



South Central Community Action Program

SCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

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

Safety~Net

March 2012

De Vuelta a Casa: Encarando la Necesidad de Personas sin Hogar

Por Mark Kruzan, Alcade de Bloomington

Aunque puede ser una verdad difícil de enfrentar, la falta de vivienda afecta a nuestra comunidad. El año pasado, 228 estudiantes en el Condado de Monroe School Corporation informaron que son personas sin hogar, esto representa un aumento del 29 por ciento desde hace dos años. Veinte y cinco por ciento de las personas en el condado de Monroe viven por debajo del nivel federal de pobreza, una de las tasas más altas en Indiana. Y a pesar de la falta de vivienda es un problema que se debe trabajar para su eliminación durante todo el año, esto se hace más grave ya que el clima **Ve "DE VUELTA A CASA", pagina 2**



Homeward Bound Walk: Who, What, and Where!

By Laura Freeze and Rachel Krasnow
Homeward Bound Bloomington Committee

Mark your Calendar!

What: Homeward Bound 5K Walk

When: Sunday, April 15th, 2012. Registration at noon, walk at 1 p.m.

How: Pre-register online at <http://homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington>.

Where: The Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park (Third Street Park) in Bloomington.

Why: To fight homelessness in our community together!

After 10 years and nearly three million dollars raised, Homeward Bound Indiana is making strides towards the end of homelessness. But local statistics are staggering. Nearly 25 percent of people in Monroe County live below the poverty line, but simply taking a walk on a spring afternoon day can help **See "WHO, WHAT, WHERE", page 3**

Homeward Bound: Addressing Homelessness

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

While it might be a hard truth to face, homelessness does affect our community. Last year, 228 students in the Monroe County School Corporation reported being homeless; that's a 29 percent increase from two years ago. Twenty-five percent of people in Monroe County live below the federal poverty line, one of the highest rates in Indiana. And although homelessness is a problem we should work toward eliminating year-round, it becomes more serious as the weather gets colder and our local shelters and food pantries struggle to keep up with the increased demand for services. That's why I would like to take time during this edition of Safety-Net to talk about a yearly event that raises much needed funds to homeless: the Homeward Bound walk.

Homeward Bound, a project of the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development (IACED), is a series of annual walks that takes place in communities across Indiana. The Bloomington walk **See "HOMEWARD BOUND", page 2**

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

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

contributing articles that make Safety-Net possible. Each issue features the many agencies, as well as City and County programs, that reach out to people and offer much needed community services. At the end of the publication there is an extensive Agency Guide that enables individuals to locate appropriate resources. Comments from readers are most welcome. Please address them to the editor, white@indiana.edu, as well as to the assistant editor, blakely@insccap.org. Place Safety-Net on the subject line, and state whether you would like your comments printed in the next issue. Past issues of Safety-Net are available at the Safety-Net website, <http://safety-net-newspaper.com/>.

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se enfría y nuestros refugios locales y las despensas de alimentos luchan por mantenerse al día con la creciente demanda de servicios. Es por eso que me gustaría tomar el tiempo durante esta edición de la Seguridad en Internet para hablar de un evento anual que recauda fondos muy necesarios para personas sin hogar: The Homeward Bound Walk (caminata de regreso a casa).

Caminata de vuelta a casa, es un proyecto de la Asociación de Indiana para el Desarrollo Económico Comunitario (IACED como sus siglas en Ingles), es una serie de paseos anual que se realiza en las comunidades de Indiana. La caminata Bloomington ha puesto el ejemplo de una comunidad que colabora y que satisface las necesidades de aquellos que luchan en contra de la pobreza. Nuestro paseo local regresa no sólo con los organismos participantes, sino que abarca el resto de la comunidad sin fines de lucro, individuos, grupos y empresas en los esfuerzos para poner fin a la falta de vivienda.

En 2011, el paseo Bloomington de vuelta a casa, recaudó US \$ 66.000 para 11 agencias de servicios sociales a través de la participación de más de 900 caminantes, los voluntarios y patrocinadores. De los fondos recaudados, el 100 por ciento se distribuyeron a nivel local, ayudando a las agencias ofrecer sus servicios que salvan vidas. Desde su creación en 2003, de vuelta a casa, ha recaudado más de \$ 3 millones para vivienda asequible y servicios de personas sin hogar en todo el estado.

Este año, la vuelta a casa va celebrar 10 años de lucha a favor de las personas sin hogar en Indiana. La meta para 2012 es de 1.000 participantes y recaudar 100.000 dólares para las agencias participantes sin fines de lucro. Para acompañarnos este año trascendental, de vuelta a casa incluimos la adición de el socio duodécimo a nuestra lista de beneficiarios. La ciudad se enorgullece en presentar la Vivienda Familiar en Nueva Esperanza (Hope Family Shelter), como el último miembro

que se adhiere a la caminata de vuelta a casa. Hope Family Shelter es el único refugio de emergencia en el condado de Monroe que mantiene a las familias sin hogar juntas. Nueva Esperanza fue creado, atreves de los esfuerzos de la Cumbre de Personas sin Hogar del 2010, un diálogo abierto entre la Ciudad y las agencias locales de servicios sociales destinados a personas sin hogar con una mejor comprensión de nuestra comunidad.

El Paseo de la vuelta a casa, no sería posible sin el arduo trabajo de los miembros de su Comité. El Comité está integrado por representantes de organismos sociales de servicios, enlaces de la Oficina de IU de Organizaciones de Estudiantes y Desarrollo de Liderazgo, la Escuela de Periodismo de IU y Ivy Tech Community College, y varios voluntarios de la comunidad dedicada. Propios de la Comunidad y su Departamento de Recursos de la Familia y la Comunidad el cual es un orgulloso patrocinador del evento, y nuestros Departamento de Parques y Recreación, El Departamento de obras Públicas, Servicios, el departamentos de policía quienes han sido desde hace mucho tiempo los donantes.

La ciudad de Bloomington and The Homeward Bound de vuelta a casa, también agradecer a todos los donantes, caminantes, equipos, voluntarios y patrocinadores por sus esfuerzos para terminar con el desamparo, en Bloomington. De vuelta a casa como entra en su décimo año, miramos hacia atrás los logros del pasado y miramos hacia adelante con un renovado compromiso de proporcionar vivienda asequible y así terminar con la falta de vivienda en nuestra comunidad. Para más información sobre cómo usted puede ser parte este año de la vuelta a casa a pie visita <http://bloomington.in.gov/homewardbound> o póngase en contacto con la Co-Presidente Kathy Mayer, (812) 349.3467 o mayerk@bloomington.in.gov.

Translation made by Daniel Soto

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has set the example as a collaborative community that supports the needs of those struggling in poverty. Our local walk gives back not only the participating agencies but engages the rest of the nonprofit community, individuals, groups and businesses in the efforts to end homelessness.

In 2011, the Bloomington Homeward Bound walk raised \$66,000 for 11 social service agencies through the participation of more than 900 hundred walkers, volunteers and sponsors. Of the funds raised, 100 percent were distributed locally, helping agencies deliver their life-saving services. Since its inception in

2003, Homeward Bound has raised more than \$3,000,000 for affordable housing and homeless services throughout the state.

This year, Homeward Bound will be celebrating 10 years of fighting homelessness in Indiana. The goal for 2012 is 1,000 walkers and \$100,000 raised for the participating nonprofit agencies. To go along with this momentous year, Homeward Bound is also adding a twelfth partner to its list of beneficiaries. The City is proud to introduce New Hope Family Shelter as the latest member of the Homeward Bound Walk Benefiting Agencies. It is the only emergency shelter in Monroe County that keeps homeless families together. New Hope was established through the efforts of the 2010

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About *Safety~Net*

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SPECIAL SECTIONS

The special sections in this issue are: **Voices Seldom Heard, Agency Reports, Volunteer Opportunities, Agency Guide, SCCAP, Public Comment, Therapeutic Jail and Reentry Programs.**

AGENCY REPORTS

Each issue of *Safety~Net* has articles contributed from the many non-profit/social service agencies in the Bloomington area about programs and services that they provide, as well as volunteer opportunities.

AGENCY GUIDE

There is an extensive Agency Guide pointing out where specific services/programs are available and how to access them.

WE WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. Please send these to the editor at white@indiana.edu. Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.

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Homelessness Summit, an open dialogue between the City and local social services agencies aimed at better understanding homelessness in our community.

The Homeward Bound Walk would not be possible without the hard work of its Committee members. The Committee consists of social services agency representatives, liaisons from the IU Office of Student Organizations and Leadership Development, the IU School of Journalism and Ivy Tech Community College, and several dedicated community volunteers. The City's own Community and Family Resources Commission is a proud sponsor of the event, and our Parks

and Recreation, Public Works, Utilities and Police departments have been long-time donors.

The City of Bloomington and Homeward Bound would also like to thank all the donors, walkers, teams, volunteers and sponsors for their efforts to end homelessness in Bloomington. As Homeward Bound enters its tenth year, we look back on our past achievements and look forward with a renewed commitment to provide affordable housing and end homelessness in our community. For more information on how you can be part of this year's Homeward Bound walk visit <http://bloomington.in.gov/homewardbound> or contact Co-Chair Kathy Mayer, (812) 349.3467 or mayerk@bloomington.in.gov.

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lower this statistic. On April 15th, the Bloomington community is invited to join forces and walk together to help prevent homelessness at the 10th annual Homeward Bound 5K Walk.

The twelve agencies collaborating for the cause aim to raise \$100,000, and these funds stay local to benefit the initiatives of local nonprofits working tirelessly to alleviate poverty in the community. The 12 agencies that compose Homeward Bound serve as numerous outlets that support different underprivileged populations.

Participating agencies include Amethyst House, Centerstone, Community Kitchen, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Martha's House, Middle Way House, Monroe County United Ministries, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, New Hope Family Shelter, Shalom Community Center, Stepping Stones, and Youth Services Bureau.

Over the past decade, thousands

of walkers, volunteers, and area organizations have helped raise \$505,000. Just last year, over 900 walkers raised \$65,000 for local agencies to provide services and help meet the needs of people facing homelessness and poverty. Poverty is still rampant in the community. There are 228 youth in the Monroe County School Corporation identified as being homeless—a 29 percent increase from 2009. In addition, nearly 39 percent of people in Bloomington alone live below the poverty line, one of the highest rates in Indiana.

The kickoff for the walk will be at The Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park (Third Street Park), complete with live music and a commencement speech by a previous walk beneficiary who has experienced homelessness. This spokesperson will be somebody who is on the path to self-sufficiency. In addition, there will be games and activities for kids, live entertainment along the walk route, and awards after the walk.

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Centerstone: Reaching Out Across Bloomington

*By William Ferry, Centerstone Path Program
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That time of year has made its way around the calendar again: when spring tulips begin to blossom, Bloomington rallies in Waldron, Hill, & Buskirk Park to participate in the annual Homeward Bound 5k Walk. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Homeward Bound, and Centerstone is once again taking leadership in raising funds for assistance in the struggle to prevent and end homelessness in Monroe County.

Centerstone of Indiana offers mental health consultations, acute emotional assessments, and comprehensive psychiatric evaluations to determine optimum level of care and the full range of treatment options. Psychiatric diagnosis and medication management combine with carefully monitored psychiatric treatment and case management to provide a full-circle approach to treating mental illness.

Every year Centerstone's PATH program (Projects to Assist in Transition from Homelessness) provides outreach services to over 300 people at-risk or experiencing homelessness in Monroe County. Funds raised through Homeward Bound help to provide some minor necessities in the process of providing assistance in this transition: money raised is applied toward transportation, medications, partial deposit and rental payments, application fees, and co-pays.

The PATH team works to assist individuals facing homelessness also exhibiting symptoms of possible severe mental illness. We can be found all around the county, on the streets and in the vicinity of most other social service agencies. We provide several hours of direct, consistent outreach every week at the Shalom Center. One of our primary goals is the linkage of individuals in need with other assistance programs for which they may be eligible. We work to obtain Medicaid and other available health coverage for people living in the streets and staying in shelters, as well as assisting with Social Security/disability income applications. Our specialty is to follow in the footsteps and learn the patterns of folks who may have exhibited chronic symptoms of severe mental illness for a number of months or years yet are new to psychiatric treatment. We work to help people in these circumstances rebuild from the ground up.

Homeward Bound is a major source of revenue to supplement these programs. The thrill of participating in this fundraiser is that we can see the direct result of our efforts in a local context within only a few months. The success of this endeavor depends directly upon the volunteer efforts, public and private donations, and coordination of goods and services from the Steering Committee led by the City of Bloomington. For the past ten years, Centerstone has played a leading role in raising funds for Homeward Bound. These funds are applied directly to programs challenged with assisting Monroe County residents to obtain stable housing and access medical treatment.

Please keep in mind that your donations, whether through time, money, or other resources, is what ultimately brings our fine community together to make Homeward Bound a success. What makes Bloomington a strong community and a shining example of high quality of life is the amount of collaboration, both individually and between social service agencies.

Accessing services through Centerstone is a simple process: walk-in evaluations are offered every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoon between 2pm and 5pm. The PATH team can also be found every Monday and Wednesday at the Shalom Center from 11:30am-1pm. For more information, please visit www.centerstone.org. Our customer care and crisis call centers can be reached at 800-344-8802. For the Bloomington office, please call 812-339-1691. Opportunities to volunteer, register a team to walk, or donate for Homeward Bound can be accessed by visiting www.homeward-boundindiana.org and clicking on the Bloomington link.

New Hope Family Shelter at Work

By Alan Backler, New Hope Family Shelter Board Member
812-334-9840, newhope@nhfsinc.org

New Hope Family Shelter's mission is to provide temporary shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Bloomington and Monroe County. New Hope is the only shelter in Monroe County that keeps homeless families together—a critical aspect of any strategy to address the problems associated with homelessness.

The main shelter, New Hope House, provides accommodation for three families, while additional satellite rental units allow New Hope to house up to six families all together, for up to 90 days. Since opening in July of 2011, more than seventy-five families from Monroe County, have requested help from New Hope. Unfortunately, New Hope was only able to accommodate 12 families, because of space restrictions.

New Hope case workers interact with each of our families on a daily basis, in collaboration with other

agencies in the community, to help them regain housing and address the problems that led to homelessness. Here are some examples:

A single mother on disability, with a three-year-old child stayed with New Hope for three weeks. During that time New Hope staff, working with community agencies: helped her prepare to move into an apartment, with financial assistance from Rapid Housing; connected her with legal services to obtain custody and child support; referred her to a banking class, so that her bank account privileges could be reinstated; assisted her in obtaining psychotherapy at Centerstone; helped her enroll her child in Head Start; and aided her in getting services from St. Vincent DePaul and Hoosier Hills Food Bank, through several pantries.

A single mother with three pre-school children stayed with New Hope for three weeks. During that

time New Hope staff, working with community agencies: helped her make arrangement to move to RISE; provided referrals to St. Vincent DePaul, Work One, and MCUM for a voucher to use at Opportunity House; and linked her to a tax preparation agency for guidance.

A single mother with a four-year-old child stayed with New Hope for five weeks. During that time New Hope staff, working with community agencies: helped her make arrangements to move into a Bloomington Housing Authority apartment; linked her to My Sister's Closet, facilitated her arranging with the FSSA Impact program to receive child care voucher; aided her in enrolling her child in child care; helped her obtain food stamps from SNAP, and local pantries; enabled her child to participate in Toys for Tots, and assisted her in obtaining furniture for St. Vincent DePaul. She

also began a new job at a fast-food restaurant.

A single mother with her sister and 13-year-old child are now living in one of New Hope's satellite apartments. New Hope staff, working with community agencies: referred her to Work One, My Sister's Closet, and a smoking cessation class; and helped her to receive Medicaid, food stamps, and TANF.

A young mother and father with a baby stayed with New Hope for about a month. She had been laid off and his school loans were delayed. During their stay, the New Hope staff working with community agencies: helped them secure food assistance from local pantries and diapers and formula from the local pregnancy center; aided them in obtaining a new pack and play crib from Bloomington Hospital, as part of a research program for young couples; assisted them in finding and moving

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What is the South Central Housing Network?

By Warren Wade, Stepping Stones, Board Member of South Central Housing Network
www.southcentralhousing.org

The South Central Housing Network is a regional and collaborative body of agencies that provide various services to the homeless that include housing, case management and life skills education. Our partners also include state and local government, religious groups, concerned citizens and other area nonprofits. Nearly all of the agencies that provide housing to the homeless in Monroe County participate in this monthly planning group and its various subcommittees. Additionally, we have routine attendance from members of agencies that serve Morgan and Lawrence counties and we continue to reach out to the other counties in our region for input and support.

Our vision is simple: that "everyone has stable,

decent and affordable housing." We do this by "providing and coordinating the best possible housing resources and supportive services to those who are most in need" through our Housing Network partners.

Over the many years that this collaboration has existed, our objectives and priorities have shifted, adapting to the needs of our community. In 2004, the South Central Housing Network partnered with Stepping Stones founder and Executive Director, Sheri Benham, to substantiate her claim that there was a need for a safe, longer term solution for youth experiencing homelessness. In their 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan, the City of Bloomington identified the lack of these services within the

community as a "critical problem." Stepping Stones was formed shortly thereafter with the support of the Housing Network and through a partnership with the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County. Today, we have 10 beds for youth between the ages 16-20 that are experiencing homelessness.

Since that time, more opportunities for the homeless or soon-to-be homeless were the result of the Housing Network's collaborative efforts. In conjunction with federal government's initiative to keep individuals and families in their home, the Housing Network identified our region's need, wrote the proposal, and received funding for what is called the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing

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Backstreet Mission: Helping The Homeless And Hurting

*By Linda Kelley, President, Co-Founder Backstreet Mission
For more info, call 812-333-1905 and visit our website at www.backstreet.org*

Backstreet Mission is a not-for-profit faith-based organization dedicated to helping the homeless and hurting. The emergency and transitional 28-bed "Upper Room" men's shelter is located at 215 S. Westplex Ave in Bloomington. Check-in time is 5:00-7:00 pm daily. The location also houses the main office and Geno's Cafeteria "soup kitchen" which serves meals twice a day 6 days a week. Lunch is served from 11:00am-12:00pm M-S. Dinner is served from 4:00-5:00pm M-F and a Sat. morning breakfast is served from 8:30-9:30am. The "Agape House" women's shelter is located farther west at 300 Opportunity Lane off W. 3rd St. and offers transitional housing to 11 women and up to 20 children at a time. A year-round food pantry is located in the basement of this building and is available to those in need of canned food each Thursday from 10am-4pm. Annual holiday outreaches include Thanksgiving food baskets to 400 families with the help of food donations from the area churches and the community. The "Adopt-A-Child" Christmas program helped 200 children in 2011 with Christmas gifts. The "April Miracle Tent" is an annual event to call attention to homelessness within our area, inform the public of the Mission activities and ways to get involved and serves as a canned food drive to stock the food pantry. A "Silent Auction" for theme baskets at the Monroe County 4-H fair is an annual fundraiser. In 2012 the Mission is hoping to initiate a fundraiser sometime during the month of August.

Mission Stories:

Shelonda was afraid to come to the Agape House at first because when she thought of shelters she thought of bugs and the uncomfortable, dirty living conditions

she might encounter with her 8 yr. old son. But she soon found the living quarters to be clean, bug free and spacious. She states that everyone was very kind and supportive. She left the Agape House employed, with a dependable vehicle and moved directly into decent housing. She attends a local church on a regular basis.

When John came from southern Indiana to the Upper Room, he was looking for a change from his alcohol abuse which controlled his life for 36 years. He knew that Bloomington had a lot of resources available. He has been with us for 6 months, has accepted Christ as his personal Savior, is alcohol and nicotine free and is happier than he has ever been in his life. He recently found employment and he always has a smile on his face. He is looking forward to spending quality time with his grandchildren.

Danny was court ordered to do community service as restitution for D.U.I. He contacted the Mission and was allowed to work off his hours at Geno's Cafeteria "soup kitchen". At first he thought of it as a punishment and because of physical disabilities he had to push himself to perform the work that was required. While working alongside the staff he started to notice they were dedicated in giving their personal time and effort to provide food for those in need and that they were concerned about the emotional and spiritual needs of these same people. He states he no longer thinks of community service as punishment but rather as an opportunity. "God has blessed me by turning a lemon into lemonade. Truly it is more blessed to give than receive"

Project Safe Place: Access To Help And Safety For Youth In Crisis

*By Vanessa Schmidt, Safe Place Coordinator
Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County
www.youthservicesbureau.net*

What we do.

Project Safe Place focuses on increasing outreach efforts and informing youth in crisis that there is help available. In 2011, the program expanded the community events that Project Safe Place annually attends and utilized others forms of outreach, such as billboards and radio Public Service Announcements. The Safe Place program greatly depends on participating Safe Place sites, the community, Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County staff, and volunteers. With this support, the program is able to connect youth to immediate help and safety and offers supportive services to both youth and their families.

National Safe Place Week.

Our most immediate event will be National Safe Place Week held March 18th-24th, 2012. During this week of celebration, Project Safe Place will have an informational booth at the Monroe County Public Library; we will be recognizing our Safe Place sites and volunteers for their dedication to the program, along with several other daily events to be held at the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County. For more local information about National Safe Place Week and activity details, please visit www.youthservicesbureau.net.

Homeward Bound Walk.

Project Safe Place and Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County will also be attending and participating in the 10th Annual Homeward Bound Walk against Homelessness to be held April 15th, 2012. Our program will host a temporary Safe Place substation manned by a trained volunteer located in 3rd Street Park where the walk is held, in place for any youth lost or in danger to seek help. Please join us at the Homeward Bound Walk to help raise money to fight homelessness in our community and enjoy the featured entertainment!

Contact.

If you would like any more information about Project Safe Place or upcoming events, please contact Vanessa Schmidt at Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County at 812-349-2043.

Special Section: Public Comment

A Thank You Letter

By Craig Wade

Throughout these past few months my life has been a rollercoaster, emotionally, mentally and physically exhausting. I have overcome many challenges and yet, I am still finding myself fighting my way through new ones. This is my story.

When I got out of prison this past June they brought me to Backstreet Missions, a short-term emergency shelter for men. I had only the clothes on my back and a pair of prison Jackie Chan's. I didn't even get a release ID. Not being from Bloomington and never lived here before I felt lost and alone. Someone from Backstreet Missions told me about Oasis, an organization that provides occupational resources such as bus tickets for transportation, professional clothes and shoes. I met with Dewayne who is a case manager at Oasis. He gave me bus tickets and met me at the Salvation Army so I could get a voucher for clothes.

Dewayne told me about Shalom Center. Shalom Center provides a place for guests to come during weekdays from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. and receive meals, utilize restroom facilities, shower facilities, personal care items, diapers and formula for babies, and long and short-term storage, and financial assistance. With permission from a caseworker, they may use Shalom as their mailing address and phone number to receive messages as well. I went to Shalom Center and talked

to a caseworker name Liz Boyd. Everyday for the next 30 days I met with Liz. She helped me to get in touch with the right agencies that provided the resources I needed to get back on my feet. Saint Vincent DePaul helped me get my Birth Certificate. They also helped me with a lot of other things I needed done such as getting furniture for my new home, gas cards for my truck, goodwill cards for clothing and providing monetary support to get an ID. Backstreet Missions allowed me to stay there for 7 days, after my stay I headed to Genesis, a low-barrier summer shelter located on the Genesis Church property. I stayed there for 5 nights until I was able to get a bed at Martha's House, an emergency shelter that provides meals, case management and help with finding employment. During the process of my intake the staff said I could stay there for 120 days, which is the allowed length of stay for Monroe, Lawrence and Owen county residents. At Martha's House I met a young lady name Jenel Taylor, a caseworker at Martha's House. Meeting Jenel was going to change the course of my life. She helped me enroll in Ivy Tech. I told her that I wanted to talk to kids about staying off of drugs and staying out of trouble. She helped me write a short speech that shared my experiences dealing and abusing drugs and committing crime. In July I presented my speech to a small youth group at the Boys and Girls

Club in Bloomington.

In the summer I was trying to find permanent housing. Not being a resident of Monroe it was hard to get financial help. Unfortunately there was a mistake made in my paperwork at Martha's House. Because I am not a resident of Monroe, Lawrence or Owen County I could not stay at the shelter for the 120 days. I finally found someone (my caseworker) that really cared if I succeeded in life and I had to leave Martha House. This really tore me up. I went back to Backstreet Missions for another 7 days and two men whom I previously met at Martha's House got an apartment and told me I could stay with them until I was able to get my own place. I stayed with them for a while until I started receiving my social security check again. I finally ended up finding a two-bedroom trailer.

For the first time in my life I am doing good. I wouldn't be able to do this without places like the Shalom Center, Backstreet Missions, Oasis, Genesis and Martha's House. They played a big part in my having a normal life. Jenel Taylor, former caseworker at Martha's house also played a big part in my life. Without these important people and organizations I would not have gained the strength to stop abusing drugs and committing crimes. I want to thank everyone that has helped me, and the community for their support for donating to these agencies. Thanks everyone.

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Overall, the atmosphere is fun and celebratory, with plenty of activities for everyone of all ages and walks of life.

It's time to be active!

Join a team, raise money, become a sponsor, or volunteer to help out on the day of the walk. Visit <http://homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington> to register and choose one of the many ways to be involved in Homeward Bound. With your support and participation in the upcoming Homeward Bound walk, we as a community can continue "Fighting Homelessness, One Step at a Time."

Sources:

American Fact Finder: American Community Survey, 2011.

Monroe County Community School Corporation. 2011 McKinney-Vento Homelessness Questionnaire

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into a mobile home; and helped them obtain furniture from St. Vincent DePaul and aid from the energy assistance program at SCCAP. They now have full time child care, and both parents are working full time. He has started a job gotten through a referral from the New Hope case manager and is a full time college student. They have purchased a car and are once again able to be self sufficient.

These examples indicate that New Hope and its community partners are able to help improve the lives of families experiencing homelessness. But, New Hope's current capacity at the main shelter and satellites is inadequate to meet the need that exists in our community.

Helping Women Break the Cycle

By Emily Fitch, Outreach/Events Specialist, Middle Way House

For more than 30 years, Middle Way House has been providing key support to abused women and their children. Domestic violence is common and difficult to combat. Women may not even report domestic violence because they are afraid to, or ashamed to, or because they lack the resources necessary to provide for themselves and their children, or because they have lost hope of a better life all together.

Middle Way's 24-hour crisis line provides access to safe space and the opportunity for victims of abuse to reach out and break the cycle.

And many victims of abuse do ask for and receive shelter every year. At this stage most people believe the difficult part is over. The reality is that leaving is exceptionally difficult. Eighty-five percent of women who

leave an abusive relationship return to it at least once, and, on average, a woman will leave seven to nine times before leaving permanently. Why do battered women return to abusive relationships?

For one thing, leaving is the most dangerous step an abused woman can take. It's then that they're at the greatest risk of experiencing fatal violence. It's hard to understand from the outside, but, some women feel they are safer inside abusive relationships than apart from perpetrators of violence who feel they have nothing left to lose.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence found that one reason many women return to their abusers is lack of resources. Abusers often exclusively control the family's finances as a further means of exerting power over the

victim. In many cases, the women are not employed, do not have bank accounts, and have nowhere to stay. A study by the ACLU's "Women's Rights Project", found that forty-six percent of homeless women reported they had previously stayed in abusive relationships due to lack of alternative housing options. The same study found that domestic violence is a primary cause of homelessness in 50% of US cities studied. Often, the women have children to support as well. When faced with the choice of an abusive relationship or homelessness for themselves and their children, many women choose to stay or return to the relationship with the hope

Middle Way House is a Bloomington area 501(c)(3) serving women and children fleeing violence at home. Some of the services offered include emergency shelter, transitional housing, daycare, legal services, and crisis line. (Crisis Line (812) 336-0846.)

For more information, including volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and ways to help, please see middlewayhouse.org or contact us at 812-333-7404.

that eventually things will change.

Middle Way House provides women with an alternative to violence and homelessness through the emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. Studies find that access to shelter services leads to a sixty to seventy percent reduction in the incidence of re-assault in the first 3-12 months after a woman leaves. With access to shelter, transitional housing, legal services, and daycare, women have the support they need to build a foundation for independence for themselves and their children. Shelter and housing are not just a place of safety, but also a place where families can start their new lives free from violence.

As one recent resident stated, "The time in shelter changed my life."

SOUTH CENTRAL HOUSING

Continued from page 4

Program or HPRP. To date, these funds have been instrumental in either re-housing or preventing homelessness for 114 families with low to moderate barriers to stable housing by providing financial assistance and on-going case management support.

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness with a correlating disability were awarded to agencies such as Martha's House, Positive Link and Centerstone and were the direct result of the Housing Network's endorsement, research, and support.

This year, Housing Network partners will be submitting a proposal to the Corporation for Supportive Housing for nearly 40 units of permanent, supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness. With the support of partner agencies like Centerstone, IU Health Bloomington – Positive Link, and Wellspring of Martinsville, LIFEDesigns, Inc. and Shalom Community Center will serve as the applicants and primary service deliverers for this new program.

We realize that there is a serious and critical ongoing need. Every night and every day, there are members of our community that are worried about where they'll sleep. Some lack the support necessary for them to obtain employment, and others are just in need of some temporary assistance like one month's rent.

With that in mind, our

Network has entered into the first stages of developing a comprehensive, long-term plan to address homelessness in our region. In this plan, we will work with our partners in Monroe and the surrounding counties of Green, Martin, Lawrence, Morgan and Owen to identify and implement the best solution for our needs. These solutions may include the following:

- Streamlining processes to access resources (e.g. Other areas have universal applications for access to services. Would this solution work for our region and how would that be implemented?);
- Identifying population gaps within our continuum of care (e.g. Are populations like youth, women, families or the elderly being underserved in our region?); or
- Determining if there are better ways for us to better utilize the constrained and dwindling pool of financial resources that are available to serve the homeless.

As our work unfolds, we ask that you be on the lookout for information requests coming from us. We also ask that you consider joining us in this process. Without the support of our community, we will not be able to leverage our best resources and focus our best efforts into addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations.

For more information, please visit our website at www.southcentralhousing.org.

The Seventh Annual Bloomington AIDS Walk

By Meredith Short, IUhealth.org

2011 marked the 30th anniversary of the first diagnosed case of AIDS. Today, 33 million people live with HIV/AIDS in the world, of which 1.2 million are in the United States. In Indiana, almost 10,000 people are known to be living with HIV/AIDS, over 200 live in Monroe County. HIV affects all sexual orientations, all genders, all ages, and all races. It can happen to anyone. HIV is transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. Transmission is most frequently a result of unprotected oral, vaginal or anal sex or sharing a needle.

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

On March 31, South Central Community AIDS Action Group will be hosting the 8th Annual

Bloomington AIDS Walk. The AIDS Walk raises money to deliver direct services to those living with HIV/AIDS. It helps purchase food and nutritional supplements, provide transportation, utility assistance, clothing, household items, individualized case management and other emergency services.

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

To learn more about the South Central Community AIDS Action Group or to find out more about the Walk, contact Meredith Short at 812-353-3254 or mshort@iuhealth.org. You may also check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CAAGBloomington.

Monroe County Public Library Goes 100% Tobacco Free First Step in Choose Civility Campaign at MCPL

by Margaret Harter, Community Relations Coordinator, www.mcpl.info



On January 18, 2012, the Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) Board of Trustees revised the library's Behavioral Rules to state:

“Smoking or use of tobacco products is strictly prohibited in library buildings, in library vehicles, and on library grounds. The library is 100% tobacco free, both inside and out.”

The library has been smoke free inside its facilities since 1984. The policy was later revised to include entryways and the library parking lot. It has now been updated to reflect today's knowledge about the dangers of secondhand smoke, with its proven links to lung cancer, heart disease and respiratory infections.

This is important to MCPL: the

library is a setting that welcomes children and families. Every day MCPL has an average of 3,000 visits. The Library's rationale for its 100% tobacco-free policy is that it will take us a long way toward creating a safe and healthy environment for everyone who works at and visits Monroe County Public Library, either downtown, at the Ellettsville Branch, or the Bookmobile.

Patrons increasingly complain about walking through smoke as they approach the library and about the problem behaviors that seem to be associated with smoking around the Main Library. One complaint went so far as to say that most of the behaviors that cause problems on library property “flow directly” from smoking.

The Tobacco-free campus policies of local organizations such as Indiana

University Bloomington, the YMCA, MCCSC, RBBCSC, IU Health Bloomington, and others show the local precedence for the library Board's new policy.

Starting in February, we'll begin taking the next steps to implementing the library's 100% tobacco-free policy:

- The library will purchase three cigarette disposal receptacles for the perimeter of the property through a grant from the Monroe Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition.
- The Facilities Department will replace outdoor signs with new signs indicating that library buildings and grounds are designated free from smoking.

- The library will remove some trash cans and ensure that no remaining receptacles have ashtray lids that encourage people to gather to smoke.

- We will offer smoking cessation information and opportunities to staff working with library's Wellness Committee and organizations in the Monroe Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition.

- We will create materials and hold training for staff to help us proactively and courteously enforce the new policy. We will depend on the cooperation of patrons not only to comply with the policy, but also to encourage others to do so in order to promote a healthy

See “TOBACCO FREE”, page 10

Options and Christole Join to Become LifeDesigns, Inc.

By Karen Scherer, Community Development Officer
200 E. Winslow Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401
800-875-9615 • 812-332-1186 (fax)
www.lifedesignsinc.org

In this troubled economy, the time is ripe for non-profits to lead the way in making the most efficient use of the scarce resources available. Two local, long-standing non-profits have taken up the challenge. On January 1st, 2012, Options Inc. and Christole Inc. providers of services for people with disabilities merged to become one organization, LifeDesigns, Inc. After a year of negotiations, the Christole and Options Boards agreed to merge to create a new grassroots organization. The new name, LifeDesigns, reflects their commitment to individualized supports so that people with disabilities design a life of living, working, learning, and participating in their communities.

The merger brings together two organizations with complimentary missions and values. With a stronger financial base and expertise in a variety of services, the new organization will be better positioned to take on new customers and to find innovative ways to improve services. In addition to the expanded access to services, by reducing administrative overhead, the new agency should be able to pay staff better and decrease turnover. Bottom line, the new organization developed will provide a clear path to better financial stability, enhanced efficiency, and improved customer outcomes.

With the merger, LifeDesigns, Inc. will provide services in 8 counties to almost 400 individuals and families. It will also be one of the larger employers in the area with close to 350 staff with an annual budget of eleven million dollars. Preparation for the transition is underway. Both agencies' customers, their families, staff, Board members and donors have been actively involved in the process and welcome the merger as a way to strengthen effectiveness, spread best practices in a cost effective way and expand their reach to those in need of service.

Free Community Tax Service

By Ashley Hall, Community Initiatives Director, United Way of Monroe County

Could you use an extra \$5,751 for your family budget? If you worked in 2011, you may be eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – even if you don't owe taxes.

Claim the EITC and file your taxes for free at one of 8 tax preparation sites in Monroe and Owen counties, or at one of our new mobile site locations. The Free Community Tax Service helps low- and moderate-income residents file their federal and Indiana tax returns at no cost. This service also helps residents claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You don't need to spend hundreds of dollars filing your taxes when you can file for free and receive 100% of your refund quickly and easily – usually in just 10 days or less!

United Way and the Financial Stability Alliance want to make sure all eligible households in Monroe and Owen counties file a tax return and claim their EITC credit. Every Free Community Tax Service site is staffed with IRS-certified volunteers ready and willing to help. In addition, services are offered in Spanish at several sites.

"Free tax filing and claiming EITC are two important ways families can balance their home budgets in these tough times," said United Way of Monroe County's Executive Director, Barry Lessow. "We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of organizations and volunteers helping local working families remain financially stable."

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

The Free Community Tax Service is made possible through a community partnership. Partners include the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana, 2-1-1, AARP, Area 10 Agency on Aging, City of Bloomington, El Centro Comunal Latino, Ellettsville Branch Library, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Ivy Tech Community College, Monroe County Public Library, Owen County Public Library, South Central Community Action Program, Twin Lakes Recreation Center, United Way of Monroe County, Walmart, WorkOne Bloomington, and community volunteers.

LOCATIONS, DATES & TIMES

ELLETTSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY
600 W. Temperance St., Ellettsville 812-876-1272
February 3–April 14 (Call for an appointment.)
Friday: 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Saturday: 12:00 pm–2:00 pm

INDIANA UNIVERSITY MAURER SCHOOL OF LAW
211 S. Indiana Ave., Bloomington
January 30–March 9 (First come, first served.)
Monday & Tuesday: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE—BLOOMINGTON
200 Daniels Way, Room B201, Bloomington 812-332-1559 ext. 0
January 25–March 6 (Call for an appointment.)
Tuesday: 2:00 pm–5:00 pm
Wednesday: 2:00 pm–5:00 pm
Friday: 12:00 pm–7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am–1:00 pm

MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington 812-349-3050
(AARP Tax-Aide)
February 3–April 13 (First come, first served.)
Monday: 2:00 pm–6:00 pm**
Tuesday: 2:00 pm–8:00 pm**
Friday: 2:00 pm–5:45 pm**
(* **Spanish interpretation provided by El Centro Comunal Latino on these days during the month of February.)

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM
1500 W. 15th St., Bloomington 812-339-3447 ext. 235
January 31–April 14 (Call for an appointment.)
Tuesday: 4:00 pm–7:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am–12:00 pm

See "TAX SERVICE", page 10

Eco Media Center of Monroe County

Mylo Roze, Director

<http://ecomediacycenter.org> • greenhcity@yahoo.com

In April of 2011, Eco Media Center and CSL facilitated soil and water conservation by the sale of over 500 compost bins and rain barrels during a one day event. Eco Media Center also

produces a monthly online activism calendar with community notices as {EcoLink}, also serving as CSL's Email newsletter.

Eco Media Center has a new office at

Trained Eye Arts Center on the B-Line Trail and has taken up the torch of the CSL food program, now transferred under its auspice as **SLO FoodS** garden pantry (Simply Local Organic Food

Security System). The program will now emphasize locally grown produce and dispense food to those in need on a weekly basis, from the new location

See "ECO MEDIA", page 13

TAX SERVICE

Continued from page 9

TWIN LAKES RECREATION CENTER

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

(AARP Tax-Aide)

February 1–April 12 (First come, first served.)

Wednesday: 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Thursday: 4:00 pm–8:00 pm

OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

January 26–April 14 (Call for an appointment.)

Thursday: 5:30 pm–8:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am–3:00 pm

New this year! Swing by one of our new self-service tax preparation sites and file your own federal and Indiana state tax returns for free. Using a computer at one of these sites, you can file electronically with assistance from an IRS trained volunteer. No appointment necessary.

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE—BLOOMINGTON

200 Daniels Way, Room B201, Bloomington 812-332-1559 ext. 0

January 25–March 6 (First come, first served.)

Tuesday: 2:00 pm–5:00 pm

Wednesday: 2:00 pm–5:00 pm

Friday: 12:00 pm–7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am–1:00 pm

TOBACCO FREE

Continued from page 8

environment for all on library grounds.

In the spring, the library will begin a landscaping project to enhance the library grounds, making attractive spaces that all will enjoy and be proud of. We'll be making seating changes and adding jumping paths, big rocks, and a sun dial for children, as well as starting to plant new trees, colorful shrubs and flowers—with the aim of becoming certified as an urban wildlife habitat.

These changes are the first part of a comprehensive strategy involving staff,

WORKONE BLOOMINGTON

450 S. Landmark Ave., Bloomington 812-331-6000 ext. 254

January 30–April 12 (First come, first served.)

Monday & Thursday 11:30 am–3:30 pm

We're taking Free Community Tax Service on the road! To better serve every resident in our community, we'll be taking the Free Community Tax Service to places like Stone Belt, LifeDesigns, Inc. (formerly Options), Broadview Learning Center, and St. Paul Catholic Center. Call 2-1-1 for details about dates and times.

You must bring the following to receive free tax help:

Valid picture identification for taxpayer and spouse.

Social Security cards and birth dates for yourself, spouse, and dependents.

All W-2s, W-2Gs, 1099s, and Social Security/ Unemployment benefit statements related to income received during 2011.

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

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

Servicio Comunal de Impuestos

El Servicio Comunal de Impuestos provee servicios sin costo. Para obtener más información, llame al 2-1-1 o visite www.monroeunitedway.org/eitc.

patrons, the public and community stakeholders to make the library, both outside and inside, a place where everyone chooses civility—a place where patrons and staff are more than “nice” to each other; they recognize the diversity of cultural norms in our community, and incorporate the principles of empathy, respect, and consideration of others at every opportunity. (From *Civility Defined in “Choose Civility: Public Libraries Take Center Stage,”* Public Libraries, July/August 2011, p. 34).

See you at the library. There's something for everyone and everyone is welcome. Call 349-3057 for more information.

Special Section: Therapeutic Jail And Re-entry Programs

New Leaf—New Life Adds a New Facility

By Martin E. Wainright Jr., New Leaf-New Life Board of Directors

Thanks to the Perry Township Trustee Dan Combs and the Township Board, New Leaf—New Life, Inc. now is providing transition support to released jail inmates from a storefront on the Perry Township office campus at 1010 S. Walnut St. New Leaf—New Life is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing support services both to people incarcerated in the Monroe County Jail and those newly released from incarceration. Our efforts center on lowering the overall rate of recidivism locally by helping the inmates break the cycle of continued offenses that result in re-incarceration.

We are profoundly grateful to Perry Township Trustee Dan Combs and the Township Board for the faith in us they showed by making this space available. Transition support of inmates after release is very important in enabling them to make the changes in their lifestyles required to avoid re-offending, but our transition programs have been limited because we had no space for these efforts. This new space should enable us to substantially expand these activities provided by our dedicated volunteers from the community.

The store-front space provided to NL/NL for programming is about 700 square feet not including a small adjacent business office for the organization's use. The space was formerly occupied by My Sister's Closet Inc., an agency incubated by Perry Township for five years that is now able to operate from a larger private facility.

Services offered or planned at this new location include helping identify places in Bloomington that will hire people with felonies as well as housing options and other support resources available in the community. We can also provide clothes, toiletries and bus tickets to those released from incarceration. And we plan to offer support groups meeting at this location. This facility is staffed by volunteers at various daytime and evening hours.

Donations of gently used clothing are needed, especially jackets, shoes, and backpacks. Toiletries such as soap, shampoo, and deodorant, are also appreciated. Call 355-6842 to find out when we are open.

Special Section: SCCAP Programs

Individual Development Accounts Program helps artist reinvent her business

*By Blakely Clements
Director of Communications & Development
South Central Community Action Program
www.insccap.org*

Since 1987, Charlene Marsh has lived and worked as an artist in Brown County, Indiana. For years she had been making primarily fiber artworks, hand dyeing yarns and tufting them onto cotton backgrounds.

But in the early 2000s, Charlene faced a problem common to any small business owner—a changing market. When this was compounded by wrist problems that forced Charlene to quit making her exquisite fiber artworks, she began concentrating all her efforts on oil painting.

As Charlene began reinventing her business, the cost of investing in different supplies and shifting from one medium to another began to add up. She knew where she wanted to go, but did not yet have the resources to get there. After reading a notice in the paper, Charlene called the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) office and found that she qualified for the Individual Development Program (IDA Program).

The IDA Program, she learned is, a four-year matched savings program designed to assist individuals in achieving self-sufficiency through financial literacy and asset generation. For each dollar you (the participant) save, up to \$400 a year, the State of Indiana will match it with

three dollars. SCCAP offers this program in Monroe, Brown, Morgan and Owen counties.

In just three years of enrollment in the program, Charlene had saved \$6100, only \$1200 of which came from her personal savings. The other \$4900 is a series of matching funds received through the IDA program, and she will continue to receive matching funds from her own savings in her fourth and final year in the program.

The money Charlene has saved through the IDA program has been instrumental in operating and growing her business. She has been able to use it to pay for the equipment and supplies needed to make the transition from fiber works to oil paintings, contribute to her booth fees at art shows, and cover other expenses involved in owning and operating a business.

But money hasn't been Charlene's only gain from her enrollment in the IDA program. As the savings started growing, she was able to work with another organization to develop a business plan for herself. This really showed her how far the savings could go, and allowed her to outline and itemize every expense.

"Where before I thought I was doing okay simply because I had good cash flow, after developing the business plan I realized I

needed to prioritize my goals for the business. I needed to do more long range planning to anticipate future needs of the business to remain viable," says Marsh.

Charlene says that her business is now more profitable than ever before. She is currently moving into a new phase of her business plan, and can see exactly how her IDA savings will allow her long range plans for the business come to fruition.

When asked about advice for prospective IDA clients, Charlene had only positive words of encouragement. "The return on your money is phenomenal. You invest \$400 and receive matching monies of \$1400–\$1900 to be used for your education, business, or home. If the plan is to invest in your own business, knowledgeable business experts will help with the Business Plan to increase your chances of success. I have a friend who used some of the money to install a furnace in her home. Another friend is saving the money for her kids' education. There really is no down side to the program. I have been very satisfied with my involvement."

To apply to be a participant in the SCCAP Individual Development Account Program, contact Kelly Walter, 812-339-3447, ext. 229, kelly@insccap.org

Regional Conference of SCCAP's Circles Initiative

*By Linda Patton, Circles® Coordinator
South Central Community Action Program
1500 West 15th St., Bloomington, IN 47404
lindap@insccap.org • 812-339-3447 x206 •
<http://www.insccap.org>*

On May 19, SCCAP's Monroe County Circles was privileged to host the first ever regional conference

for the Circles® Initiative. Six sites from around Indiana; Hartford City, Muncie, Indianapolis, Scott County, Evansville and Monroe County, met for a day of giving and receiving support, encouragement, insight, friendship and influence.

Bloomington was chosen to host the conference because the central location is convenient for people all over the state. More importantly, Monroe County was chosen because our initiative has had good success sharing effective local strategies to build Circles® and

What is Circles?
The Circles® Initiative is a high-impact strategy to move people out of poverty and change the way the public views poverty. Locally, it is housed at South Central Community Action Program and has been active in Monroe County for over three years. Circles® groups meet around the United States in 60 sites, and communities are added every week. The mission of the Circles® Campaign is to transform communities by building relationships that inspire and equip people to end poverty. The vision of the Circles® Campaign is that: Everyone in America has enough meaning, relationships and resources in his or her life to thrive.

See "CIRCLES", page 12

The Circles Initiative Makes A Difference!

By Blakely Clements, Director of Communications & Development
South Central Community Action Program • www.insccap.org

Lindsey was scared. She couldn't sleep.

The Bloomington 12-year old had gone to bed early to get plenty of rest, so that she could get a good grade on her spelling test in the morning. But she overheard her parents' conversation and it kept her awake.

They were talking about how her Dad's hours had been cut at work. He would be making less money. And their car had broken down: fixing it would take a LOT of money. AND they couldn't pay for their heat this month. Because they received Section 8 housing assistance, having the heat shut off meant that they would be evicted, and they had nowhere to go. There was no organization in town that would help them with money for the car parts they needed. Without the car, her Dad couldn't get to work, and he couldn't get to court in Indianapolis, where he needed to talk to the judge about money he owed. If he couldn't get to court, he

could go to jail!

Lindsey, her parents, and her sister had been homeless once before, and had to live in their car. And now their car wouldn't even run so that they could have heat. *Would they die?*

The next morning, Lindsey failed her spelling test.

But she ACED the next one! Because two days after Lindsey heard her Mom and Dad talking, they came home from their weekly Circles® Community meeting very excited. Their Circle Allies had helped them find a church that could pay for their heat this time. Circles® staff had told her parents, Deborah and Jack, that they could sign up for energy assistance, which would help them with heating bills after this. An Ally was going to drive their Dad to court and help him work out a plan with the judge. And Circles® had just started

See "A DIFFERENCE", page 13

ROMA Success Story 2011: SCCAP partnership with Eigenmann Hall of Indiana University

By Linda Patton, Circles® Coordinator
South Central Community Action Program
1500 West 15th St., Bloomington, IN 47404
lindap@insccap.org • 812-339-3447 x206 • www.insccap.org

The South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) has enjoyed a 3 year partnership with the residents of Indiana University's Eigenmann Hall, a predominately freshman dorm. With the encouragement of their Resident Assistants, Eigenmann Hall has supported SCCAP with programs, resources, and volunteers that have had a valuable impact on the population we serve.

SCCAP exists to provide opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence. The SCCAP Circles and Head Start programs find that building relationships is a critical factor in this process. We value not only our relationships with our clients and

their families, but also our community partners. Over the last 3 years, Eigenmann residents have planned and participated in a number of unique initiatives that support SCCAP programs. They have implemented an annual "Jar Wars" competition that encourages students to donate their change to fund SCCAP initiatives. In 2010, the funds raised allowed the Circles program to buy much needed resources for their children's program. In 2011, the funds were used to purchase Christmas gifts for Circles families, as well as coats, hats and gloves for Head Start children. This year Eigenmann floors sponsored each Circles participant in an angel tree ensuring a joyful holiday for all. As one parent said, 'I am so grateful that

See "SUCCESS STORY", page 13

CIRCLES

Continued from page 11

change the way our community looks at poverty with regional and national sites. During the one-day training attendees spent time in large and small groups sharing and learning.

The conference began with a get to know you exercise designed to foster relationships among the different site attendees. During the day there were keynote speakers, a panel discussion and break out sessions offered on many topics. The three keynote speakers—a person working his way out of poverty, a volunteer from Muncie who is also an author, and the CEO of Move The Mountain,

the founding organization for the Circles® model—inspired the group with their experiences and vision. People were offered a choice between eight breakout sessions including how to hold a weekly meeting, building a board, acquiring resources, managing volunteers, training strategies for adults and youth, and discussion of projects designed to change the way a community might reduce the barriers that keep people in poverty. A panel of local people shared their personal story of why they decided to become involved with Circles® and what they have learned.

An attendee who is a local Circle Leader (person working their way out of poverty and sharing

their experiences with the broader community) had this to say: "I received a lot of information about other sites and I thought it was great camaraderie. I got to reconnect with people I met last year at the national conference and I feel I made friends—we are all a part of the circles family".

Another Leader said she really enjoyed hearing the story of one of the keynote speakers, Carlos Guajardo. Guajardo, a leader from Ohio who is now part of the national training team, runs poverty simulations and co-facilitates poverty education classes. Carlos explained how having a negative, chaotic upbringing caused him to view life in a way that wasn't helpful. He said with information and

support, he changed the way he thinks, which also changed the way he acts. Carlos now feels much better about where he is going in his life and has spent the past two years overseeing VISTA members in an Ohio poverty relief agency.

Circles® defines poverty as the extent to which you do without resources and includes things like increasing mental, physical and emotional health in their planning strategies. Many people who live in poverty earn an income, but it isn't enough to pay for necessities. This causes a monthly juggling act to prioritize which bill should be paid. Should I choose my asthma medicine

See "CIRCLES", page 14

ECO MEDIA

Continued from page 9

at a new time, now every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at 615 N. Fairview Street (old site of Hoosier Hills Food Bank). Another program of the Eco Media Center, **OMgarten** (**O**rganic **M**eals garden projex) will be expanding its number of urban garden sites from 3 to 8 in its third growing season (2012) and will contribute to the fare available through **SLO FoodS** garden pantry. **OIKOS KIOSKS** will also be erecting bio info nodes at two sites along the B-Line and proceeds from the paper dumpster at the new Downtown Bloomington Recycling Center at City Hall will support Eco Media Center programs.

Eco Media Center of Monroe County is dedicated to securing social and environmental justice by connecting communities with activism opportunities, educating citizens about lifestyle alternatives, demonstrating creative sustainable solutions, providing social services and informing the public about vital public affairs issues by utilizing varied mediums of expression including organic urban agriculture, eco-art-itecture/green design and multi-media journalism.

SUCCESS STORY

Continued from page 12

my kids think of Eigenmann as a place they would like to be someday’.

We look to our volunteers to provide high quality role modeling and mentoring for young children in the community. Since the fall of 2009, Eigenmann Hall has planned and implemented family programs for over 75 Circles and Head Start families. These include three Halloween “Walk of Fang” events, two spring Field Days, a back to school picnic, a cookie decorating party and several tours of the dorm. Each event provided family games, prizes, snacks, and fun for SCCAP families.

Eigenmann students have also committed support to SCCAP outside of their dorm life. Over 30 students a year participate in volunteer orientations that will allow them to volunteer their time with children from both the Circles and Head Start program away from the dorm. The dorm also provides a monthly meal for the Circle meeting which is held in a local church. When CSBG cut threats were announced, Eigenmann residents arrived en masse at a City Council Meeting to show their support for the families served by SCCAP.

We value these opportunities for a number of

reasons. Most programs take place in Eigenmann Hall, on the Indiana University campus. For many of our families, this is an opportunity to reach outside of their comfort zones and experience a university setting. It can provide their children with a positive educational experience that can help to break down barriers to success later in life. The time, energy, and resources of the Eigenmann residents that contributed to the success of these events are greater that we could have achieved on our own.

We use our partnership to foster a sense of connection and an expectation of reciprocity and fellowship, and SCCAP families donate time to welcome students to the dorm in the fall, bake cookies during finals week and create thank you cards and letters. In 2011 SCCAP clients who participate in the Circles Initiative volunteered over 500 hours with the Eigenmann dorm and at other places in the community.

The leadership, energy, and innovation of Eigenmann and SCCAP staff creates an atmosphere where we are dedicated to engaging in meaningful service opportunities that build positive relationships between Indiana University and the Bloomington community, most especially those who live in poverty. We look forward to their continued support.

A DIFFERENCE

Continued from page 12

a fund that her parents could borrow money from to fix their car!

Lindsey had enjoyed time with her friends during the meeting, but she didn’t know that it would be such a great night for her parents, too!

The Monroe County Circles® Initiative, hosted by the South Central Community Action Program, is part of a nationwide campaign to build relationships across race and class lines, and to end poverty. This innovative strategy was created to help people like Deborah and Jack build their resources and move out of poverty. Participants also learn to take leadership in community efforts designed by Circles® to break down barriers like high housing and child care costs, and local transportation problems—barriers that keep hard-working low-income people from moving ahead.

Jack and Deborah began participating in the Monroe County Circles® Initiative. They were determined to move their family out of poverty, and their Section 8 caseworker said that Circles® could help them. They’d been doubtful at first, but during their training that met once weekly for 18 weeks, they got tough with themselves and examined the ways in which they’d been individually responsible for their poverty and the ways in which laws, economics, and community barriers had been responsible, and kept them from moving ahead. They assessed the resources they had in their lives, and those they needed to build. They assessed the community’s resources. They learned about how change happens, and about becoming leaders in their own lives. They created goals and put together a plan that would help them transition out of poverty.

Other low-income participants in the training, called “Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’-By World,” became their close

friends, and everyone shared ideas and resources and helped each other. During “Getting Ahead” training sessions, they eat dinner made by community volunteers. Lindsey and her two sisters enjoyed the Youth Community, where they participated in fun activities that helped them learn character-building skills; the girls quickly became attached to the Volunteer Coordinator and other community volunteers who had created the activities and facilitated the program. When the training was finished, Deborah and Jack chose to become “Circle Leaders.”

As Circle Leaders, they began attending weekly Circles® Community meetings—with dinner and the Youth Community always provided. They got to know the trained Community Ally volunteers, all eager to befriend them.

Then their family was matched with four Allies, who would help them follow their plan to move out of poverty! Each Circle Leader was matched with two to four Allies in

a relationship of “extended family.” Allies would provide emotional support, friendship, and problem-solving help, as well as connections to the middle-class community. In this crisis, Deborah’s and Jack’s Allies came through by finding them help with their heating bills.

This story could be your own, if you just inquire and take the first step in working your way out of poverty. Circles® Initiative is one of the few efforts in the country to take a comprehensive approach and truly assist families in getting out of poverty, rather than merely making them more comfortable while remaining in poverty.

Please call SCCAP concerning Circles and how you can improve your life or lives of others in poverty in our great community.

Circles is offered to Monroe County at this time, if you are wanting to participate please contact Linda Patton, Circles Coordinator at the SCCAP Main office in Bloomington.

AS NEED FOR SERVICES HAS GROWN, SO HAS SCCAP

By Todd Lare, Director of SCCAP

The hardships and pain of this economic depression grab your attention every day at the South Central Community Action Program in Bloomington.

So do the efforts of people striving to create a stable, comfortable future for themselves and their families.

Over the past couple of years, we've seen many new faces of people who never thought they'd be forced to seek public assistance. These include, among others, people who've lost their jobs or had their hours cut, or who got sick and weren't adequately covered by insurance.

SCCAP has also seen many of the chronically poor who are finding it harder than ever to get jobs and to pay their bills. We've seen elderly people who are forced to choose between paying their heating bill or buying medicine they need because they don't have money for both.

During the past year, the South Central Community Action Program has served more people than it did

in any previous year in its 45-year history, more than 13,000 individuals.

Fortunately, in the past five years that I've been at SCCAP, we have been able to increase our funding and staffing to help low-income people to escape poverty and reach their potential.

And in the past year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has aided this effort. SCCAP has been awarded \$3.3 million in Recovery Act funds. This money has allowed us to expand our Head Start program for 3 to 5 year-olds, create an Early Head Start program for infants and toddlers under 3, expand our Weatherization Program to provide energy efficiency improvements to more homes and launch several initiatives to help children from low-income families succeed in school.

These are investments that will change lives and reduce the need for future public expenditures.

Besides helping hundreds of local families with low incomes, these

stimulus funds have allowed SCCAP to provide jobs for 35 local residents and to boost the sales of numerous local businesses.

Another relatively new program expansion at SCCAP is the Circles® Initiative, which started in 2008. The Circles Initiative is part of a national campaign to eliminate poverty. It aims to increase the emotional and financial stability of participating families and reduce their use of welfare benefits.

This initiative puts renewed emphasis on SCCAP truly living its mission to help low-income people become self-sufficient. This will

be our focus in the years ahead.

Currently, our board of directors and staff are exploring additional program expansions in areas such as Circles, housing, job training, transportation and weatherization. These expansions will fill gaps in local resources and allow more low-income people to bring stability to their lives and ultimately to escape poverty.

In doing so, we are committed to doing everything we can to reverse the growth in the numbers of local people who are struggling to provide for the basic needs of themselves and their families.



Circles® participants

CIRCLES

Continued from page 12

or pay the electric bill? Sometimes the only realistic option is to choose between bad choices. If I don't pay, my electric bill, for instance, and my lights get shut off, I will have to pay a stiff penalty to get them reconnected in addition to paying the bill. If I skip my medication, I may not be able to work and every dollar earned is important. It is very difficult to plan for the future if you are always faced with a crisis of survival. A family must be able to plan ahead

to acquire sufficient resources to be stable. The conference shared strategies to help increase stability by strengthening knowledge, self worth, and community resources and support.

The importance of having all economic groups at the table when discussing poverty reduction strategies is a Circles® value. Many people do not know anyone in a personal way that lives without enough resources and are surprised and distressed to learn that getting and keeping a job does not necessarily move a person out of poverty. A keynote speaker who is a Muncie Ally (a person

with sufficient resources who forms a friendship with a Leader to offer support, connections and insight) spoke about being matched with a Leader and working with her on a budget. He was shocked and upset when he realized how little income she had to care for her family and asked in a panic how she could survive month to month. The Leader patted him on the arm and assured him it would be ok. People living without enough have to be very good at maximizing resources so they can survive and this Leader knew panic would not be helpful.

Circles® offers the information and community support needed to create a stable environment where people can from dreams and meet goals and this conference was an opportunity to share what works well at each site and identify what would likely help make a site stronger and more effective.

This conference brought together more than 100 people of all economic backgrounds and varied life experiences to build relationships and brainstorm strategies with a goal of everyone being able to support their family and contribute to the community in productive ways.

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

**The following
writings are from
the *Women Writing
for a Change*
program in the
Monroe County jail**

I got a lot on my mind,
Random thoughts of mine,
What will I have to lose if I was to do what my soul wants me to do?
No one will ever know my secret,
As long as I only keep it,
Tears fill my eyes but I hold them back cause I don't want my body to cry,
If I could just know why?
That's a question that will always lie,
If the truth shall set you free, then why does this always happen to me,
This world is what we make it,
But I am walking on someone else's painted pavement!

—Dominique Irby

The 'Light of Destination' Bridge

I run through the field of streams
And mountains around me
The beauty of the earth and
God's creatures around. It is such
A beautiful sound. Colours, words,
Life, our history to become our
future. The farewell to "can't"
And the strength for tomorrow

Our destination. Our bridge.
Combining two worlds.
We are the bridge of
Our Future
Our Destination

—Dorothy Axsom

The writings below were written by a member of the Shalom Writers' Circle. The Circle is a weekly meeting of guests of the Shalom Community Center who express themselves in poetry, music, and song.

For more information contact Prof. Shannon Gayk at sgayk@indiana.edu.

Lean on Jesus
By Danny Lee Griffin

Lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
Lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
Lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
He is our loving savior, Yes he died for you
So lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to

You don't have a trouble, too big or too small
Give them all to Jesus, He'll see you through them all
So lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to

The rocky road you travel, He'll be right there with you
The mountain that you are climbing, Jesus will remove
The rocky road you travel, He'll be right there with you
And the mountain that you're facing, Jesus will remove

Lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
Lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
Leaning on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
He is our loving savior, Yes he died for you
So lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to

Leaning on Jesus, Jesus wants you to
He is our loving savior, yes He died for you
So lean on Jesus, Jesus wants you to

Startin All Over Again
By Danny Lee Griffin

Well I'm startin all over again, startin all over again
When you're on the bottom, no ones you friend
Startin all over again

Satan thought he had me this time, a prisoner all in my mind
I lost everything that mattered to me, but Jesus picked me up
He heard my plea

Well I'm startin all over again, startin all over again
When you're on the bottom, no ones you friend
Startin all over again

Yesterday don't matter to me; I was blind now I can see
The pain that I had, Jesus took it away and now I have hope and a new life today

Startin all over again, startin all over again
With Jesus in my heart, I know I can win
Yes I'm startin over, startin over with him

Yesterday don't matter to me, I was blind now I can see
The pain that I had, Jesus took it away and now I have hope and a new life today

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

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 or call 349-3433.

Volunteer Opportunities

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Training – Deadline March 5

Do you believe ordinary people can do extraordinary things? Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA volunteers, change the lives of abused and neglected children by representing their best interests in court. The next training meets from Mar. 20 to Apr. 24 on Tues. and Fri. from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The application deadline is March 5. Be the difference. Volunteer to be a CASA today. Must be 21 years of age or older. Please contact Tiffany Kinney at (812) 333-2272 ext. 14 or info@monroecountycasa.org. (www.monroecountycasa.org)

Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies Program, through the Community Kitchen, helps families meet the food needs of their elementary school age children over the weekends when children are not in school. Volunteers are needed to pack the backpacks on Mon., Wed., or Fri. from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Adults, teens and small groups welcome! Please contact Annie Brookshire at (812) 332-0999 or volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com. (www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)

Peer Education

The Peer Education program of Planned Parenthood of Indiana trains outstanding youth leaders in sexuality and other health issues so they can be resources for their peers. All potential Peer Educators are required to attend 25 hours of training. Participants are provided with factual, medically-accurate information about sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, sexual orientation, pregnancy prevention, healthy relationships, and drugs and alcohol. They also learn about the social environment in which sexual decisions are often made and the factors

involved in making responsible choices. The program, which is also designed to improve parent communication with their teens, is for teens ages 14 to 17 (with parental consent) and college students. Once the training is completed, a possible stipend is available. Please contact Mai-Lin Poon at (812) 336-0219 ext. 1214 or mai-lin.poon@ppin.org. (www.ppin.org)

Family Shelter Site Supervisors

Site Supervisors at the New Hope Family Shelter add to the staff presence at Bloomington's homeless shelter for families, and help those families address the problems that led to homelessness. All volunteer shifts, which are about four hours long, are during the day. Volunteers attend a one-hour training and then shadow a current site supervisor for a shift. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least one shift per week. Please contact Jim Riley to find out about training at (812) 340-3052 or jim@nhfsinc.org. (www.newhopefamilyshelter.org)

'Celebrating Abilities' Resource Fair – March 2, 3

The Celebrating Abilities Resource Fair will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 3 at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church and will feature over 50 exhibitors with products and services benefitting persons with disabilities. New this year are breakout sessions with presentations on a variety of topics. Embracing the theme "On Safari", there will be live animal entertainment, activities, games, and fun for the whole family. Volunteers are needed from 3-7 p.m. on March 2 to set up and from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 3 to assist with the fair. Volunteers are also needed to provide childcare while parents are at breakout sessions, and to provide one-to-one assistance to a child with a disability. A background check is required for the latter positions. Adult and teen volunteers welcome.

Please contact Cyndi Johnson, Down Syndrome Family Connection, at kajcyndij@hotmail.com. (www.downsyndromefamilyconnection.org)

Rice Repackaging

The Hoosier Hills Food Bank received a bulk donation of 13,000 pounds of rice and would welcome your assistance bagging it into smaller portions to distribute to local food pantries. It is both a good group project and a good individual project for anyone needing volunteer hours and experience. Hours are very flexible. Children who want to volunteer should have adult supervision at all times; a minimum age of 10 is preferred. Please contact Nicole Richardson at (812) 334-8374 or volunteer@hhfoodbank.org. (www.hhfoodbank.org)

Ready for Bowling?

Bowling is the most popular sport in the Special Olympics Indiana – Monroe County program, with never a dull moment and plenty of "high fives". Volunteers help bowlers stay on track with turns and assist with lane problems. Some brave volunteers even bowl a game or two! Bowling is held on Tues. at 6 p.m. at Classic Lanes. This is a great opportunity for volunteer groups and individuals who are 18 or older. Please contact Denise Brown at (812) 325-1548 or soimc.cc@gmail.com. (www.specialolympicsmonroecounty.org)

Tutor Middle Schoolers

You can help local middle school students who are experiencing difficulty excel in academics. Whether you simply enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to do so, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience in tutoring. Volunteers are asked to commit to two days per week from 3:45-4:45 p.m. until May 25. Tutoring takes place at the historic Baneker Community Center.

Minimum age is 18. Please contact Kim Ecenbarger, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Dept., at (812) 349-3739 or ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov. (www.bloomington.in.gov/parksvol)

Homework Help Coaches

Edgewood Junior High School in Ellettsville is searching for caring adults able to spend at least one class period per week paired with a struggling student. Can you spare an hour or more per week to help a student? There are two requirements: a big heart and the ability to pass a background check. For the background check, all you have to do is sign a form with your name and birth date and they do the rest. There will be an informal orientation telling you about the students, discussing school protocol and answering questions. Please contact Kathleen Weller at (812) 272-6483 or katkins@bluemarble.net. (www.ejhs.rbbcs.k12.in.us)

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, a food pantry, envisions a community in which everyone has equal access to nutritious food, waste is minimized, and all members are healthy, self-sufficient, and empowered to reach their full potential. Volunteers are needed to stock shelves, clean the store and assist clients. Volunteers must be calm, patient, respectful, and able to work in a very busy atmosphere. It is preferred that volunteers in the pantry or on a shopping crew be able to lift 25 pounds; lifting of up to 50 pounds by some volunteers is necessary. All ages are welcome! Please contact Erin Marshall at (812) 355-6843 or erin@mhcfoodpantry.org. (www.mhcfoodpantry.org)

(The inclusion of an organization in this list does not imply City endorsement or support of the organization's activities or policies.)

BE MORE AWARDS

2009

SAVE THE DATE! Come one, come all to the Be More Awards, the Volunteer Network's community-wide celebration of volunteers in Bloomington. It will be on April 3, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Buskirk Chumley Theater. It's an inspiring event that showcases the good work that so many are doing to improve our community.



Basic Needs Continue to Drive Calls to Local 2-1-1

By Liz Jones, MSW, CIRS, CRS

Director, Information & Assistance, Area 10 Agency on Aging
631 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

812-876-3383 x532 • www.area10agency.org • www.211infolink.org

Since its official launch in November 2006, 2-1-1 in Monroe and Owen counties has grown to be a vital connection between people of all ages and community resources. Administered by Area 10 Agency on Aging with support from United Way of Monroe County, 2-1-1 Infolink responded to 5,277 calls and made 6,254 referrals to community resources in 2011.

Though calls increased 27% in 2011, the types of basic needs callers expressed remained the same. Finding

and keeping existing affordable housing and paying utilities continue to be the top needs. Over 14% of callers seeking financial help with utilities were already disconnected and 10% of callers seeking financial help with rent were facing eviction. However, most striking is the 70% increase in referrals to homeless shelters indicating area residents in dire circumstances.

Callers also expressed other basic critical needs. Many continue to struggle with providing food for

themselves and their families, causing a 25% increase of referrals to food pantries and soup kitchens. When people need clothing for a new job, for growing children, or to replace what's worn out, and even thrift stores are too costly, they turn to local organizations for help. In 2011, there was a 141% increase in referrals for clothing assistance.

With the ongoing financial struggles of many, it's no surprise that more people are seeking out resources to help them cope with life's stresses.

There was an almost 70% increase in referrals for substance abuse treatment and 46% increase in referrals to mental health services.

Though times may be difficult, whether it's the state of the economy, a personal crisis, or natural disaster, 2-1-1 offers a simple way to find help available in your community. Dial 2-1-1 for free, confidential, information and referrals, 24-hours a day or visit www.211infolink.com to search for local resources.

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)

See "DIRECTORY", page 19

Infiniti is donating

\$5,000 to Backstreet Missions

as Coach Crean's Charity of choice for the Coaches' Charity Challenge.

The charity with the most votes in the challenge will receive \$100,000.

That's where you come in.

You can vote once a day for Coach Crean in the Coaches' Charity Challenge by logging into www.espn.com/infiniti or www.backstreet.org.



**Vote
Once
a Day!**

**THE INFINITI
COACHES' CHARITY CHALLENGE**

ESPN

In this year's Infiniti Coaches' Charity Challenge,
Coach Tom Crean of Indiana is playing for Backstreet Missions!

- Click here to vote daily for Coach Crean -

DIRECTORY

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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: 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

Backstreet Missions Thrift Store

Address: 1911 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 333-3341

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.mysistersclosetofmonroeco.org

Volunteer Contact: JoAnne Bunnage ([812] 335-6603; jbunnage@indiana.edu)

About: Provides low-income women with free interview and workplace apparel, helping them overcome hurdles they face to independence and family self-sufficiency. Also sells used, affordable clothes to the public.

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Volunteer Contact: Monica Clemons ([812] 336-4310 x10; 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, gas vouchers, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store. All services are without

charge with the exception of Child Care Connection and thrift store.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Address: 4607 West State Road 46

Phone: (812) 961-1510

Web: www.bloomingtonsvdp.org

Volunteer Contact: Scott Alber, ([812]335-1280volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org)

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

Disabilities assistance programs

Abilities Unlimited

Address: 2620 N. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 332-1620

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

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

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

Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Inc.

Address: PO Box 1732

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

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

LifeDesigns, Inc.

Address: 200 East Winslow Rd.

Phone: (812) 332-9615

Web: www.lifedesignsinc.org

Volunteer Contact: Cindy Fleetwood

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

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

Address: 680 W. That Rd.

Phone: (812) 336-2798

Web: www.palstherapy.org

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

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

See "DIRECTORY", page 20

DIRECTORY

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Stone Belt

Address: 2815 E. 10 St.

Phone: (812) 332-2168

Web: www.stonebelt.org

Volunteer Contact: Amy Jackson (332-2168 x314; ajackson@stonebelt.org)
About: A community-based organization with over 48 years of experience in serving persons with developmental disabilities. Supports include residential, employment, life skills training and psychological services. With locations in Monroe, Lawrence, Owen, Bartholomew and surrounding counties, Stone Belt's mission is to prepare, empower, and support persons with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.

Employment resources and job counseling

WorkOne

Address: 450 Landmark Ave.

Phone: (812) 331-6000

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

Options

See disabilities assistance programs.

Stone Belt

See disabilities assistance programs.

Job Links

About: An Area 10 Agency on Aging RSVP program that helps people evaluate job needs, inventory skills, review available jobs, develop a resume, prepare for an interview, and link with potential employers. Services are free, confidential, and non-discriminatory for job-seekers of all ages. Job Links counselors are available at Shalom Center (334-5728), Salvation Army (336-4310), 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: 1787 W. 3rd St.

Phone: 1-(800)-403-0864

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

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

Address: 827 W. 14th Court

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm

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

WIC Program

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3221

About: Provides nutritional support for underprivileged mothers, babies and children up to five years of age in Monroe and Greene Counties. Applicants must meet income guidelines, live in Indiana, and have a nutritional need. All services are provided free of charge.

Food stamps

Division of Family Resources

See family services.

Health care

Futures Family Health Clinic

Address: 338 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 349-7343

About: provides family planning

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

Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice

Address: 619 W 1st St.

Phone: (812) 353-9818

Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org

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

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

Hoosier Healthwise for Children

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

Phone: (812) 349-3851

Web: www.hoosierhealthwise.net

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

Monroe County Public Health Clinic

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3244

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

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Planned Parenthood

Address: 421 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 336-0219

Web: www.ppin.org

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

Vistacare Hospice

Address: 1801 Liberty Dr., Ste. 103

Phone: (812) 330-9640

Web: www.vistacare.com

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

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

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Address: 811 West 2nd Street

Phone: (812) 333-4001

Web: www.vimmonroecounty.org

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

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

receive free care at Southern Indiana Pediatrics.

Housing (abused women)

Middle Way House

Address: 338 S. Washington St.

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

Web: www.middlewayhouse.org

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

Housing (emergency, for adults)

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

Web: www.backstreet.org

Phone: (812) 333-1905.

Address: 300 Opportunity Lane, off W. 3rd Street.

Backstreet Missions

Address: 215 Westplex Ave.

Phone: (812) 333-1905

Web: www.backstreet.org

About: A men’s shelter with services including a crisis and 12 month housing program, meals, the provision of clothing, ministry to spiritual needs, job and life skill training, GED classes, and employment and volunteer opportunities.

Martha’s House

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St. (office)
919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

Phone: (812) 335-6841 (812) 332-1444 (office)

About: An emergency shelter with 28 beds for homeless men and women. Services provided include case management, food, and clothing. Opens at 4:30 p.m.

Housing (Family Shelter)

New Hope Family Shelter

Phone: (812) 334-9840

E-mail: newhope@nhfsinc.org

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

Housing (Intact Families/Adults)

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue,
Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

About: We offer short-term, home-based hospitality to people facing homelessness.

Housing (Pregnant women)

Hannah House Maternity Home

Address: 808 N. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 334-2662

Web: www.cpcbloomington.org

About: A comprehensive residential program or pregnant women and teenagers. Offers access to prenatal and pediatric care. Also offers life skills training and assistance in achieving longer-term educational and career goals.

Housing (Rental)

Bloomington Housing Authority

Address: 1007 N. Summit St.

Phone: (812) 339-3491

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

Housing and Neighborhood Development

Address: 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

Phone: (812) 349-3420

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

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

South Central Community Action Program, Inc.

Address: 1500 W. 15th St.

Phone: (812) 339-3447

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

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

Housing (homeless youth)

Stepping Stones

Address: PO Box 1366

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Phone: (812) 339-9771

Web: www.steppingstones-inc.org

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

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

Legal and court-related services

Community Justice & Mediation Center

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

Phone: (812) 339-1551

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

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

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

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

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

Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

Address: 214 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 339-7668

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

Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Address: 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 104

Phone: (812) 339-1551

Web: www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp

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

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

Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

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

Phone: (812) 349-2670

Web: www.co.monroe.in.us

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

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

Meals and pantries (no cost)

Meals

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 630 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

About: Area 10 Agency on Aging offers 3 main nutrition and food services for senior citizens.

Congregate Meals — We offer congregate meals at 11 am at the following locations: Spencer Senior Center, Fairview United Methodist Church—Bloomington, Cambridge Square Apts.—Bloomington, Unionville Senior Center, and Maple Shades Apts.—Ellettsville. Seniors must be over 60, and a \$2 donation is requested.

Mobile Meals — We home deliver meals to seniors who are 60 years of age or older and who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. A \$2 donation is requested to help cover the cost of the program. For more information seniors can contact Mary Boutain at 812.935.2505 or e-mail her at mboutain@area10agency.org.

Food Pantry — We provide seniors with two bags of groceries and frozen food each month. Seniors must be over 60 and can call 812-876-3383 to request an application for eligibility.

Backstreet Missions (Gino's Cafeteria)

Monday-Friday: Lunch: 11-12 p.m.;

Dinner: 4-5 p.m.

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

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Address: 714 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 323-4982

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

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Shalom Community Center

Address: 620 South Walnut Street

Phone: (812) 334-5728

Web: www.shalomcommunitycenter.org

Volunteer Contact: Pam

Kinnaman ([812] 334-5734; pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org.)

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

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

Pantries/Groceries

Area 10 Agency on Aging

See meals and pantries — meals

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Address: 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

Phone: (812) 334-8374

Web: www.hhfoodbank.org

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

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

MCUM Emergency Food Pantry

Address: 827 W. 14th Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

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

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

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 355-6843

Web: www.mhcfodpantry.org

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

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

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon; 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

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

SLO FoodS garden pantry

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

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

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

Volunteer Contact: Mylo Roze, Director - Eco Media Center Coordinator - SLO FoodS garden pantry
Web: <http://ecomediacycenter.org>
greenhcity@yahoo.com

First United Methodist Church

Address: 219 E. 4th Street

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

About: Provides brown bag lunch, groceries.

Township Trustees Food Pantries—Bloomington

Address: 2111 W. Vernal Pike

Phone: (812) 336-4976

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

About: Provides canned goods.

Must be a resident of Bloomington Township.

Township Trustees Food Pantries—Perry

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 336-3713

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

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

Medicaid

Division of Family Resources

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

Older citizen programs

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 630 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, Indiana 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.bloomington.in.us/~area10

About: Offers programs and services, as well as being a resource of information about services for older and disabled citizens living in Monroe and Owen Counties. Services that can be accessed include in-home health-related services, home-delivered and congregate meal sites for the elderly, support groups, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman program for residents

of area nursing homes, a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, an Older Workers Program for those 55 and older seeking employment, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in Ellettsville, and also manages the Rural Transit bus service.

Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

Planned Parenthood

See health care.

WIC Program

See family services.

Rent, utility, bill assistance

First call the Township Trustee in the Monroe County Township in which you live: Bean Blossom (876-5109), Benton (332-6081), Bloomington (336-4976), Clear Creek (824-7225), Indian Creek (824-4981), Perry (336-3713), Polk (837-9446), Richland (876-2509), Salt Creek (332-9777), Van Buren (825-4490), Washington (331-0809).

Youth programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Address: 418 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 334-2828

Web: www.bigsindiana.org

Volunteer Contact: Contact Kathy Delaney Willett, Director of Outreach and Enrollment

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

Volunteer Contact: Lily Kleinlein

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([812] 334-2828 x232; lklein@bigsindian.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.

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 books, magazines, audiovisual materials, Internet computers, and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile (with over 25 stops weekly), and the Outreach Van. 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 classes. During the school year the Main Library offers homework help to elementary students and math homework help to teens. During tax season volunteers offer tax help. The library also offers public meeting rooms to nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community may produce

a program through 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: PO Box 7071

Phone: (812) 349-2890

Web: www.newleaf-newlife.org

About: Volunteers work both inside and outside the jail to help inmates, and those recently released from jail transition successfully back into society. Services offered include: employment help; support groups; family support; and community referrals. Volunteer opportunities can include: mentoring; transition services; office work; family outreach; or programming in the jail.