paved to that second chance that I need. These people are going into the community to put in a good word for me, putting their time and energy in for me, they are knocking on the doors for me, I can at least show up, be on time and look presentable.

The bottom line is Project HOPE has given me positive feedback and the resources that I need to move forward and overcome my past by becoming a productive member of our society.

The Revolving Door of the Criminal Justice System: HOPE makes all the Difference.

By Jennifer Fillmore, Project Manager
Jennifer.fillmore@centerston.org • 812-355-6310, extension 2439

Both the tremendous growth in state correctional populations and the number of offenders released has shifted our attention to the needs of offenders. Compounding this growing criminal justice problem is the fact that approximately 85% of Indiana offenders in the corrections system have been identified as having an addiction and 17% have a diagnosable mental illness.

According to Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC), the Monroe County recidivism rate was 46.8% in 2010 (i.e. re-incarceration within 3 years of release). IDOC released 225 individuals to Bloomington in 2011; another 156 will be released in 2012. Assuming the recidivism rate remains the same, approximately 180 of the 381 offenders will be re-incarcerated unless they receive significant intervention and reentry assistance. Several reasons contribute to recidivism such as untreated substance use and mental health disorders, lack of education, inability to secure employment, lack of stable housing, poor social support system etc... We know that for many cycling in and out of prison has become the norm.

Centerstone received the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Adult Generation 5 Department of Labor Grant, herein known as Helping Offenders through Partnership and Employment (HOPE).

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The District Offers More Operating Hours

by Jessalyn Hatton, media intern for the Monroe County recycling center, the District

On Monday Jan. 7, the District held a ribbon cutting at the Northeast Recycling Center in New Unionville to celebrate the first week of extended hours. District Chairperson, Stephen Volan snipped the green ribbon at the gate of the

See "RECYCLE", page 5



Mel Rice, Northeast Recycling Center Operator; Elisa Pokral, Media and Educator Director; Stephen Volan, Board President; Scott Morgan, Operations Director hold the green ribbon at the gate of the Northeast Recycling Center in New Unionville to celebrate the new hours.

HOPE

Continued from page 4

HOPE is designed to alleviate the cycle of recidivism by reducing the challenges ex-offenders face. The purpose of HOPE is to apply evidence-based practices to provide services and supports that empower ex-offenders to identify and initiate a career path, achieve a recognized certificate or degree, and secure and retain employment in their chosen occupations. Through mentoring and peer support groups, participants will build a social network to help them navigate the complex challenges of returning to their communities, including reuniting with family and obtaining stable housing, physical/mental healthcare, substance abuse treatment etc... Project staff will provide wrap around services to help participants overcome barriers to completing training and securing employment.

Eligible individuals must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Reside in Bloomington
2. Be 18 and older and convicted and incarcerated as an adult.
3. Released from jail or the Indiana Department of Correction in the past 180 days.
4. US Citizen or Eligible non-citizen.

Reentry is a serious problem in our criminal justice system.

For additional questions contact the Project Manager Jennifer.fillmore@centerstone.org or call 812-355-6310 and ask for extension 2439.

STATISTICS

Hoosier Hills Food Bank— In 2012 we served 26,200 individuals and distributed 3,187,465 lbs. of food. We serve 98 agencies currently.

Community Kitchen— In 2012, we served 244,022 meals & snacks. 53% of people we served were children; 16% were seniors. 5% of patrons were Veterans. 16% have experienced homelessness in the past 6 months.

New Hope Family Shelter— New Hope Family Shelter provided 57 people (19 families in total) during the 2012 year.

Centerstone's Path program— Centerstone's PATH program made contact with 344 individuals experiencing homelessness in FY 2011-12, and assisted 124 people in accessing mental health services.

Youth Services Bureau— In 2012, the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County helped 276 youth residing in the Binkley House Emergency Youth Shelter. 34 of these youth were homeless at the time of service, and 58 of these youth were served through the Safe Place program.

MCUM Works to Prevent Homelessness— In 2012, Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) provided financial assistance to 61 households, representing 140 adults and children. This assistance comes in the form of rent, mortgage, or utility assistance during a short-term crisis. By keeping families in their homes with the lights on, MCUM is helping them to avoid the cascade of challenges that result from homelessness.

RECYCLE

Continued from page 4

Northeast side Rural Recycling Center and at the Ellettsville Recycling Center Board Secretary Dan Swafford snipped the green ribbon.



Volan handing off a battery to Rice for recycling.

All rural recycling centers are now open Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri. and Saturday from 7am–6pm. The new hours are already benefitting Monroe County's recyclers. Kathy McManus has been recycling at the New Unionville Recycling Center for 15 years. McManus usually recycles on Saturday, but was able to bring her recyclables in on Monday.

"Being open more days will be beneficial to the public because of the flexibility," said McManus.

The new hours are not the only changes made at the District. The District now offers free bulky item and electronics disposal at all recycling sites. Bulky Item disposal is offered at rural recycling centers on a rotating basis. The calendar is posted on the District's web site.

The District would like to hear feedback from the community. Post comments on the District's Facebook page at gogreendistrict.com or mention them in a tweet on Twitter, @GoGreenDistrict.com.

Rural Recycling Centers of the District...where green living begins are now open five days a week. For more information contact Elisa Pokral. Call: 349-2866/2020



Volan and Morgan recycling newspapers.

MCPL Bookmobile: All About Access

By Chris Jackson, Community Outreach Manager, Monroe County Public Library

Monroe County Public Library has been consistently recognized as one of the best library systems in the country for the size of its community. But with only two branches—the Main Library downtown and the Ellettsville Branch—many local residents have a hard time benefitting from the wealth of provided services. Not everyone drives or has easy access to public transportation—children and the elderly are often especially dependent on someone else to get them from place to place. And even for those who do drive, the parking situation in Bloomington frequently means there will be a several block walk from a vehicle to the library door, a significant barrier for many.

To help address this access issue, the library provides various services, the most prominent being the Bookmobile. Begun in 1929, the MCPL Bookmobile has a long history

of bringing library services out into the county. It is now more popular than ever, last year circulating over 110,000 books (including large print and audiobooks), movies, music CDs, and magazines. Every day but Friday the Bookmobile is out in the county making its rounds of weekly stops. Right now these include:

Arlington Heights Elementary, Arlington Park Apartments, Basswood Dr./Canterbury House, Bell Trace Senior Living, Cambridge Square Apartments, Clear Creek Elementary, College Mall, Countryview Apartments, Crestmont, Harrodsburg Community Center, Heatherwood Community, Lakeview Elementary, Lighthouse Christian Academy, Kirksville, Meadowood, Meadows Hospital, Oakdale Square Apartments, Orchard Glen Apartments, Paynetown, Smithville Community Center, Stanford Baptist Church, University Elementary, Unionville Elementary, Walnut Grove Apartments, Woodland Springs Apartments, and the YMCA.

Bookmobile Services

The truck carries about 3,000 items on its shelves, caters to all ages, and has just about all the formats the library owns. To keep such a small collection fresh, the items are in constant rotation, with new materials added daily from the Main Library and no item staying on the vehicle for more than 6 months. Each of the five drivers is active in making sure that

patrons are going to find what they want on the shelves, and one of the great pleasures of doing Bookmobile service is picking items that patrons do not yet know they want, but are delighted to discover. Quite a few regular users have commented that they prefer browsing on the Bookmobile because with fewer low-interest titles in the mix, it's easier to find really good stuff.

Despite all the attention that goes into making the shelves vibrant, there's still the opportunity to get any library item delivered to any stop by placing a hold through the online catalog or over the phone and specifying pickup on the Bookmobile. A great number of patrons make full use of this, browsing online instead of browsing the shelves, and then getting a convenient delivery close to their home.

Free Borrowing

County residents can get a free library card right on the vehicle. Items check out for the same length of time as at the branches: one week for DVDs and magazines and three weeks for everything else. Since patrons may not be able to make the visit every week, compounded by occasional cancellations due to weather or mechanical issues, there are no fees if an item gets returned a little late. (Charges for lost or damaged items still apply, however.)

Other Outreach Services

Of course one Bookmobile cannot serve everyone in Monroe County, so the library has several other means of reaching out to those who are not able to visit the branches. There's a Van service that specializes in nursing homes, bringing library items inside facilities for residents who have limited mobility. It also brings books and story hours to Head Start. And then there's the Homebound service, which makes a monthly delivery to any county resident confined to their home due to a disability or extended illness.

You can find the Bookmobile schedule online at <http://mcpl.info/outreach/bkm-schedule>, or call the Community Outreach department at 812-349-3050, extension 2059, and we will be happy to help you find the nearest stop, and tell you more about our services that expand access to the Monroe County Public Library.



Keep Your Cash and Claim Your Credit Through the Free Community Tax Service

By Laura Freeze, AmeriCorps VISTA at United Way of Monroe County

What would you do with an extra \$5,891 in your pocket? If you worked in 2012, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), even if you don't owe taxes. EITC can be a helpful financial boost for working people, especially if your income dropped in 2012. The credit is based on income and family size, and can be as much as \$5,891. One in four people who qualify for the EITC refund don't claim it, but the Free Community Tax Service can help!

United Way and the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana want to ensure all eligible households in the community file a tax return and claim their EITC credit. Individuals and families can claim the valuable EITC and file taxes without charge at one of the many free tax preparation sites in Monroe and Owen counties. The Free Community Tax Service helps low- and moderate-income residents file their federal and Indiana tax returns at no cost. Most people receive 100 percent of their refunds quickly—in just 10 days or less. IRS-certified volunteers at the Free Community Tax Service sites can assist you with the free tax preparation and electronic filing process.

In 2012, the Free Community Tax Service sites helped file more than 2,685 returns for free (a 62% increase over the previous year), which saved residents up to \$500,000 in tax preparation fees. The Free Community Tax Service has expanded each year to better serve area residents, and this year is no exception.

Ashley Hall, United Way Community Initiatives Director, said "The FCTS is such a valuable resource for Monroe and Owen counties. We're proud to convene a community partnership that brings together social service agencies, education

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Stone Belt: Employment, Work Services

By Andrew Ashton, Stone Belt Communications Coordinator

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What Can Stone Belt Community Employment do for Your Business?

Stone Belt Community Employment Services assists individuals with disabilities to choose, obtain and retain employment in integrated settings. Stone Belt Employment Services operate out of all three of Stone Belt's regions: Bloomington, Bedford and Columbus.

Employment is a fundamental part of adult life in our society. Holding a job not only provides the ability to purchase life essentials; it also improves self image, self-esteem and the perception of one's worth in the community.

In the past year Stone Belt's Community Employment Program has helped 47 people find jobs, and has supported 113 people who are working, as well as another 61 who are seeking. The clients we support earn an average of \$7.81 per hour, and work an average of 18 hours per week. The average job retention of clients who receive support from our program is 4.5 years!

We invite the community to partner with us to build upon this success! Help

us make connections between Stone Belt and the business community, and inspire more people to join us in successfully employing individuals with disabilities.

Together we can change lives, one job at a time!

What Can Stone Belt Work Services do for Your Business?

Stone Belt Work Services has a wide range of reasonably priced services. All services are provided with an unrivaled level of excellence. Manufacturing services operate out of Bloomington & Bedford, with the following capacities:

Product Packaging

- Shrink Wrap
- Heat Seal
- Poly Bagging
- Electronic Weight

Light Assembly Line Work

- Assembly
- Kitting
- Labeling
- Cartoning



Stone Belt Clients with supervisor at Babb's Grocery

- Collating and Document Destruction
- Collating
- High Volume Shredding
- Disposal

Light Fabrication and Leather

- Hand Tool Assembly
- Machine Assembly
- Drilling
- Sanding
- Riveting
- Leather Product Creation:
 - Bookmarks
 - Coasters
 - Key Fobs
 - Belts

Work Services strives to help participants learn work skills, habits and attitudes that will lead them to success in community employment. These skills include getting along with co-workers, handling disagreements, producing quality work, learning to request time off and demonstrating good attendance and punctuality. This program allows individuals to experience earning a

paycheck and the pride that comes with it. Currently 40 clients are employed in Bedford and 83 are employed in Bloomington through Stone Belt's Manufacturing Program.

What is Stone Belt?

Stone Belt is one of the oldest and largest service providers for individuals with developmental disabilities in south central Indiana. Stone Belt is committed to quality services, and invites the entire community to play a role in preparing, empowering and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to fully participate in the life of the community. Stone Belt's tradition of excellence and leadership in the field is founded on our belief that everyone deserves dignity, self-worth and the right to self-determination. For more information about Stone Belt and services offered, visit www.stonebelot.org. For more information about Milestones Clinical & Health Resources (a division of Stone Belt), visit www.milestonesclinic.com.



Stone Belt Client cleaning out Coke Machine at Cook's Cafeteria

Special Section: Voices

Women Writing for (a) Change and Women in the Monroe County Jail —January 2013

Mirror Poems:

Two women collaborated to write each one of these poems.

They took turns writing each line. After six lines were written, they wrote the poem down again in reverse—starting with the last line first.

Wherever the road leads
She sits and wonders
A fairytale secret
To watch fade away
In the middle of the ocean
Loving myself.

Loving myself
In the middle of the ocean
To watch fade away
A fairytale secret
She sits and wonders
Wherever the road leads.

By Jill and Lisa

My expectations were so high
So why do we cry?
The truth underneath us with no lies
A lot of emotions today, why must we all cry?
Let go of the past and take a new journey
Looking forward to see my path.

On the outside I shine
On the inside it's cloudy
On the outside I smile high
I feel so low
Try not to let anyone know
I really need to go

Looking forward to see my path
Let go of the past and take a new journey.
A lot of emotions today, why must we all cry?
The truth underneath us with no lies
So why do we cry?
My expectations were so high.

I really need to go
Try not to let anyone know
I feel so low
On the outside I smile high
On the inside its cloudy
On the outside I shine.

By Laura and Angel

Finding a new love
After the loss of an old one
Showing new emotions
Making new memories
Letting go of the old ones
Becoming whole again, and a smiling heart.

I saw my reflection in a mirror
Not the same as it was before
What my eyes have seen amazes me
How have I become who I didn't want to be?
The questions go in circles
A lot is still unanswered

Becoming whole again, and a smiling heart
Letting go of the old ones
Making new memories
Showing new emotions
After the loss of an old one
Finding a new love

A lot is still unanswered
The questions go in circles
How have I become who I didn't want to be?
What my eyes have seen amazes me
Not the same as I was before
I saw my reflection in the mirror.

By Gloria and Trish

By Sarah and Beth

Help-Portrait Bloomington

By Doug Wilson, SCCAP Director of Communications and Development

Families in the Circles Initiative and Head Start at the South Central Community Action Program received a free family portrait during the holidays thanks to a group of more than 25 volunteers.

The event, Help-Portrait Bloomington, was part of an international event with photographers using their time, gear and expertise to give back to those in need. Local photographer Chelsea Sanders, owner of Blueline Design and Media Productions, spearheaded the Bloomington event, recruiting photographers and working with Circles and Head Start staff and volunteers to organize crafts and visits with Santa and Elves as children waited for their family's time to be photographed.

About 35 families received free photographs. At a Circles Initiative meeting after the event, a mother whose family participated in Help-Portrait brought tears from others as she thankfully shared with everyone at the meeting that she had never had a family picture taken before and previously didn't have any pictures of her and her kids together.

"It was a fantastic turn out and the whole day went flawlessly," Sanders said. "The staff at SCCAP and Head Start were amazing, the volunteers were awesome, and what we had the opportunity to each individually experience was something we will always remember, as well as the families we were honored to work with."

Blueline and SCCAP want to thank Bloomington Bagel Company, Grazie and Kroger—Seminary Square, which each donated food that helped make the event possible.



Circles Initiative participant, Tracey Hodge, finds new job and progress toward self-sufficiency

By Doug Wilson, SCCAP Director of Communications and Development

When Tracey Hodge applied to participate in the Circles Initiative of the South Central Community Action Program in 2008, she hoped to become more independent.

“It sounded like a new idea, a more proactive idea,” Hodge recalled. “It sounded empowering and the opposite of the programs that make you jump through hoops.”

Hodge became what is known as a Circle Leader, an individual or family who is motivated to get out of poverty and is in charge of creating his or her own plan to increase their financial, professional and social resources to get out of poverty. And she eventually learned that her initial expectations of Circles were correct. She says the growth she has experienced through the Circles Initiative have helped her in many ways, especially in communicating and handling difficult times and situations more effectively, which is helpful in personal and professional situations.

“It has given me a lot,” she said. “It has boosted my self-esteem and confidence to interact with different people of different backgrounds.”

“And I’ve been introduced to people I wouldn’t have otherwise know. We’ve celebrated happy times and they’ve helped me work through the hard times.”

During her time in Circles, Hodge has completed two associate degrees at Ivy Tech—the first in Office Administration and the second in Health Care Support. Having worked previously as a pharmacy technician, Hodge decided to focus her energies on going back to school during this time because her son, Dante, has Asperger’s Syndrome and she needed flexibility in her schedule to help with his needs while still using her time as productively.

The second degree, along with an

internship at a small offsite lab for IU Health Bloomington Hospital, has helped Hodge to land a new full-time job as a phlebotomist. She did so well during her internship that when the phlebotomist job came available, she didn’t have to inquire about it. Instead, she was invited to apply for the position.



Tracey Hodge

Hodge said the job will allow her to become not entirely financially self-sufficient and free of government support, but headed in that direction. The amount of rent she will pay through the Section 8 rental housing program will go up and the federal subsidy to support her rent will go down, for instance, and she will be off the Medicaid insurance program because she just signed up for health insurance through her employer.

“It’s a good feeling,” she said. “A little scary, but a good feeling.”

Hodge is able to return to work now, in part, because her son, Dante, is 15 and is requiring less assistance. It also

helps that Hodge has an extended family in the Circles staff and her Circles allies who can assist with errands such as picking Dante up if he needs an unexpected ride home from school.

These Circle allies are community members who have formed a supportive relationship with Hodge to work with her in figuring out how to accomplish her plan, offering help in areas in which they are familiar, whether that is financial, educational, or social and community connections.

“I’ve got a great family, but now I’ve got extra people to help,” she said. “I’ve got the support and caring of people I may not have crossed paths with. It’s been surprising to see how people are so willing to step into that role and be supportive, caring and non-judgmental as they try to help other people. They are wonderful people.”

Hodge has had two sets of Allies in Circles. The first were Brenda McClain of Ivy Tech, Barb McKillip of Professional Golfcar Corp. and Greg

Moore of Crane. Her current allies are Barbara Horvath of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community and Glenn Hughes, a minister at Clear Creek Christian Church. Hodge wants to follow the path of these allies eventually as she continues her own. As part of her participation in Circles, Hodge has already given back a great deal to the community through many events in which she has participated as a speaker.

“I want to continue to help my son and to become self-sufficient and once I get my feet fully under me in a solid way to become an Ally myself and pay it forward and help someone else succeed,” she said.

Shalom Writers’ Circle

The Shalom Writer’s Circle meets at the Shalom Center and is facilitated by Professor Shannon Gayk. For more information contact Professor Gayk at sgayk@indiana.edu.

The Alibi *by Rick May*

What’s the reason that you cry
No one knows, not he, not I
You feel you need an alibi?

Something that you failed to do
Produced a lie, heard by a few
To cover up, is nothing new.

Nothing makes it right it seems
No apology, no rants or screams
You missed the bus, the time’s gone by
The reason is your alibi.

On Respect *by Rick May*

The concept of “respect” seems to have fallen out of our vocabulary, or at least out of our everyday practice. I find it hard to believe that people see respect so hard to master. Most of us, at quite an early age, are taught the value of politeness: opening doors for others, relinquishing one’s seat on a bus, etc. So, what happened to the golden rule?

Disrespect to women, children, or the elderly, in particular, do not sit well with me. It isn’t really rocket science to treat others as you like them to treat you. There are times, I realize, that people or situations can stretch our patience to the limit. However, with a modicum of intelligence mixed with a bit of compassion, we can weather any storm. Nothing is impossible if your attitude is positive and your focus is clear. Then, my friends, the word disrespect might be removed from every dictionary. What a concept, eh?

See “SHALOM”, page 10

TAX SERVICE

Continued from page 6

centers, the City, and a fantastic group of dedicated volunteers to ensure that folks have access to high quality, free tax preparation and claim the credits they qualify for.”

United Way Executive Director Barry Lessow agreed, “Through the Free Community Tax Service, residents of Monroe and Owen counties can boost their financial stability both by saving on tax preparation fees and increasing their refunds. In most cases, those funds are needed to pay for essentials like food and housing. Thanks again to all the FCTS partners, generous site hosts, and exceptional volunteers.”

Residents can file their taxes for free at one of ten sites, including a self-service site at WorkOne Bloomington, and a mobile site that will visit the Bloomington Housing Authority, Cunot Community Center, LifeDesigns, and Stone Belt. Several sites will be open until the end of tax season in April, offering a variety of convenient days and times.

New this year, residents now have the option to file their taxes from the comfort of home at MyFreeTaxes.com/Bloomington, which is free of charge for those with a combined Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of under \$57,000. The Free Community Tax Service will also offer extra days and times for tax preparation during two “Super Saturdays” on March 2nd and 23rd at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. For Spanish speakers, interpretation is available at each site by calling 812-349-3860 in advance.

To learn more about the Free Community Tax Service and EITC eligibility, dial 2-1-1 or visit www.MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes.

Along with the United Way of Monroe County and the Financial Stability Alli-

ance for South Central Indiana, partners of the Free Community Tax Service 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-Bloomington, Monroe County Public Library, Owen County Public Library, South Central Community Action Program, Twin Lakes Recreation Center, Walmart, WorkOne Bloomington, and community volunteers.

LOCATIONS, DATES AND TIMES

Broadview Learning Center

705 West Coolidge Dr., Bloomington, (812) 330-7731

February 6 - April 11 (Call for an appointment.)

Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thursday: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Ellettsville Branch Library

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

February 1 - April 12 (Call for an appointment.)

Friday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Indiana University Maurer School of Law

211 S. Indiana Ave., Bloomington
January 30 - March 7 (First come, first served.)

Wednesday & Thursday: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Ivy Tech Community College

200 Daniels Way, Room B201, Bloomington, (812) 332-1559 ext. 0
January 29 - March 9 (Call for an appointment.)

Tuesday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Friday: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monroe County Public Library

303 East Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, (812) 349-3050

(AARP Tax-Aide)

February 4- April 12 (First come, first served.)

Monday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Tuesday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Friday: 2:00 pm - 5:45 pm

Owen County Public Library

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

February 2 - April 13 (Call for an appointment.)

Tuesday: 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

South Central Community Action Program

1500 W. 15th St., Bloomington, (812) 339-3447 ext. 233

February 2 - April 13 (Call for an appointment.)

Tuesday: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Twin Lakes Recreation Center

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

(AARP Tax-Aide)

February 6 - April 11 (First come, first served.)

Wednesday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thursday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

SELF-SERVICE SITE

Swing by our self-service tax preparation site and file your own federal and Indiana state tax returns for FREE! Using a computer, you can electronically file with assistance from an IRS-trained volunteer. No appointment necessary.

WorkOne Bloomington

450 S. Landmark Ave., Bloomington, (812) 331-6000 ext. 7001

January 31 - April 15 (First come, first served.)

Monday: 11:00 am - 3 pm

Thursday: 11:00 am - 3 pm

MOBILE SITE

Free Community Tax Service is on the road! To better serve every resident in our community, we are taking the Free Community Tax Service to Bloomington Housing Authority, Cunot Community Center, LifeDesigns, and Stone Belt. Call 2-1-1 for details about dates and times.

MyFreeTaxes.com/Bloomington

Now you can file your taxes for free from the comfort of your own home! This online self-preparation and filing tool helps users prepare and file their federal and state taxes at no charge. Your combined Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) must be under \$57,000 to receive this service free of charge. Visit www.MyFreeTaxes.com/Bloomington to file your own taxes for free today!

You must bring the following to receive free tax help:

- Valid picture identification for taxpayer and spouse.
- Social Security cards and birth dates for yourself, spouse, and dependents.
- All W-2s, W-2Gs, 1099s, and Social Security or unemployment benefit statements related to income received during 2012.

-If filing jointly, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

Additional information may be required—call 2-1-1 to find out.

También, ofrecemos servicio en Español. Para pedir un intérprete o hacer una cita, llama 812-349-3860.

SHALOM

Continued from page 9

Poems by Reva Duke

“Being Homeless”

Being homeless is no rose garden

And even some churches today
Are afraid to take in
homeless people.

Even the mayor is afraid.
Our mayor needs to be
homeless

For one week and see what
it is all about.

Being homeless is a scary
thing.

“Blue Skies”

Blue skies are like waves on
the ocean

Blue skies are like singing
the blues,
Like waves hitting the

boats sailing
To a far off land.

“Awake”

Awake, awake,
Listen to what we have to
say

Do not shut your ears.
Do not speak, just listen

In the quietness.
Open your hearts,
Open your minds,
Please do not be afraid
of what you do not know
of us.

“The Hard Times”

To be on your own,
No one to help you
Along the roadside,
You awake one morning
And say, wow, I’m
In the next town.

New Transportation Options Coming Soon

By Mary Boutain, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Area 10 Agency on Aging

Area 10 Agency on Aging is the recipient of two grants to fund a mobility manager position and transportation voucher system in Monroe County. New Freedom funds from INDOT and a grant from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County will be used to pilot the program.

The proposed project will create a part time mobility manager position and develop a travel voucher program for Monroe County residents who have a disability and limited incomes. The mobility manager will assist riders in understanding the transportation options available and how best to access these options to get them where they need to go such as to work and medical appointments. The voucher program will subsidize the cost of taxicab or individual rides for qualified individuals. It will enable people with disabilities and older adults to access services beyond current public transit routes and service times, and support affordable transportation for this population. Vouchers will pay a portion of the fare while the rider pays the remaining portion.

Area 10 applied for these funds as an active member of the Monroe County Coalition for Access and Mobility. MCCAM was formed in the fall of 2011 with a grant from Easter Seals Project Action and is made up of transit providers including Bloomington Transit, Rural Transit, E2 Taxi, and service providers including Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL), Area 10 Agency on Aging, Stone Belt, LifeDesigns, IU Disability Services for Students, Ivy Tech, the National Center on Disability and the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, the Bloomington Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMCMPPO) as well as a number of community members with disabilities. Area 10 is proud to be a member of this coalition committed to creating solutions to transportation needs in Monroe County.



Are Transitional Housing Programs Still Necessary for the Homeless?

By Warren Wade, Development Director at Stepping Stones

Transitional housing programs are essential to the continuum of services for individuals experiencing homelessness and are facing imminent threats to traditionally held and available federal funding sources.

As conversations are held nationally about debts and deficits, agencies such as Housing and Urban Development respond by looking to “reduce costs.” A recent study conducted by HUD entitled “Costs Associated with First-Time Homelessness for Families and Individuals”¹ notes that “Transitional housing for individuals is more expensive per day on average than other program types” (24) including emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing; however, the report clarifies repeatedly throughout that those cost-savings are “from the perspective of the homeless system” alone not necessarily the community.

For individuals and families with limited barriers to housing, homelessness prevention or short-term shelter options are argued as the more cost-effective approaches. It is certainly more cost-effective to keep individuals from experiencing homelessness in the first place as efforts from the recently retired Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) demonstrated.

For individuals with disabilities which inhibit their ability to live independently, Permanent Supportive Housing is the most cost-effective approach. And Permanent Housing options like the up-coming Crawford Homes program through LIFEDesigns offer a cost-saving approach to addressing the needs of the

“chronically homeless” and, as a result, reducing homeless system recidivism rates which can be costly. (Reducing recidivism is just one element of the cost-saving benefits of Permanent Housing.)

But what about those who do not fall into these categories? What about a young person with significant barriers to housing like not having a high school diploma, not having a residential history, or not having sufficient income to support housing?

A 16 year old homeless youth with no high school diploma or job cannot be “rapidly re-housed” and, given the complexity of family dynamics that predicate a youth’s homelessness, it often cannot be prevented. With no residential history and limited income (if any), there are almost no options for shelter but the Youth Services Bureau (for short-term emergency shelter) or a friend or family member’s couch.

While mental health issues are often consequences of homelessness for youth, they are often not “disabling” by Permanent Housing Program standards. Neither do youth typically meet the duration and episode standards for the chronically homeless; therefore, these unaccompanied youth are not considered “chronically homeless” and Permanent Supportive Housing is not an option.

For individuals such as that, Transitional Housing Programs must exist and it is for those youth that Stepping Stones does exist.

By investing resources and support in these youth at this transitional time in their life—the transition into adulthood—the community will see both a reduction in public sector costs and an increase in potential gains. The social costs of homelessness are significant

and Stepping Stones Independent Living Skills program empowers youth enabling those costs to be stemmed early on.

These can include the immediate costs of juvenile and adult correction systems, adult shelter systems, health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, police intervention, incarceration, and foster care. One cost-benefit analysis shows that the original investment in one youth is paid off sometime between 10 and 15 years.

There are also “opportunity costs,” representing the lost opportunities that stable housing would provide in terms of greater education attainment, better health, stable employment, and higher wages. Additionally, by enabling these youth to be successful in graduating from school and acquiring the skills necessary for employment, we increase their long-term potential earnings. Over 40 years the net benefit to the public sector for one youth is almost \$90,000 by way of tax revenues.²

Transitional housing programs such as ours and those at Middle Way House, Centerstone and Amethyst House provide concentrated and targeted education to homeless populations un-served or underserved in our community. Because of the time spent with our clients, we know their needs, their limitations and their barriers and, more importantly, we understand how to address them in ways not possible in short-term shelter options.

These youth, some of the most vulnerable in our community, have no other options. Despite efforts to “reduce costs,” transitional housing programs are essential and must remain a part of our homeless continuum of services for youth experiencing homelessness.

1. http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/Costs_Homeless.pdf

2. <http://www.thpplus.org/pdfs/FYHI%20Final%20Report.pdf>

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

People Power Is What Makes It Happen!

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.

Mentoring Teens

You can be a mentor for a teen in the Stepping Stones program by sharing your excitement about a specific hobby or talent to an interested teenager, usually some time between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m. Volunteers also interact with teens through the 'Be Active' program and by providing transportation to outings such as rock climbing, bowling, YMCA, hiking and skating. Minimum age is 20. Please contact Alysia Fornal at (812) 339-9771 or afornal@steppingstones-inc.org. (www.steppingstones-inc.org)

Interfaith Winter Shelter

Contribute to providing a warm, safe place to sleep for homeless community members by attending a training for the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Training is required for new volunteers and recommended to update experienced ones, and will prepare volunteers for any of the shelter sites, including First United Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, First Christian Church and First United Methodist Church. Volunteers will then sign up for as many or as few three-hour shifts between 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. as they would like. The Interfaith Winter Shelter will operate through April 15. Minimum age is 18, except during the setup shift, when children and teens help adult volunteers. Please contact Sara Frommer at (812) 336-5152 or sfrommer@juno.com. (interfaithwintershelter.org/volunteer/training)

Stepping Stones Board Member

Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of youth experiencing homelessness? If so, consider joining the Stepping Stones Board of Directors! Directors serve for a three year term. Regular board meetings are held bi-monthly while subcommittee meetings are held monthly. No previous experience on a board is necessary, although it is a plus! Board members must be passionate about

working with and on behalf of the most vulnerable youth of our community. The board develops and enacts a shared vision for the future of the organization that includes strategic planning, networking, fundraising and more. The board embraces a diversity of opinions and experiences, and believes that everyone has expertise to share! Minimum age is 18. Please contact Sheri Benham at (812) 339-9771 or sbenham@steppingstones-inc.org. (www.steppingstones-inc.org)

Girl Scout Leaders

The Girl Scout program develops girls with courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Central Indiana/Bloomington is looking for creative and passionate volunteers to serve as leaders for these girls. Training is provided and volunteer leaders set their own schedules. Minimum age is 18. Get involved today! Please contact Ashleigh Neal at (317) 924-6854 or aneal@girlscoutsindiana.org. (girlscoutsindiana.org)

City and County Boards and Commissions

Through both city and county boards and commissions, citizens provide input on policies that shape their government. Boards and commissions deal with a variety of issues, including those affecting women, children, the elderly, human rights, animal welfare, historic preservation, housing, utilities, the environment, sustainability and others. Minimum age is 18; other requirements may apply, depending on the position. Additional information for the City positions can be found at www.bloomington.in.gov/clerk or contact Regina Moore at 812-349-3408 or moorer@bloomington.in.gov. Interested persons can visit the county website at www.co.monroe.in.us or call the Commissioners' Office at 812-349-2550.

Food Delivery

Volunteers deliver food to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard clients who are home

bound. They prefer that delivery be done by bicycle in their limited bicycle delivery area; delivery by car is fine outside that area. Once a week between 3 and 6 p.m., each volunteer will shop at the food pantry for his or her assigned household, then deliver the food. The day of the week is determined by both the shopper and the client. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Erin Marshall at (812) 355-6843 or erin@mhcfoodpantry.org. (www.mhcfoodpantry.org)

Warehouse Assistants

The Hoosier Hills Food Bank takes the hunger out of poverty by collecting, storing and distributing food to non-profit agencies that feed the hungry in Brown, Lawrence, Orange, Owen, Martin and Monroe counties. Warehouse volunteers assist with sorting and preparing products, cleaning, donation pick-ups and deliveries to social service agencies, and large mailings. This is a perfect opportunity for groups of people who want to volunteer together! Minimum age is 18 unless supervised by an adult. Please contact Katie Haddad at (812) 334-8374 or volunteer@hhfoodbank.org. (www.hhfoodbank.org)

Caring Companions

Many seniors reach the point where it is starting to get difficult to remain in their homes without some assistance. Caring Companions provides that bit of assistance while being a friendly face and an ongoing contact with the Area 10 Agency on Aging and the outside world. This program matches individuals very carefully with senior citizens, taking location, schedules, needs, and interests into consideration. Volunteers then go to a senior's home, once a week for an hour, using their own transportation. All applicants must undergo criminal history and sexual offender checks. The minimum age is 18. Please contact Holly McLauchlin or Cecelia Trueblood at (812) 876-3383 or ctrueblood@area10agency.org. (www.area10agency.org/rsvp)

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.

See "DIRECTORY", page 13

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 12

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]335-1280volunteer@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.

Options

See disabilities assistance programs.

Stone Belt

See disabilities assistance programs.

Job Links

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

Family Services

El Centro Comunal Latino

Address: 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11

Phone: (812) 355-7513

Web: www.elcentrocomunal.org

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.

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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.

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.stepsstones-inc.org

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

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

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.

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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

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 Panty—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://ecomediacycenter.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.

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Older citizen programs

Area 10 Agency on Aging

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

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

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

Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

Planned Parenthood

See health care.

WIC Program

See family services.

Rent, utility, bill assistance

First call the Township Trustee in the Monroe County Township in which you live: Bean Blossom (876-5109), Benton (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.bgcbloomington.org

About: A guidance organization which fosters the physical, intellectual and social growth of boys

and girls ages 6-18 with a special concern for those most in need of service.

Girls Inc.

Address: 1108 W. 8th St.

Phone: (812) 336-7313

Web: www.girlsinc-monroe.org

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.