

FREE



South Central Community Action Program

SCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

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

Safety~Net

November 2013–
January 2014

Crawford Apartments

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

While I don't usually use literary quotations in speeches, I was moved to do so at the Crawford Apartments Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

'And suddenly you know. It is time to start something new and trust the magic of new beginnings.'

Those words seemed especially fitting, as the doors of Crawford Apartments were officially open, offering a new beginning for new residents.

Such an occasion was, of course, cause for celebration. But I think it's important to remember that when LifeDesigns first proposed the idea of building a low barrier, permanent housing complex, there were mixed community reactions.

But city government chose to partner with LifeDesigns and Shalom Center because we need to be proactive. To provide not only shelter, but empowerment.

Crawford Apartments is a good collaborative project that can alter the lives of our neighbors for the better. Ribbon cutting day turned those apartment units from being a house to a home.

In cities and towns across the country, we've seen the wide-ranging benefits that permanent, supportive housing can provide. And the messages about those benefits need to be strongly delivered most especially to people who might be skeptical of such a project's merits.

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Crawford Apartments Ribbon Cutting

By Cindy Fleetwood, Housing Options Manager for LIFEDesigns, Inc.
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On Friday, September 6, 2013, LIFEDesigns, Inc., The Shalom Center, Great Lakes Capital Fund and many other community partners came together to celebrate the opening of Crawford Apartments in Bloomington, Indiana. Crawford Apartments provides 25 apartment homes for people with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness. As owner developer LIFEDesigns has partnered with The Shalom Center for case management and service coordination; Centerstone

for case management for people who qualify for Medicaid and addictions services; Hayes-Gibson International for property management; Bloomington Housing Authority for rental assistance for five units; Positive Link, A Program of IU Health Bloomington for case management for people with HIV and many other community organizations. LIFEDesigns will provide residents with employment counseling and job

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Future Crawford Apartments resident, Jason Oliphant (center) helps Mayor Mark Kruzan (right) and CEO of LIFEDesigns, Inc., Susan Rinne (left) cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony!

Million Dollar Murray—Why Low Barrier Services Matter, Part 2

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

There's a great deal of misunderstanding in the community about the low barrier model. I explored the approach in the last (July) issue of Safety-Net, but wanted to clarify a few more issues.

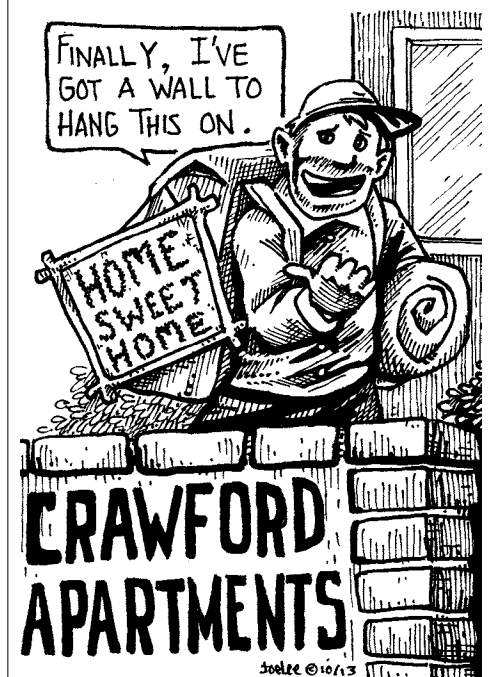
First off, the low barrier model is considered national best practice. Federal and State funding is moving towards this way of providing services. This is based not just on sentiment but

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

Safety-Net is a free volunteer-driven community publication that is published once every three months and is sponsored by the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP). Its mission is two-fold. Part of the mission is to educate community members about programs available that help individuals and families to enrich their lives. And a second part of the mission is to make positive connections between those in our community who have resources, and those who do not. The ultimate goal is to encourage everyone to participate in making Bloomington a special community that links everyone together. A big "thank you" to all of you who encourage the publication of Safety-Net

by contributing articles that make Safety-Net possible. Each issue features the many agencies, as well as City and County programs, that reach out to people and offer much needed community services. At the end of the publication there is an extensive Agency Guide that enables individuals to locate appropriate resources. Comments from readers are most welcome. Please address them to the editor, white@indiana.edu, as well as to the assistant editor, 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/>.



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

LOW BARRIER

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also on effectiveness. The low barrier model is more effective in doing the work of ending homelessness than “high expectation” models.

Some might be surprised at that, but low barrier shelters have been shown to be just as effective as high expectation shelters when working with the same client. For example, required case management has been shown to improve only one outcome—the number of times a client meets with a case manager. Studies have also shown similar participation in mental health services and similar reductions in alcohol and drug use in mandatory vs. voluntary programs.

But there’s another way in which the low barrier model reveals its full effectiveness. His name is Million Dollar

Murray. Low barrier models serve clients at all skill levels, but include (unlike high expectation models) access to services for and ongoing engagement with those who are the most vulnerable on the streets—the chronically homeless. People experiencing chronic homelessness tend to have severe mental illnesses, physical or developmental disabilities, serious addiction disorders, or often some combination of all of them. Their average age of death is 47 years old.

Some advocates for the high barrier model argue that investing limited resources in those most likely to succeed (i.e. not the chronically homeless) results in greater financial efficiency. That’s an interesting argument with perhaps some merit. However, Million Dollar Murray proves them at best incomplete in their argument.



Rev. Forrest Gilmore

Published in The New Yorker, Million Dollar Murray is a case study written by Malcom Gladwell, author of The Tipping Point and Outliers. The case study (subtitled Why problems like homelessness may be easier to solve than to manage) examines a chronically homeless man named Murray and his financial impact on his community’s resources, especially the health care and criminal justice systems, you guessed it, to the tune of over a million dollars in health care costs alone.

Gladwell writes, “The kind of money it would take to solve the homeless problem could well be less than the kind of money it took to ignore it.”

In fact, studies of permanent supportive housing, a low barrier housing model, have shown that very reality to be true to the tune of \$10,000 to \$20,000 in

savings per person per year (and that’s after removing the costs for housing and supportive services). You read that right. It is less expensive to house and provide supportive services to a chronically homeless person than it is to leave them on the streets.

And that’s the crux of the argument—active engagement with the chronically homeless, particularly through housing with supportive services such as our new Crawford Homes program, not only ends homelessness for those who will never be able to end it for themselves but also saves the community enormous amounts of money by doing so... a double win.

To contribute to Shalom Community Center, please mail in a gift to PO Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402-0451 or donate online at www.shalomcommunitycenter.org.

KRUZAN

Continued from page 1

The vast majority of residents stay housed and, equally as important, have greater access to vital services.

It also costs much less than temporary sheltering. On average, it saves the community \$17,000 per person per

year.

But the value in human terms, of greater self-esteem, self-sufficiency and improved quality of life is immeasurable.

The overriding vision of the partnership is that everyone in our community should have stable, decent, affordable housing.

Congratulations go to all the staff, board members, and supporters of LifeDesigns and Shalom for making Bloomington a stronger, more inclusive community.

CRAWFORD APTS

Continued from page 1

placement. Milestone Ventures acted as the developer consultant. Their experience garnered \$6 million needed to construct the apartment building.

Among those in attendance at the Ribbon Cutting were Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Mark Kruzan; Bloomington City Councilman, Andy Ruff; State Senator, Matt Pierce; Kelly Bernero of Great Lakes Capital Fund; Rodney Stockment of Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCA); Lori Phillips-Steele of CSH and many, many more. Over 60 people watched while future Crawford Apartments resident Jason Oliphant and Mayor Kruzan cut the ribbon with support from all the project funders and planners.

The Crawford Apartments came about through the efforts of the South Central Housing Network, a regional and joint body of agencies who have committed to work to end homelessness in our communities. The overriding vision of our project is that all of those in our community should have stable, decent and affordable housing. Our values include self-determination, treating people with integrity, and accessible services for those most in need.

The Crawford Apartments partners provides safe, secure one bedroom apartments for 27 people and provides services such as employment counseling, training and placement; daily living skills instruction; counseling; case management; addictions counseling and support; health and wellness counseling and nutrition instruction in a low barrier setting. The apartments are named after Frank Crawford, a homeless

man who died tragically early in 2011. He was found in a dumpster in the downtown Bloomington area. It is estimated (because no one really knows) that he was only 57 when he died, typical of those who experience homelessness chronically. The project was designed to ensure that this does not happen in our community again.

As we celebrate the opening of Crawford we know that our work has just begun. The lack of affordable and low barrier housing in our region is one of the primary contributing factors to homelessness. Our goals to expand these communities will continue to require the kind of partnerships demonstrated by the Crawford Project. We will continue to work to end homelessness, expand access to affordable housing and create inclusive communities!

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.

VITAL Lends a Helping Hand

By Bethany Terry, VITAL Coordinator, Monroe County Public Library
Tom Bitters, VITAL Tutor

The office for Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) is located at Monroe County Public Library, but the impact of its services is far reaching. VITAL offers one-on-one tutoring for adults wishing to improve their reading, writing, math, and English language skills. At VITAL, learners take an active role in determining their learning objectives. Last year over 110 learners worked with VITAL tutors to reach their personal literacy goals—passing the driver's license test, receiving a GED, finding a job, making doctor's appointments, and reading to their children. Somewhere along the way an added benefit is often discovered—a new friend.

Here is VITAL tutor Tom Bitters's story of how tutoring has impacted his life, as both a learner and a tutor:

"A foreigner is late for work on his first day because the taxi driver can't understand him and speeds off, leaving him by the side of the road. Later the same day, the foreigner stops at a supermarket for some milk and bread, gives his money to the woman at the checkout, but she grows impatient, yells at him, and continues to hold her hand out demanding something more, even though he knows he has given her enough money.

"The city was Moscow, and I was an American foreigner. It was my first week in Russia, and I was already second-guessing my decision to sign a one-year contract. Luckily, there was help. A kind-hearted Russian teacher at the school where I worked taught me how to read a Russian-language map, taught me how to say the name of the school so that a taxi driver would understand, and explained that supermarket clerks often ask for exact change. This teacher volunteered to help me for an hour or so every week and, because of her, I slowly began to speak the language, understand, and even embrace the culture of a foreign country.

"When I retired

and returned to the U.S., I wanted to relocate in a city where the climate was considerably warmer than Moscow and where I could hopefully continue to work with ESL students on a volunteer basis. Online research pointed me to Bloomington and to the VITAL program at Monroe County Public Library. When I came here to check out the community I fell in love with the IU campus and the lively Bloomington downtown.

"I arrived in August and with the help of the VITAL staff began tutoring within two weeks. I currently work with two learners, one from Togo and one from Korea, allowing them to practice their English every week. And while it's true that I came here with little experience, one of the misconceptions is that to be an ESL tutor a person needs to know all the grammar rules, or be able to speak some of the student's native language. Not the case. If you can smile, be patient, and be a good listener, you can make a difference in a person's life. I consider my two learners to be friends now, and if I can make their lives any easier I'll be able to say that I'm repaying the kindness shown to me in Russia."

VITAL offers tutoring services for both native English speakers and English Language Learners. New learners are always welcome, tutors are always needed. For more information, visit VITAL on the web at mcpl.info/vital or call (812) 349-3173.



Tom Bitters and Jeyoung Lee looking at a map of Bloomington

Energy Assistance Program For Low-income Households Underway

By Doug Wilson, Director of Communications
South Central Community Action Program

The time when low-income households in Monroe, Brown, Morgan and Owen counties may apply for assistance with winter energy costs is here.

The South Central Community Assistance Program (SCCAP) began accepting applications on Nov. 4 for assistance with winter heating and the purchase of bulk fuel. Applications and other program materials are available on the Energy Assistance page at inccap.org.

SCCAP has received an initial allocation of \$758,122 in federal funding from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) for energy assistance this winter, which is adequate to serve about 1,500 clients. Last year, SCCAP received \$2.7 million and served more than 4,000 clients.

With the U.S. Congress having passed a continuing resolution, SCCAP anticipates additional energy assistance funding, but how much this will be and when it will be available is unclear. SCCAP estimates that it may receive additional funding close to the end of November.

Eligibility for the Energy Assistance program is based on gross household income—household size—maximum annual income: 1—\$17,235; 2—\$23,265; 3—\$29,295; 4—\$35,325; 5—\$41,355.

The purpose of the Energy Assistance Program is to help keep members of low-income families safe and healthy, and assist them in achieving energy self-sufficiency and avoiding utility disruptions.

Customers are encouraged to control energy costs and identify strategies which allow them to pay their future energy bills. SCCAP will offer its energy education workshop for those who want to participate. Participants will receive information on staying warm while reducing utility costs.

Each household applying for the Energy Assistance Program will need to provide income documentation for the past 12 months for all household members ages 18 and older, current heat and electric bills, social security cards and lease information for those who rent.

For additional information about energy assistance, the public should call one of the following offices: Monroe County, 812-339-3447; Brown County, 812-988-6636; Morgan County, 812-342-1518; Owen County, 812-342-1518.

SCCAP is also seeking applicants for its Weatherization Program. The Weatherization Program reduces energy consumption in low-income households and insures that each client has a safe, operating heat source. Each client receives a furnace inspection and an energy audit. SCCAP uses private contractors to repair or replace heat sources, install insulation and seal the homes. The program is federally funded and is free to participants in Brown, Monroe, Morgan and Owen counties.

See "ENERGY ASSISTANCE", page 4

NEW LEAF–NEW LIFE

By Wain Martin, Jr.
Chair, New Leaf-New Life Board

What is New Leaf–New Life?

New Leaf–New Life is a volunteer driven 501 c (3) social service organization whose mission is to reduce recidivism of persons released from the Monroe County jail i.e. the Monroe County Correctional Center by providing programs and services in the jail and transition support after their release. Our activities in the jail also make our overcrowded jail a calmer and safer place for both inmates and staff.

New Leaf–New Life programss

New Leaf–New Life programs reduce recidivism by helping inmates who choose to participate make changes in their attitudes and behaviors and providing them with transition support that will increase their chances of avoiding re-offending after release. We provide a number of programs in the jail implemented by well-qualified and dedicated volunteers from the Bloomington community.

With nothing to do but fester day after day, jail inmates tend to become more bitter and anti-social than before their incarceration. We believe that their time in jail can better be used to acquire attitudes, skills and strategies that enable them to improve their lives upon release.

During the past summer New Leaf–New Life facilitated an amazing I.U. class held in the Monroe County Correctional Center. With the support of the Jail Administration and staff, Lindsey Campbell-Badger of the I.U. Communications and Culture Department offered a Public Speaking class in the jail whose students were a combination of regular I.U. students and inmates of the jail. The regular I.U. students received grades and credit for the class and the jail inmates received grades only.

Most of the instruction was in the form of

projects completed by small teams composed of an equal number of regular I.U. students and jail inmates. The projects were structured around social issues and the deliverables were in the form of oral presentations. The results were spectacular. In addition to acquiring speaking skills, many of the regular students and the jail inmates found the class to be a life-changing experience.

More about our therapeutic programs and services

Our Addicts in Recovery (AIR) program is a full-time intensive addictions recovery program in a dedicated 12-man jail block. The participants agree to help each other overcome their addictions. With oversight by the part time Program Director, the group is self-governing, setting its schedule, and electing senior leaders.

The men work through standard therapeutic programs such as Life Without a Crutch and Anger Management for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Clients. Although the content of the materials being used has a role, the main benefits from the program come from the group forming a community and sharing their life experiences, problems, hopes and fears with each other in the discussions triggered by the materials. We also have a retired therapist who comes in periodically to work with them, and other NL/NL volunteers provide enrichment programs including play reading, writing exercises, music, and art projects that can be completed and sent to children and family members.

Under a separate contract with the jail New Leaf /New Life operates a computer assisted GED and Job Preparation program in the jail. In our other therapeutic programs NL/NL volunteers provide afternoon discussion groups on a variety of topics including problem solving, making the best

of time in jail, substance abuse, values clarification and anger management. And NL/NL volunteers provide many enrichment activities for both men and women such as Women Writing for a Change, creative writing for men, literature reading and discussion, arts and crafts geared toward strengthening family relations, music, drama, and recreational activities such as Bingo. All together we interact with three-fourths of the inmates in the jail.

Transition planning and support is recognized as an important part of successful re-entry. We have volunteers coming to the jail to meet with inmates individually and as a group to give them information and help them access available resources upon release. We also provide transition support after release at our facility at 1010 South Walnut Street.

The Program Director and volunteers devote a lot of time and effort to assisting with applications to Amethyst and Ivy Tech, obtaining birth certificates, reading glasses, clothing, bus tickets and a variety of other things that help with transition. We work with people from Centerstone, the Forensic Diversion Program, the Recovery Engagement Center, Amethyst House and other treatment centers to help individuals find addiction treatment. We have support groups outside and also have volunteers and a part time staff member available at our out of jail facility to provide clothing, bus passes, toiletries, job and housing counseling, etc.

These New Leaf–New Life programs provide many benefits to our community. Every person who comes out of jail prepared to stay out is more likely to become an asset to the community rather than a problem and so our programs help Bloomington become safer and more civil. Our programs also reduce the tensions and disturbances in the jail and help make it a less stressful and safer place for both the inmates and staff.

The Affordable Care Act

By Nancy Woolery, City of Bloomington

The Affordable Care Act Volunteers of Monroe County (ACAVMC) have organized around the belief that information about the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) should be more readily accessible to residents of Monroe County, Indiana. We currently staff Health Insurance Community Fairs to provide unbiased, non-political information about the new healthcare law (ACA) with the hope that more uninsured members of our community will achieve healthcare coverage, many for the first time.

These Health Insurance Community Fairs provide an opportunity to understand basic health insurance terminology such as the difference between a co-pay and a deductible and, additionally, what types of information the ACA website requires from individuals once they are logged into the site. These include a current email address, financial information such as W-2s, and social security numbers of those seeking coverage (adults and children). No one can say how much it will cost an individual/family until they enter the ACA website because of the decisions that

See "CARE", page 5

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Continued from page 3

To be eligible to have your owner-occupied or rental home weatherized, your household income must not exceed

200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The income limits by family size are: 1 person in household—up to \$22,980; 2 people—\$31,020; 3 people—\$39,060; 4 people—\$47,100; 5 people—\$55,140; 6 people—\$63,180. For apartment buildings to be weatherized, two-thirds

of the occupants must be eligible for the program and all units in the building must be weatherized. To apply, call 812-339-3447, ext. 275.

SCCAP is a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and

economic independence. Its programs include Affordable Rental Housing, the Circles Initiative, Energy Assistance, Family Development, Head Start, Individual Development Accounts, Section 8 Housing and Weatherization.

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

Poem from Writing for a Change Foundation Bloomington

*This is a poem from
the Saturday circle
at the Corrections
Center*

Your beauty nourishes hearts,
Your voice creates a desire
It makes my body strong
“he is weary.”
So may I say
There is no other girl
In harmony with his heart
As I am the only one,
Soon to be Mrs. Drake.

by Amanda Biggs

CARE

Continued from page 5

need to be made. It is important to note an estimated 90% of potential enrollees will qualify for a federal subsidy which will lower their premium costs, making health insurance more affordable. And for those individuals and families who may not qualify for the ACA, brochures about local service agencies offering other options for healthcare are provided.

While we cannot, by law, help attendees through their specific enrollment process, we can connect them with licensed certified Navigators who can offer that particular assistance. The ACAVMC are partners with the City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department and the Monroe County Public Library.

The following poems were written by inmates taking part in the New Leaf–New Life Air Program

I MISSED YOU, I MISSED YOU TOO

by Lewis Siegrist

ONE, TWO

So much for my smile

I chewed my bottom lip off with anxiety

THREE, FOUR

So much for my heart

It was impaled by the spikes in my stomach

So much for my soul,

It was torn from my body in pursuit of her when she fled

TUCK, PULL THROUGH

So much for my love—

It's spilled out on the floor leaving me hollow and alone.

SLIP OVER, TESTING—TESTING

What am I going to do?—Are you sure about this—

My unhealthy voice trembles as it whispers

My thoughts—they flap like tattered flags in my cemetery
mind

My mom slept there.

But she awoke as the rope drew taught – my feet flop like

A washed up fish

I've missed you she said—Just as I thought I couldn't be
granted one

Last wish... finally... we hug and kiss.

.....

I SEE MY BUS COMING

by Lewis Siegrist

I chisel a poem onto this white sheet of paper

Here in the Monroe County Jail

My final step before the big decision

My pencil tip, needle sharp, jabbing my words

Like the tattoo gun I've used countless times

On myself and others.

While I sit shirtless in my orange pants

I stifle the tears, and the fears, and the

Urges, to bury the tool into every mother

Fucking neck in my sight

Until it breaks down to the size of a golf pencil.

There's no doubt the flames that dance and tickle

My skin will soon be real

I am a hitch hiker on the highway to hell

Trying to catch my ride to eternity

At 13 I wrapped my stick with a change of clothes,

And a biscuit, inside the bandana I

So lovingly kept to my heart.

I drop kicked my family goodbye,

And walked the plank, Triple-lindy-ing my way into a life

Of crime, violence, broken hearts, both mine and theirs,

And recidivism

LOL recidivism

I've cookie-cuttered 5 little girls, maybe more that
paternity

Hasn't established, and I've married twice

One more than I should've, and two more than

I deserved.

My wife now is a gorgeous little thing,

A heartless little creature that, at times

Can become the most caring soul I've ever known. (At
times)

I thank her a thousand times a day for

Putting up with my shit, giving me my youngest

And brutally showing me that you really do know

How much you love someone,

When they are gone.

It's obvious that I truly love her,

As undeniable as the fact that

The body needs oxygen to survive

She was my oxygen.

Now my thumb is out

The temperature is rising,

Sweat is forming on my brow,

And I can see a bus coming in the distance.

Yep, I see my bus coming.

See "NL/NL POETRY", page 6

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

NL/NL POETRY *Continued from page 5*

Life Without You *by Vincent Cardwell*

Life without the best thing I ever had
Is very tough top deal with,
No one can replace you
Nor can they match your style.
I cannot see any person that can make
me smile,
The way that you have throughout our
lifetime
Everything hurts when I hear your
name or worse when I hear our song,
The song that we both sing and dance
to until we realize the other is no
longer there.
Life without you can make the
strongest of the strong turn weak
They are put on a mental and
emotional rollercoaster,
As their body starts to break down
from loss of love.
Loss of love as in I can never breathe
another breath,
Without thinking of you in-between
every exhale
It hurts so much with you not around,
My heart feels as if it has drowned,
There is no air as I gasp for one last
breath to want you to be there with me
forever.
Just letting you know how life would
be without you.

Don't Give Up *by Vincent Cardwell*

Light bills need to be paid
Rent is three months late
Got to catch four busses to work
Eating lunch is like I barely ate
DON'T GIVE UP....

Same clothes for a week
Nothing but frowns—no smiles

Haven't showered in three days
Nor had sex to relieve stress in a while
DON'T GIVE UP

Dreams never come true
Faith flushed through the pipes
Almost had to slit my wrist
Because of my shitty ass life
I DIDN'T GIVE UP

Still here on this earth
Life is just a little bit better
Was here all alone
Until you said let's do this together
WE DIDN'T GIVE UP!

A Love That Is Broken *by Joey Thacker*

.....

A love that is broken and cannot be
repaired will cripple you
inside and out—pain everywhere.
A love that is broken will shatter your
mind. It will have you so
lost and confused feeling you let no
one inside!
A love that is broken will make you
sleep to escape, because
awake means to feel and feel means to
break!
A love that is broken will have you so
insecure and weak, even
when you try to be strong your voice
cracks when you speak!
A love that is broken will have you
down on your knees throwing
prayers up above, it's cost from falling
in love!
A love that is broken will make you fall
apart, and since love
always breaks give no one your heart!
A love that is broken will make you
clearly see, that true love
is spelled TIME!

.....

The Truth In Me *by Ryan Lady*

If you could see my heart with perfect
clarity
Or touch it with an angel's gentle
dexterity
Then you would certainly know my
love for you.
And through these velvet words I hope
to prove
That when I love—it's always true
If there was a heaven on earth—it'd be
in your heart
For if I had to bet—that's where I'd
start
you make the worst in me a better
place
That's why I love to see your smiling
face
For when you smile I tend to hold my
breath
A moment I'll forever see in depth
In these moments your face glows and
your eyes shine
And everything about you becomes
purely divine
I wonder when if ever—will you ever
be mine
And I don't know precisely what you
conceive of me
But I tell you this—everything is built
from possibility
So if there ever comes a time please
believe me sincere
When I say the words—I love you my
dear

Free Me From This Prison *by Ryan Lady*

Free me from this prison
I beg of you
For you are the one
The one that has bound me
And it is funny now
Now that I choose to speak
For I have the dead heart
The dead heart that beats

But truth be told
I would much rather behold
My heart to finally stop
Because even as I beg of you
Volcanic tears burning
Burning as they drop
I know that you can never
Ever give back that which you have got
So as I swim within a murky brook
A red fish turning blue
I have one wish
One wish for you
To cherish my love that you have took
Yes, my love
That is how you bound me
And in this prison
A prison of loneliness and love
You will never free me
Free me from my love

Untitled *by Ryan Lady*

.....

The day that you understand
the life that I have lived
And look inside my heart
learning exactly why I give
Then on that day you shall know me
much better than myself
Food for your soul
forever promising good health
Simple words with shocking
magnitude
ringing true within your ears
Attitude for hate
drawing love into the clear
Painting my wish to live for you
to love and to protect
Safeguarding your dreams
from society's neglect
For many people succeed
in the devil's plan to fail
And if they came to bring you harm
I would give them 'em hell
And on that day you would see
what it is within this man
To make him die for a dream
would you then understand

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

The following are poems from the Shalom Writers' Circle

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

A Sign of Hope

Rick May

Oh, what a joy it surely must be
To no longer have to roam
And have a caring, gentle soul
Say "here is your new home."

At first, confusion enters
With "can I truly cope?"
It's been so long since
Fortune smiled,
I felt I had no hope.

Good luck to all who've
Finally found
A haven for your soul
This sign of hope may strengthen you
As you learn to keep control.

(Good luck to all who have found
a new home. Take care of it and
continued good fortune)

.....

All Been Done before

Rick May

King of the hill
End of the line,
Hours of confusion,
All's going fine.

Before you object
Or think life's a bore,
Let me remind you,
It's been done before.

One day, people love you,
Next, who could care less,
Monday, pure stardom,
Friday, penniless.

Don't be too surprised, my friend,
It's life, and nothin' more,
Rainbows or catastrophes
It's all been done before.

.....

Homeless

*A song by Billy Young
Dedicated to Shalom*

Broken
You found another site of ground
Unspoken
Not a word or a sound

Open
You'll go lookin' for another way
[yet a] Token
Of someone down left to pray.

(Bridge)
There's a poverty I know
It's in the poorness of a yearning out
I may try and live
I could try and give
Though I'm open, I'm still broken.

But it's the broken ones who try and
understand.
Takes a broken one, who will lend a
hand
And care, yeah, no matter where.

Closer
I know I'm closer to the edge.
Past ready
To let go of the ledge

Choices
Well, you know, they'll come in twos
and fews
Voices
In a hundred afterviews

Dreamer
You gonna be a dreamer till the end
Bewildered
In a smile or a grin

(Bridge 2)
No way today to find a why
To replace what's lost within

Believer
Believe to your last breath
Though it's certain
It's death to a neighbor death

(Bridge 3)
& there's a prayer I used to know
Now my words come and fall in
overflow
Please try and forgive
And let my dream light live
Though I'm broken, I'm still open.

(Bridge 4)
Though my breath is on the breeze
And my life's like the falling leaves
Though I'm open, I'm just a-hopin'
Though I'm copin', I'm still broken.

No way tonight, to find the fight
To save what's been lost within.

Broken
[Ya know] you found another site of
ground
Hopin'
You're gonna make that turnaround.

.....

A Choice of Note

Kay Bull

I made a wish upon a star
Long ago to play the guitar
Many think that may not have
been the wisest choice of idle
Wishes though at the time tasted
Most delicious in all my senses
But in the end the fences it has
Built around me like an army
Trained to protect my sovereignty
A desert island of right and wrong
At the center of which is the tower of
song

.....

Life

David Field

Why is life so hard?
Because if we didn't fall down,
We'd never learn to walk.

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

People Power Is What Makes It Happen!

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

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



Holiday Guide to Giving and Volunteering

Give back this holiday season!

Use the Holiday Guide to

Giving and Volunteering to connect to opportunities for service and giving. Please

keep in mind that many "day-of" holiday volunteer opportunities fill up fast. Keeping your dates flexible and understanding that your help will be needed most on the days before and after the formal holidays will give you more options to connect to service during the holiday season. Many opportunities are great for families and people of all ages! Questions? Please contact Bet Savich at (812) 349-3472 or volunteer@bloomington.in.gov. (BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org/Holidays)

Furniture Pickup and Distribution

Each Saturday morning, the St. Vincent De Paul Society distributes furniture from their warehouse to those in need. Volunteers are needed from 8:30–10:30 a.m. to help with this distribution, and with delivery as well. Volunteers are also needed for furniture pickups during the week. People are welcome to volunteer with them once a year, twice a week, or anything in between. Volunteers should be able to lift and move furniture and appliances or have a pickup truck. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Donald Van Arman at (812) 361-3344 or donald@vanarman.com. (www.bloomingtonsvdp.org)

Advocate for Domestic Violence Survivors

You don't have to be an expert to do something to stop domestic violence. As a part of the Middle Way House Crisis Line or On-Scene Advocates team, which provide 24-hour crisis intervention response to victims of domestic and sexual violence, you will gain advocacy skills and learn about the impact of domestic violence on individuals and society. Crisis Liners offer resources and a supportive ear, help callers create safety plans, and conduct intake interviews with new shelter residents. After volunteering on the crisis line, volunteers can train to be On-Scene Advocates, who offer support, information, and resources to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, at the hospital or on the phone. Minimum age is 18. Interested in taking action? Plan to attend the next volunteer training. Please contact Debra Morrow at volunteer@middlewayhouse.org or (812) 337-4510 for information. (www.middlewayhouse.org)

Banneker at the View

Help students excel by reading with them, reviewing basic school-age math, facilitating art and science activities, and engaging them in active games to stimulate creativity and critical thinking. Whether you simply enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to do so, you will enjoy hands-on interaction! Volunteers must attend an orientation, then commit to serve from 3:30–5 p.m. once or twice a week, Mon. through Thurs. until semester's end. This City Parks and Recreation program through the Banneker Community Center is held at Fairview Elementary School. Minimum age is 18. Sign up at bit.ly/BannekerAtTheView or contact Kim Ecenbarger at (812) 349-3739 or ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov. (www.bloomington.in.gov/parks)

Tutor at Edgewood Jr. High School

Edgewood Jr. High School in Ellettsville is seeking volunteers to spend one class period per week with a 7th or 8th grade student struggling with school work. You will help with math, English, social studies or science homework on a one-to-one basis, assist with organizational skills, and generally encourage students to engage in school. Volunteers are needed between 7:25 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., Mon. through Fri. A short, informal orientation will acquaint you with staff and the school, determine a tutoring time slot and answer your questions. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Kathleen Weller at (812) 272-6483 or katkins@bluemarble.net. (www.rbbesc.k12.in.us)

Interfaith Winter Shelter Training

Imagine being on the streets during the winter without a safe place to sleep. The Interfaith Winter Shelter makes it possible for volunteers to help! Consider volunteering this winter for evening, overnight, or early morning shifts at one of the rotating sites. Minimum age is 16; 12 if with an adult. Training is required and is offered regularly. Please contact Connie Pepler at dncpep@att.net or (812) 272-8492 for information. (www.interfaithwintershelter.org)

Feed Hungry Habitat volunteers!

Do your friends and family tell you what a great cook or baker you are? Put those skills to work feeding Habitat for Humanity's hungry volunteer teams! You can provide morning snacks, side items, or lunches. You will get to meet the construction crew, receive hearty accolades, and best of all, see how your food contributes to ending

poverty housing! Minimum age is 18; 10 if with an adult. Please contact Phil Bowers at (812) 331-4069 ext. 202 or volunteers@monroecountyhabitat.org. (www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

Become a Circles® Initiative Ally!

Circles is an intentional way for people to build relationships across class and race lines to end poverty in their communities. As a Circles® Initiative Ally, you will provide friendship, acting as an extended family member to a person or family living in poverty. Each circle consists of one person or family working their way out of poverty, called a Circle Leader, and three Allies. Circles work together to accomplish specific goals set by the Leader to increase his or her resources. Allies, who learn to see poverty in a different light, provide knowledge and insight relating to a variety of life circumstances, social connections and networking. Allies meet monthly with their Circle and attend Thursday evening community dinners twice a month. Allies receive on-going training and support. A commitment of 18 months is requested. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Linda Patton, South Central Community Action Program, at (812) 339-3447 ext. 206 or lindap@insccap.org. (www.insccap.org)

Help Seniors Navigate Medicare

Medicare is a vital program for older adults but can be a confusing process to navigate. Assist seniors by becoming a Medicare volunteer through one of three programs offered by the Area 10 Agency on Aging at their office in Ellettsville. Volunteers during the Medicare 'open enrollment' period, Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, meet seniors one-on-one and walk them through the onsite "Plan Finder". Training is provided; volunteers commit to a three-hour shift once or twice weekly. Volunteers for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program provide one-on-one counseling during one four-hour shift weekly, make a one-year commitment and must complete 24 hours of training plus periodic local in-service trainings. Volunteers for the Senior Medicare Patrol educate older adults receiving Medicare and Medicaid benefits to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud. These volunteers distribute educational materials and make presentations to community groups. No previous experience or knowledge is required. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Holly McLaughlin at (812) 876-3383 or hmclaughlin@area10agency.org. (www.area10agency.org)

See "VOLUNTEER!", page 10

Special Section: Articles from L240 (Literature and Public Life)

The following articles have been written by the students of a service-learning course at Indiana University. L240 (Literature and Public Life) examines the representation of poverty in both literature and in our own community and emphasizes learning through community engagement. It is taught by Prof. Shannon Gayk. For more information about service-learning at IU, visit: <http://citl.indiana.edu/programs/servicelearning/>

IU Makes Giving Back a Part of Its Curriculum

By Emma Needham

With the school year back in full swing, more college students are getting involved in the community's service organizations. For the tenth consecutive year, Indiana University students are serving throughout the Bloomington area as part of the university's Service-Learning Program. Students have the option to register for service-learning courses, which incorporate community service into their curricula to enrich standard course work.

These classes are offered in a variety of university departments and schools, including the Kelley School of Business and School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Students participating in these courses are required to complete a certain amount of service throughout the semester, depending upon which course they are taking. They can even apply for grants to design and implement their own service projects.

Many local charities and service organizations are in turn affiliated with the Service-Learning Program, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fair Trade Bloomington, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project, and the Shalom Community Center, amongst others.

Job Links at the Shalom Center Instills Hope in Clients

By Alyson Malinger & Megan Henry

Located merely blocks from the classrooms of Indiana University, the Shalom Community Center seeks to empower its clients to work toward their own educations and vocational aspirations. In addition to its educational programs, the Shalom Community Center provides its clients an employment assistance program: Job Links. Job Links representatives offer a range of services and training opportunities, including job counseling and placement, on-site training, food service training, resume assistance, and transportation

assistance with bus tickets. A Job Links representative emphasized that the goal of the program is to bring out the highest potential in all of its clients, noting that the people the program serves are good people "with bad luck." Job Links seeks to help these people see what they have to offer. "We must throw hope into our people to get through life," the representative said.

October Outreach at Indiana University

By Lily Ross

October was a busy month for Indiana University students and their organized outreach programs. Residential dorm buildings across the IU campus held Socktober. Socktober is a fundraising drive that collects mainly warm socks along with other clothes, toiletries and canned goods to donate to the Shalom Community Center. Clients at the Shalom Community Center will be provided with these donations. Plastic collections bins have been placed in dorm buildings throughout campus where students can drop off donations.

On Halloween evening, students from IU took part in the Trick or Treat for Cans. Trick or Treat for Cans is a food drive where Indiana University students dress up and collect canned food goods for the Hoosier Hill Food Bank. Organized by the First Year Experience program at IU, Trick or Treat for Cans is one of many philanthropic events IU holds each year.

Indiana University student committees also help to organize Monroe County's yearly CROP Hunger Walk. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Started in 1969, there are now over 2,000 communities that participate in the CROP walk. The CROP Walk takes place in Monroe County took place on October 20th. 25% of the funds raised stay in Monroe County and is distributed to local food banks and community centers. 75% is distributed to other countries around the world to help provide food and clean, safe water.

Monroe County Introduces New Permanent Housing for the Chronically Homeless

By Paul Hayes

The opening of the Crawford Apartments on September 6, 2013 provided the first permanent housing for those experiencing chronic homelessness in Monroe County. This was seen as a huge victory for local organizations such as the Shalom Center and the Interfaith Winter Shelter, which have long sought to provide a more stable housing option for members of our community that have been without homes for several years. The Crawford building provides low-barrier apartments to those that are most vulnerable, including those suffering from disabilities or addictions. The Crawford Apartments also offers its tenants the ability to receive help by working regularly with a case worker who will encourage residents to set goals for themselves in hope that they will gradually discover a healthier and more positive lifestyle.

Even though Crawford Apartments has been open for less than two months, it is already easy to see its powerful effect on its residents. One resident noted that his self-esteem had dropped to an all-time low from his experience of homelessness and poverty and that he no longer communicated with his family. Once being accepted into Crawford Apartments he was able to reconnect with his family, boosting his self-esteem and providing himself with a drive to live a more positive life. This is a simple example of how Crawford can positively affect the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

The idea of permanent housing has actually been around for about twenty to thirty years and has an outstanding track record. Larger cities, such as New York City, have a larger number of individuals experiencing homelessness which could be used as a model for Bloomington. New York City has been implementing this permanent shelter solution since 1980's and has reported great success. Tax payers are able to save money and the city is able to supply more relief amenities for the homeless. Overall the Crawford

Apartments has had strong support from the community and appears to provide a potential path those who have experienced homelessness to better their lives.

Interfaith Winter Shelter Provides Warm Beds During Cold Months

By Amanda Gigli & Caroline Stephens

The Interfaith Winter Shelter is a low-barrier, emergency shelter that was created in 2009 to provide a place for those experiencing homelessness in Bloomington to sleep during the cold winter months. Low-barrier means that the only requirement to stay at the shelter is good behavior. The primary purpose of the shelter is to provide a warm, safe sleeping space, regardless of whether any individual may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The Interfaith Winter Shelter has several locations around Bloomington. The shelter moves locations depending on the day of the week. First United Methodist Church hosts the shelter on Sundays. First United Church hosts the shelter on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays. Trinity Episcopal Church hosts the shelter on Wednesdays. First Christian Church hosts the shelter on Thursdays and Fridays. The latest information will be available soon at any one of the shelter locations.

Guests can start arriving as early as 8:30pm, but the shelter does not open until 9pm. Guests can come to use the shelter as late as 10:30pm. After that time the shelter will be locked. While guests can leave at any time, after 10:30pm, they will not be allowed back into the building with the exception of two smoking breaks provided during the night. The shelter closes at 7am the next morning. The Interfaith Winter Shelter will be open beginning on November 1st.

Poverty and Hunger in Bloomington

Poverty in Bloomington has been a frequent issue in the local media. The US Census Bureau reports that 39.9% of Bloomington's residents are under the poverty line. Even excluding the town's

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Free Community Tax Service

Do you enjoy helping others? How about working with numbers? The Free Community Tax Service gives low and moderate income taxpayers assistance with the electronic filing of federal and state tax returns. Volunteer positions include site greeters, tax preparers, and site coordinators. A January training will be conducted by Ivy Tech Community College and Internal Revenue Service representatives. Bilingual individuals with proficiency in Spanish, Korean, and Chinese are also needed as tax preparers. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills and serve a community need! Minimum age is 18. Please contact Ashley Hall, Monroe County United Way, at (812) 334-8370 or ash@monroeunitedway.org. (www.monroeunitedway.org)

Community Engagement Coordinator

The Bloomington Community Orchard is seeking a volunteer Community Engagement Coordinator to connect the community with the sustainable initiatives and high-level vision of the Orchard. This volunteer will work closely with the Outreach, Operations and Communications Teams, as well as the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include informing the community about volunteer workdays, connecting with service groups, and overseeing and tracking volunteer engagement. During a three month training period, the volunteer will attend Orchard activities, learn the systems, and become a part of the Orchard community. This position offers a unique opportunity to make a sustainable difference in the Bloomington community. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Josh David at (812) 360-8116 or governance@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org. (www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org)

Habitat Restore

Be a regular volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County ReStore and build

relationships that last a lifetime! Available positions include Sales Assistants, Showroom Staging, Bookstore, Donation Pick-Up, Donation Intake, Donation Repair and Facility Maintenance. Volunteers keep the store running, raising money to build houses for those in need in our community! Some positions require lifting of up to 50 pounds; many do not. Habitat staff will work with you to find the best fit for your interests and talents. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Phil Bowers at (812) 331-4069 ext. 202 or volunteers@monroecountyhabitat.org. (www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

Circles® Guiding Coalition Members

The Monroe County Circles® Initiative is an intentional way for people to build relationships across class and race lines to end poverty in their communities. The Guiding Coalition, its advisory board, is seeking new members, including people of all ages, economic classes, faiths, political viewpoints and races. Members serve two year terms and receive in-depth training. They are also asked to be involved in practical ways, such as becoming a Circle Ally, assisting with child care during the weekly meal, assisting with the meal itself, or offering transportation. Commitment between meetings is usually 2–5 hours. Please contact Linda Patton, South Central Community Action Program, at (812) 339-3447 ext. 206 or lindap@insccap.org. (www.insccap.org)

VITAL Volunteer Orientation—Dec. 12

An initial orientation for new Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) volunteers will provide information about volunteering at the Monroe County Public Library and VITAL, give an overview of adult literacy issues, and explain the program's expectations of volunteers, learners, and staff involved. Orientations are held monthly, and are mandatory before volunteering with the VITAL program. Registration is required. Orientation will be held on Dec. 12 from 10:30–11 a.m. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Bethany Terry at (812) 349-3173 or vital@mcpl.info. (www.mcpl.info)

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large population of college students (many of whom are included in these numbers), about 1 in 6 people in Bloomington live below the poverty line. There many resources available to those experiencing poverty or hunger. Several organizations have arisen out of the need for food alone, such as Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, the Community Kitchen of Monroe County, and Shalom Community Center.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, located at 1100 W Allen St Suite A, offers healthy food for those in need, as well as educational classes on food preparation. The Community Kitchen, located at 1515 S Rogers, provides hot meals to those experiencing poverty. The Community Kitchen is a low-barrier organization and does not require evidence of need in order to get food. The Shalom Community Center, located at 620 S Walnut St, provides free breakfast and lunch Monday–Friday to those experiencing poverty as well. The Shalom Center is also a low-barrier organization. In addition to these options, there are a number of food pantries run by churches in the area. For more information about food assistance or hunger relief, see the listing of agencies on the final pages of every edition of Safety-Net.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Where do you go if you want to feed your family healthy food, but find it to be prohibitively expensive? Mother Hubbard's Cupboard provides healthy, nourishing food, as well as education on nutrition and gardening. When explaining the organization's mission, Mary Beth Harris, Director of Development said, "Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is food pantry and we are set up like a grocery store. People come in and tell us how many people are in their household and then they go and select their food." This system has been very efficient for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. "This is called the client choice system where patrons select the food they want to take home," said Harris. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard operates on the honor system, which means patrons do not have to justify that they need food. "If you say you need help, we believe you and trust you," said Harris. Patrons are only allowed to shop at the pantry once a week, but can shop for as much food as they need. One goal of the food pantry is to increase the amount of food access in Bloomington for those in need. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard distributes thirteen thousand bags of food each month. Harris states, "However, there are always gaps in any food system and there is always more to do." Mother Hubbard's Cupboard does reach a large part of the population. "In a given year we serve seven to eight thousand patrons and a third of those are children," said Harris. Families with children have a harder time

finding enough food, but Mother Hubbard's Cupboard makes a strong effort to help these families.

The gardening program also helps many families grow their own food. This program teaches people to gain the knowledge and skills to grow their own garden, containing all healthy and fresh food. The Mother Hubbard's Cupboard website states, "Our Garden Education Program promotes long-term community and family self-sufficiency." Furthermore the Nutrition Education Program helps patrons learn to cook healthy meals on their own with a tight budget. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard provides cooking lessons and recipes. This food pantry is always available to help all people in need. "There are a wide variety of circumstances that lead people to come here."

The Community Kitchen

Since 1983, the Community Kitchen of Monroe County has been providing meals to those in need. Its mission is "to work, alone and in collaboration with others, to eliminate hunger in Monroe County and surrounding areas through direct service, education and advocacy." The services offered by the kitchen are open to everyone, but target low income and disabled citizens.

The Community Kitchen offers dinner Monday through Saturday from 4-6 pm, and also has the option of two take-home meals per customer. This is a vital service to the community, as some patrons use the kitchen as their main source of food throughout the week. The kitchen also offers sack lunch meals to children in need through their "Feed Our Future" program. Selected low income children can also receive backpacks full of weekend food via the "Backpack Buddies" program. During the summer, the Kitchen aids the children who would be receiving free or reduced school lunches by providing them with sack breakfasts or lunches. The Community Kitchen also partners with IU Health Bloomington Hospital's Positive Link program to provide two re-heatable meals to selected HIV positive patients in the community. Finally, through the Senior Links program, the kitchen serves one re-heat able meal a day to selected low-income seniors.

Patrons who use the meals from the Community Kitchen praise the good work the Kitchen does. When asked if the city of Bloomington as a whole did an excellent job at providing food, a recipient of meals at The Community Kitchen said that when compared to larger cities, such as Indianapolis, "Absolutely, there is no comparison."

Why hunger relief matters: A Student Perspective

By Danielle Dunn

It is difficult for Indiana students to remain unaware of the issues surrounding poverty

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and hunger in the larger Bloomington community. Just by walking down the sidewalks of Kirkwood Avenue, students are likely to encounter people in need. What students might not see, though, are the efforts that are being made by many to improve the quality of life for those experiencing poverty or hunger in Bloomington. Community Kitchen, a low-barrier hunger relief organization, provides free food to any who need it. Citizens from all backgrounds come to Community Kitchen. “Kitchens and shelters are very important for the survival of many that are not able to meet their basic needs,” said Gina Graham, volunteer at Community Kitchen. “Without them, it is questionable how thousands would live from day to day and feel safe.” Further, Graham noted, the Kitchen seeks to provide “the basic needs for those who truly cannot provide for themselves.” Hunger relief agencies like the Community Kitchen serve an important role in our community by helping ensure that those experiencing poverty or homelessness can at least count on a nutritious meal once a day.

Resources available for children

By *Nicole Dent, Janelle Wilhelm, Marissa Emery, Alexandra Elliot, Ellie Seta, Haleigh Holtman, Grace Moore*

Heading in the Right Direction with Head Start

The first years of life have the potential to greatly affect the development of the human brain. By age five, children develop 90% of their adult brains. Without the proper fundamentals to nurture this growth, children risk incapacity to live to their full potential.

The Monroe County branch of Head Start (HS) is a learning program that prepares children of low-income families to continue their educations. With 11 locations and 17 classrooms in Monroe County, HS provides the in-school and community support that children need to develop a learning foundation. HS enhances students’ social and cognitive skills, as well as offers services beyond education, including health and dental screening, family support, and a full nutrition program.

HS is entirely free for families that meet the requirements. To find out if your family qualifies, call Family Services at 812-334-8350. To qualify, children must be three-years-old before August 1 of the current school year and must be under

five-years-old before August 2. Children do not need to be potty trained to enroll. Families must also meet federal poverty income guidelines.

Families that qualify will fill out an application and meet with a Family Advocate to complete the process. Although classes have already begun this semester, parents can still apply and put their children on the waitlist. Spots in the HS program open throughout the year, allowing space for more students. The Head Start program wants to make sure that each child has the opportunity to begin his or her education in the most advantageous way. For more information, visit the website: www.inscap.org.

Backpack Buddies: For the Good of the Children

Each week, Monroe County Community Kitchen provides 250 backpacks filled with food to seven different schools in the community. These backpacks are given to many of the 4,280 children who are food insecure in Monroe County. To enroll a child into this program, please contact Monroe Community Kitchen at (812) 332-0999, or contact the child’s school social worker.

Many children already qualify for free lunch and free breakfast plans at school. However, these children do not have access to the same nutritious foods at home. Backpack Buddies helps to mitigate the deficiency of nutritional foods for after school.

Most of the food that fills these backpacks comes from donations in the community. The Community Kitchen purchases additional food from wholesale stores and food banks with money from grants and private donations.

Backpack Buddies allows children to bring home food during the school year. However, in the summer, they are not able to receive their backpacks, as the Community Kitchen does not have a record of the children’s names. The Community Kitchen offers students free breakfast and lunch during the summer, Monday–Friday, and children are welcome to attend the regular meal times offered at the Community Kitchen, located at 1515 S Rogers Street in Bloomington.

Boys and Girls Club inspires Bloomington children

For many children in Bloomington, especially those who fall below the poverty line, education and self-development stop when leaving school in the afternoon. The Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington is one organization that helps to build a community with local children who would otherwise be forgotten. With three locations in

Bloomington, the club sponsors several productive and engaging school programs such as Mitch’s Kids Math and Science, Triple Play Health and Wellness, and an art program.

The Club’s mission is simple: “[We empower] young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as caring, productive and responsible citizens.”

Jeff Baldwin, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington, said that one of the biggest problems facing the children who fall below the poverty line is the lack of resources to which they have access. “Those who come from single parent homes or families struggling with poverty are not able to access programs and other opportunities that challenge and inspire [children] to develop into the strongest versions of themselves.”

Baldwin said that this lack of resources, combined with a family’s low income, can lead to a child living in poverty for much of his or her life. “Children model what they see and what they are taught. They also struggle in families that can’t afford the time and money to get involved in challenging and inspiring activities.”

While the organization currently grants children immediate after-school support, the Boys and Girls Club also expands the scope of their mission far into a child’s educational career. “We continue to try and push all kids to college. This is not a viable option for an ever-increasing number of kids. We need to shift our focus and look to develop programs that give kids viable options other than college.”

Education Resources

By *Krystiana Krupa, Kelly McGuine, Deven Washington, Sarah Lobien, Nathan Bromm, Abby Berner, & Ashley Toruno*

Adult Education at the Shalom Community Center

The Shalom Center not only offers meals, showers, clothing, and free meetings with case workers, but something that proves valuable in making a lasting effect on a person’s life. Shalom has partnered with the Monroe County Community School Corporation’s Adult Education programs to provide free G.E.D. preparation classes. The course is taught by Sheila Baker, who became involved with the program after previously teaching a similar class at the Monroe County Jail that was hugely successful. Students attend class three times each week, with each session lasting three hours, and cover material in math, writing/language skills, reading, science, and social studies. Sheila stated that the

G.E.D. program aims to provide custom education for each student in addition to group teaching.

Enrolling in the program is as easy going to Shalom and signing up at the hospitality desk. The classes are offered on site at Shalom—a location easily accessible to most guests, especially those with access to public transportation. The classroom itself has recently been expanded and can now fit more participants than ever. The program is taught by different instructors depending on availability, but currently meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It intends to not only improve education among adults but also improve the job outlook of those who take advantage of Shalom’s resources.

By preparing guests to get their G.E.D., the program improves its students’ confidence and the goal of obtaining the equivalent a high school education is less overwhelming. Last year’s sessions resulted in seven graduations by Shalom students—a landmark, as it was the first year that the program had graduates—and two of them went on to enroll in courses at Ivy Tech Community College. Education among adults should not be a forgotten endeavor, and this course makes it easier for those who need education assistance to have access to a program like this one.

Exploring Resources at Monroe County Public Library

When students are struggling in school, it can be difficult to find resources to help them catch up to the rest of their classmates, get help on homework, or clarify simple question about a subject. Unfortunately, most tutors can cost anywhere from \$15 to \$150 dollars per hour. However, the Monroe County Public Library offers a wide variety of free services available to the entire community.

Simply by going to their website, <http://monroe.lib.in.us/>, students can have access to a wide range of services available at their fingertips. Whether students need help with math, reading, science, or even just information about how to construct an essay, the library website offers resources homework help for both kids and teens. These include online databases, websites, as well as a recommendation of books that are available for check out.

The website also provides a “School after High School Guide” which offers information on how to prepare for SATs, applying for college, scholarships and receiving financial aid. The website is organized into books, movies and music, databases, web resources and reference resources.

The Monroe County Public Library

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also provides programs for adult learners. "VITAL" (volunteers tutoring adult learners), is a free tutoring service to help improve basic literacy, English as a second language, and holds ESL conversation groups. There are also lists of free online resources that can help with each of those topics.

Additionally, Monroe County Public Library is offers variety of interactive online courses through their Learn4Life program. Library card holders are eligible to sign up for up to five courses in one year at no cost. The wide range of topics include accounting and finance, computer applications, health care and medical, language and arts, law and legal, teaching and education, technology and writing and publishing.

Holiday Gift Program at Shalom Community Center

If you find yourself overly stressed around the holidays trying to scramble money up to give your children gifts, there may be assistance out there for you. Every child deserves a present on Christmas. The Shalom Community Center, located at 620 S. Walnut, offers a holiday gift program for families with lower incomes who are especially strained for cash around the holidays. The holiday gift program, run by Nick Bradford, is in its sixth season this year, providing gifts for about 500 kids per year. The program anticipates up to 450 kids this year.

Sign-ups for the program take place in late October. If you're interested in signing up your children for the gift program, you will need to come to the Shalom Community Center. The registration form requires that you fill out the children's names, age, sex, gift wishes, and clothing sizes. The Shalom Community Center hopes that each child will receive at least two gifts from anonymous donors, but that amount depends solely on the donor's choice.

If you're looking to become a donor for the holiday gift program the process is fairly simple. You would fill out a donor registration form with your name or organization, phone number, email, address, and how many kids you would like to be matched up to. Shalom hopes that each donor would buy at least two gifts per child, though a dollar amount is not specified. Being a donor is completely anonymous through the gift program. Contact the Shalom Center for more information about the program.

Directory of agencies and services

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

Addiction Counseling

Amethyst House

Address: 645 N. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 336-3570

Web: www.amethysthouse.org

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

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

Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.

Address: 645 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 339-1691

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Address: Hours and locations vary.

Phone: (812) 334-8191

Web: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

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

Adult Education

MCCSC Adult Education

Address: Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

Phone: (812) 330-7731

Web: www.adult.mccsc.edu

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

About: The Monroe County Community School Corporation's Adult Education program offers free, individualized instruction and guidance to teen and adult learners who need to get their GED diploma, want to improve basic job and literacy skills or learn new ones, are trying to learn English as a Second Language, or who aspire to create better opportunities for themselves and their families. There are also low-cost beginning computer classes for people age 55 and over. Classes start again August 16. Orientation for new students is Monday August 22; check for times. Located on Coolidge between Rogers St. & Rockport Rd., on the #2 South BT route.

AIDS/HIV Services

Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

Address: 333 E. Miller Dr.

Phone: (812) 353-9150

Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org

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

Clothing, furniture, housewares

Monroe County United Ministries

Address: 827 W. 14 Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

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

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

short-term crisis. The Emergency Services Program includes a food pantry, a clothing program, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

Address: 404 W. 2nd St.

Web: www.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]335-1280 volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org)

About: A Catholic led ecumenical society of volunteers dedicated to helping those in need. Assistance is offered in the form of community resource information, vouchers for furniture, and in some cases limited financial help with a utility bill, rent, rent deposit or other essential

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need. Almost all funding comes through donations and assistance is given without regard to religion, race or creed. Volunteer opportunities abound.

Disabilities assistance programs

Abilities Unlimited

Address: 2620 N. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 332-1620

Web: <http://auids.org/>

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

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

Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Inc.

Address: PO Box 1732

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

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

LifeDesigns, Inc.

Address: 200 East Winslow Rd.

Phone: (812) 332-9615

Web: www.lifedesignsinc.org

Volunteer Contact: Cindy Fleetwood

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

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

Address: 680 W. That Rd.

Phone: (812) 336-2798

Web: www.palstherapy.org

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

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

Stone Belt

Address: 2815 E. 10 St.

Phone: (812) 332-2168

Web: www.stonebelt.org

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

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

Employment resources and job counseling

WorkOne

Address: 450 Landmark Ave.

Phone: (812) 331-6000

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

Stone Belt

See disabilities assistance programs.

Job Links

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

Family Services

El Centro Comunal Latino

Address: 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11

Phone: (812) 355-7513

Web: www.elcentrocomunal.org

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

Head Start Program

Address: 1520 W. 15th St.

Phone: (812) 334-8350

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

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

IN Dept. of Child Services

Address: 1717 W. 3rd St.

Phone: (812) 336-6351

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

Division of Family Resources

Address: 1711 N. College Ave.

Phone: 1-(800)-403-0864

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

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

Address: 827 W. 14th Court

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm

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

WIC Program

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3221

About: Provides nutritional support for underprivileged mothers, babies and children up to five years of age in Monroe and Greene

Counties. Applicants must meet income guidelines, live in Indiana, and have a nutritional need. All services are provided free of charge.

Food stamps

Division of Family Resources

See family services.

Health care

Futures Family Health Clinic

Address: 338 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 349-7343

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

Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice

Address: 619 W 1st St.

Phone: (812) 353-9818

Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org

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

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

Hoosier Healthwise for Children

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

Phone: (812) 349-3851

Web: www.hoosierhealthwise.net

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

Monroe County Public Health Clinic

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3244

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

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

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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 aged 16-20.

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

Legal and court-related services

Community Justice & Mediation Center

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

Phone: (812) 339-1551

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

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

About: Programs include the Victim-

Offender Reconciliation Program, Shoplifter’s Alternative Program, Workshops, Trainings, and Community Mediation Services for neighborhood, school, family or business conflicts.

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

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

Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

Address: 214 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 339-7668

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

Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Address: 201 N. Morton Street

Phone: (812) 333-2272

Web: www.monroecountycasa.org

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

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

Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

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

Phone: (812) 349-2670

Web: www.co.monroe.in.us

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

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

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Meals and pantries (no cost)

Meals

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Backstreet Missions (Gino's Cafeteria)

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

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

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Address: 727 W. 1st Street

Phone: (812) 323-4982

Web: www.bloomingtonmealsonwheels.org

About: Provides meals to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves. No age or economic restrictions. To enroll, call number listed. A volunteer will arrange for

meal delivery and special dietary needs, explain the costs and how payments can be made.

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

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

Community Kitchen

Address: 1515 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 332-0999

Web: www.monroecommunitykitchen.com

Volunteer Contact: Annie Brookshire

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

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

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

Community Kitchen Express

Address: 1100 W. 11th St.

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

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

First Christian Church

Address: Corner of Kirkwood Ave. and Washington St.

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

Harvest House Soup Kitchen

Address: 1107 S. Fairview Dr.

Phone: (812) 339-4462

Sunday: Lunch: 2-4 p.m.

Shalom Community Center

Address: 620 South Walnut Street

Phone: (812) 334-5728

Web: www.shalomcommunitycenter.org

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

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

Pantries/Groceries

Area 10 Agency on Aging

See meals and pantries —meals

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Address: 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

Phone: (812) 334-8374

Web: www.hhfoodbank.org

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

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

MCUM Emergency Food Pantry

Address: 827 W. 14th Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

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

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

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 355-6843

Web: www.mhcfoodpantry.org

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

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

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9-11:30 and Tues, Thurs 1-3:30 pm.

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

SLO FoodS garden pantry

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

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

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

Volunteer Contact: Mylo Roze, Director - Eco Media Center Coordinator - SLO FoodS garden pantry

Web: http://ecomediacenter.org
greenthcity@yahoo.com

First United Methodist Church

Address: 219 E. 4th Street

Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30 p.m.

About: Provides brown bag lunch, groceries.

Township Trustees Food Pantries—Bloomington

Address: 2111 W. Vernal Pike

Phone: (812) 336-4976

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

About: Provides canned goods. Must be a resident of Bloomington Township.

Township Trustees Food Pantries—Perry

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 336-3713

Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

About: Provides canned goods. Must be a resident of Perry Township.

Medicaid

Division of Family Resources

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

Older citizen programs

Area 10 Agency on Aging

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

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

About: Offers programs and services, as well as being a resource of information about services for older and disabled citizens living in Monroe and Owen counties.

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

Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

Planned Parenthood

See health care.

WIC Program

See family services.

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Rent, utility, bill assistance

First call the Township Trustee in the Monroe County Township in which you live: Bean Blossom (876-5109), Benton (339-6593), Bloomington (336-4976), Clear Creek (824-7225), Indian Creek (824-4981), Perry (336-3713) Polk (837-9446), Richland (876-2509), Salt Creek (332-9777), Van Buren (825-4490), Washington (331-0809).

Youth programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Address: 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. Check our Facebook page for news and updates.