

FREE



South Central Community Action Program

SCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

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

Safety~Net

March–May 2014

Homeward Bound Walk: Community Event!

By Erne Janse Van Rensburg,
Public Relations Committee Volunteer

Community—so much meaning in such a simple word. It's the feeling of belonging with others and sharing attitudes, interests, goals, government, and even simply the same geographic area. Being apart of a community gives you that sense of comfort that when you fall there will be someone to catch you and help you back up. Bloomington like so many other communities across our state has a portion of our community members that need our support. For those of us who can it's our responsibility to reach out to others in their time of need and help where or when we can.

The Homeward Bound 5K Walks give communities across the state the ability to do just that! These events have raised well over \$3 million for over a hundred affordable housing and homelessness service providers statewide. The Bloomington walk has been a collaborative effort by local agencies for the past 12 years now. All these agencies have a common objective of raising awareness and funding for homelessness in Bloomington and across the state to ultimately end homelessness. This year, the walk benefits these 12 agencies;

See "HOMEWARD BOUND", page 2

Successful Community Non-Profit Stories

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

When I first ran for mayor, my primary message was that I was running to empower people to achieve their potential. That's precisely the reason your City Council and City administration have invested so heavily in social service agencies that better the lives of our neighbors in need of assistance.

In my time in the mayor's office, I have steadily increased financial support for such agencies. In fact, funding has been increased in each of the last 10 years in budgets passed by City Council members.

When I served in state government, one of my greatest frustrations was seeing social service spending cut every time the state experienced financial troubles. When the economy is down, individuals and families, in addition to state government's bottom line, suffer. In other words, the people who can least afford it are the very ones who see their support

mechanisms scaled back when times are toughest.

I committed to myself, and to the public on the day I launched into City government, that things would be different at the local level. And so it is that we have more than doubled the annual Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund allocation for a total exceeding \$2 million in 10 years. All told, the program has infused \$2,977,625 into social services since its inception. Additionally, the City has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in other forms of financial and staff support.

The best way to combat homelessness is to prevent it. Dozens of nonprofit agencies, staffed by hundreds of dedicated professionals, assist thousands of citizens to achieve their potential. City taxpayer investment has produced significant dividends. Here are just a few

See "SUCCESS STORIES", page 2



Mark Kruzan,
Mayor of Bloomington

Cuentos de Suceso de Programas de Servicio Social

Por Mark Kruzan, Alcalde de Bloomington

Cuando hice mi primera campaña electoral, el mensaje principal era que quería fortalecer a la gente para lograr toda su potencial. Es precisamente por eso que su Ayuntamiento y Administración de la Ciudad han invertido tanto en agencias de servicio civil que mejoran el bienestar de nuestros vecinos que necesitan ayuda.

Como presidente municipal, he aumentado el apoyo monetario para tales agencias. De hecho, el fondo ha aumentado cada año desde 2004 en los presupuestos creados por los miembros del ayuntamiento.

Ver "CUENTOS DE SUCESO", página 2



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

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

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

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

CUENTOS DE SUCESO

Viene de la página 1

Cuando yo trabajaba para el gobierno estatal, una de mis mayores frustraciones era la reducción del presupuesto para los servicios sociales cada vez que el estado enfrentaba problemas financieros. Cuando la economía se caía, estos servicios eran ausentes e individuales y las familias sufrían. En otras palabras, la gente que depende de estos servicios son justamente los que pierden los mecanismos de apoyo en una economía dura.

Yo me prometí a mí mismo, y al público en el día que decidí trabajar para el gobierno municipal, que en el nivel local, las cosas serían diferentes. Y así es, hemos duplicado los fondos anuales proveídos por la organización Jack Hopkins de Servicios Sociales por un total de \$2 millones de dólares en 10 años. Sobre todo, el programa ha infundido \$2,977,625 en servicios sociales desde su inicio. Además, la

Ciudad ha proveído decenas de miles de dólares en otras formas de apoyo financiero.

La mejor manera de combatir la polémica de personas sin hogar es prevenirlo desde el comienzo. Decenas de agencias de servicio civil, dirigidas por profesionales dedicados, asisten miles de ciudadanos para lograr su potencial. Los pagadores de impuestos han producido dividendos significantes. Aquí les presento un cuento de suceso.

Crawford Place Apartments

Crawford provee departamentos seguros de un dormitorio para 24 personas discapacitadas que no tienen hogar. Crawford no solamente provee un refugio, pero también otros servicios incluyendo mantenimiento de casos especiales, consejos de empleos, instrucción de vivienda diaria y consejo de nutrición. En el primer año, el proyecto ha producido resultados increíbles.

Muchos inquilinos han logrado semanas o meses de sobriedad y están aprovechando de los servicios de consejo

contra la adicción por el Centro de Recuperación o Alcohólicos Anónimos. Muchos residentes quieren quedarse en el Crawford place y han comenzado a aconsejar a otros residentes de la importancia de obedecer las reglas del edificio, de hacer su parte de limpieza y respetar los otros miembros del departamento.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

A lo largo los años, MHC se dio cuenta de que el alto precio de cultivar un jardín y comprar herramientas de la cocina puede ser prohibido para los que tengan interés en sembrar, preparar y preservar su propia comida. A través MHC programa de Compartimiento de Herramientas, patrones y miembros de la comunidad podrán pedir prestando para proyectos cortos que aumentarán la seguridad de la comida comunitaria.

En colaboración con otros programas de Compartimiento de Herramientas por el país, MHC ha criado un modelo de este tipo de programa que ofrecerá a la comunidad el acceso de herramientas

justamente antes de la primavera de 2014. Este invierno, MHC usó fondos de la ciudad para comenzar a comprar y crear un inventario.

South Central Community Action Program

La Subvención de Asociación de Sostenibilidad de la Ciudad (City's Sustainability Partnership Grant) ayudó al SCCAP a comenzar su Proyecto de Invernadero. Este proyecto proveerá a clientes de Bloomington con plantas de alta-calidad, sembrado con un sistema hidropónico para proveer a los residentes discapacitados, de bajo nivel socioeconómico, o que tienen otras barreras con entrenamiento a conseguir más oportunidades de empleo.

Esta subvención fue usada para comprar y demostrar los sistemas de jardín y dejó a clientes de Stone Belt y niños del programa Head Start a sembrar verduras. Este proyecto ayudó a SCCAP a encontrar fondos pero eventualmente el programa será financieramente auto-suficiente.

HOMeward BOUND

Continued from page 1

Amethyst House, Centerstone, MiddleWay House, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Shalom Community, Community Kitchen, LifeDesigns, New Hope Family Shelter, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Martha's House, Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County and Stepping Stones. This year's walk hosts a new benefiting agency LifeDesigns, whose mission is to partner with people with autism and other disabilities, and our communities to bring about self-directed and enriched lives through education, information and support. 100% of funds raised stay in Bloomington and Monroe County to benefit these local agencies.

The 12th Annual Bloomington Homeward Bound 5K Walk will take place on Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 1pm at The Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park, formerly known as Third Street Park. While the walk is to raise awareness and fundraise, it is much more, it's a Festival! It celebrates all the hard work these agencies do all year long helping citizens of our community. The walk is a great way that the community

can recognize their efforts, support them, and encourage them to continue what they are doing.

The Bloomington walk is a fun-filled day filled with entertainment, activities, and even some exercise. There will be musical guests and performers along the walk ensuring a great time. This year's main stage entertainment will include The Sad Sam Blues Jam—just one of Bloomington's great local entertainers. The walk will kick off pre-entertainment and jazzercise to warm everyone up before the walk begins. The event is completely pet-friendly so no family member need be left behind in this can't-miss event. There will be food and plenty of great activities for children at "Kids Island." The Bloomington Homeward Bound 5K Walk is such an incredible way to bring the community together and spend an enjoyable day helping others in our community! Join or create a team, donate or volunteer today.

For more information about how to participate and be a part of this great event please visit <http://homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington> or contact Walk Chair Kathy Mayer, (812) 349.3467 or mayerk@bloomington.in.gov.

SUCCESS STORIES

Continued from page 1

recent success stories.

Crawford Place Apartments

Crawford provides safe, secure, one-bedroom apartments for 24 formerly homeless Bloomington residents with disabilities. Along with shelter, Crawford provides services, including case management, employment counseling, training and placement, daily living instruction, nutrition and counseling services in a low-barrier setting. In its first year, the project produced life-changing results.

Several tenants have achieved weeks or months of sobriety and are taking advantage of addiction counseling services through the Recovery Engagement Center or AA. Many of the residents want to remain at Crawford and have started counseling other residents on the importance of following house rules, assisting with cleaning and respecting other residents and staff.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Throughout the years, MHC

See "NON-PROFIT", page 4

About *Safety~Net*

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AGENCY REPORTS

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

AGENCY GUIDE

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

WE WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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

A Library for All

By Sara Laughlin, Director, Monroe County Public Library

Monroe County Public Library is getting ready to celebrate Disability Awareness Month in March, and it comes as the culmination of multiple efforts on the part of library staff.

We have always had a deep commitment to serving everyone in our community. Over the years, we have taken many steps to make sure people with disabilities can use our services. We designed our facilities to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and we have made many modifications to improve them. For example, we installed automatic door openers on restroom doors after we realized the doors were too heavy. We recently removed the cobblestones outside the entrances to the Main Library after a customer who uses a walker let us know they were hard to navigate. We patiently help people who have a wide variety of disabilities—in the Library, on the Bookmobile, through our home deliveries, over the phone, and via the web and email.

And yet... we really hadn't fully grasped—or addressed—our full obligation to make all services and programs accessible. Yes, we had purchased magnifying devices. Yes, we provided signers for children's programs on request. But our actions

were often reactive and isolated. Reading the law, it was somewhat overwhelming to grasp the wide range of disabilities for which we should be prepared.

Two years ago, we took the first steps toward real improvement. The Board of Trustees approved a policy that outlined our commitment not to discriminate

against individuals on the basis of disability in our services, programs and activities, and a grievance procedure. Our new Associate Director, Marilyn Wood, became the ADA Coordinator and began to identify all the activities already in place and areas that needed attention. She and ten employees from all parts of the

Library participated in an online course together. Their shared learning became the basis for a committee which has studied best practices, led our learning efforts, documented our services, and made connections with experts in our community.

More recently, we have focused on staff development. In our busy facilities, open seven days/69 hours every week, on the Bookmobile and in outreach programs, it is important that every Library employee be prepared to help a person with disabilities, often in consultation with families and caregivers. By the end of February, every employee will have participated in a 90-minute "AccessAbility Academy" session, with webinar content and discussion and an update on the Library's services presented by members of the Library's working group. We plan to add the training to our "onboarding" process and offer regular updates in the future to continue to deepen our knowledge.

In March, we are celebrating Disability Awareness Month, in partnership with the City of Bloomington. Several exciting programs are planned:

For information on Library services for people with disabilities visit mcpl.info/disabilities

Sensory Storytime, March 6, 10–10:30 a.m. An interactive and educational storytime for all preschoolers but designed especially for children with sensory integration issues.

What's Next? Employment for Youth with Special Needs, March 6, 4–5:30 p.m. Teresa Grossi, IU Institute on Disability and Community, presents information on careers and disabilities. She discusses career preparation and development and offer tips on meeting challenges.

Autism-Friendly Movie Showing: Despicable Me 2, March 19, 6:30-8:15 p.m. Stand up, dance, shout, and sing out during this special film showing for individuals living with autism. With the lights turned up a bit and the sound turned down a tad, you can relax and enjoy *Despicable Me 2* with family and friends without worrying if someone will complain or be disturbed by noise or movement. All are welcome.

Assistive Technologies @ your library. Learn about

assistive technologies at the Library. Instructional designer Austin Stroud gives an overview of assistive technologies available on public computers and special equipment available at the Library.

To register for any of the above programs, or to find out more, please call us at 349-3050 or visit mcpl.info/calendar. We hope you will join us to celebrate Disability Awareness Month in March, and help us make sure that everyone in our community is well served by their Library.

Public Opinion

Are you interested in having a conversation about developing a self-managed, sober-living community?

By Lindsey Campbell-Badger

Join us for a conversation about starting a local Oxford House!

The Re-Entry Collective (Monroe County Think Tank for the Recently Released) is hosting regular conversations about starting a local Oxford House in Bloomington, Indiana.

Oxford House is a concept in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. In its simplest form, an Oxford House describes a democratically run, self-supporting and drug free home. The Re-Entry Collective advocates for re-entry solutions, including housing and programming initiatives, in Bloomington.

7:30pm, the Second Monday of each month (March 10th • April 14th • May 12th • June 9th) at New Leaf New Life • 1010 South Walnut St • (812) 355-6842

WonderLab Science Museum Joins Statewide Access Pass Program

Contact: Catherine Olmer, WonderLab Executive Director
812-337-1337 ext. 16
Louise Schlesinger WonderLab Marketing Director
812-337-1337 ext. 12

Bloomington, Indiana—The WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology in Bloomington is pleased to announce a new partnership that makes extraordinary informal learning experiences more affordable to families in need throughout Indiana. WonderLab joins The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indiana Historical Society, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, and the Terre Haute Children's Museum in the Access Pass Program.

Created in 2004 by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the Access Pass Program is a successful statewide initiative that provides eligible low-income Hoosier families with opportunities to visit participating organizations at the reduced rate of \$1 per family member per visit. Indiana families with at least one member who is 18 years of age or older and who are part of the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), food stamps, or Hoosier Healthwise Insurance are eligible to participate in the Access Pass Program.

"We started the Access Pass Program in Indianapolis and now are expanding it to ensure that all

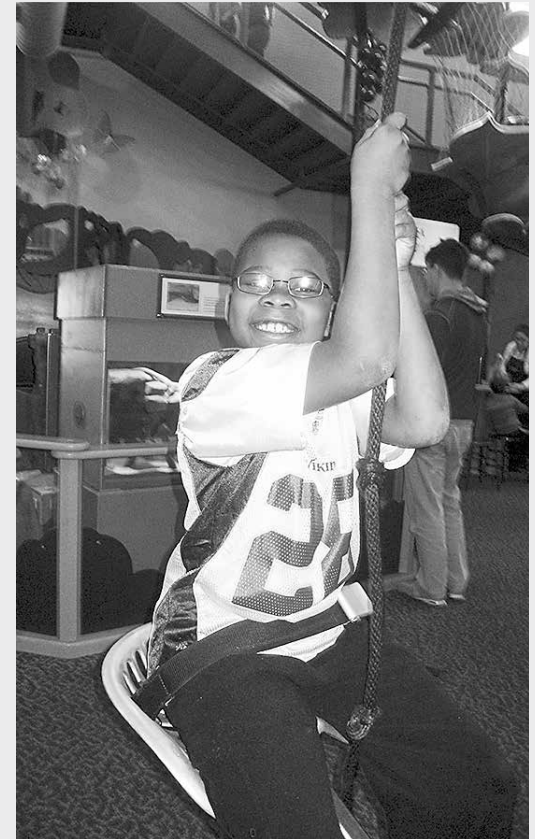
children and families throughout the state, regardless of income, are able to learn and grow together. We are very pleased to have WonderLab as our newest partner," said Dr. Jeffrey H. Patchen, president and CEO, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

To enroll in or renew an existing Access Pass Program membership, qualifying families can visit any of the



participating organizations with required documentation and a completed Access Pass application. They will be issued an Access Pass card, which is renewable annually and provides family members the reduced rate throughout the year. The Access Pass Program application forms are available at the WonderLab welcome desk and also is available online as a pdf file to download. For detailed information, including a listing of required enrollment documents, follow the link on the museum's homepage, wonderlab.org, or visit childrensmuseum.org/access-pass.

WonderLab's participation in the Access Pass Program is made possible, in part, through the generosity of Dr. Jean Creek and Mrs. Doris Shoultz-Creek, and the Donna Lou Creek Endowed Fund, which is dedicated to making WonderLab accessible to low-income families. "Through philanthropic contributions, WonderLab has been able to offer an annual Dollar Day, half-price admission programs such as First Friday Evening, and summer WonderCamp scholarships. We are incredibly excited that the Creek family has made it possible for WonderLab to



offer the Access Pass Program, which allows us to offer hands-on science learning to a much wider audience of children and families," said Catherine Olmer, executive director of WonderLab.

WonderLab is located at 308 West Fourth Street in the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD). The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 am–5:30 pm, and Sunday, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm. WonderLab is open extended evening hours until 8:30 pm the first Friday of the month. General admission is \$7.00. Admission is free for WonderLab members and children under the age of one. For more information, visit wonderlab.org or call 812-337-1337 ext. 25. WonderLab also is on Facebook and Pinterest.

NON-PROFIT Continued from page 2

realized that the cost of gardening and cooking tools can be prohibitive for someone

who is interested in growing, preparing and preserving food. Through MHC's upcoming Tool Share program, patrons and community members will be able to borrow tools for short-term projects that will increase

the community's overall food security.

In collaboration with tool lending libraries across the country, MHC has created a tool share model that will offer the community access to tools just

in time for the 2014 gardening season. This winter, MHC used funding from city government to begin buying and creating an inventory.

South Central Community Action Program

The City's Sustainability Partnership Grant helped the SCCAP start their Greenhouse

See "COMMUNITY", page 5

The GED is NO MORE: What do you do now?

By Sheila Butler

Adult Education Teacher at Shalom and Broadview

In case you haven't watched the news or read the newspaper, you may not know that the GED (that has been around since about 1945) no longer exists in Indiana. Some other states have the GED 2014 but not Indiana—we adopted a different test, called the TASC or Test Assessing Secondary Credit but we are simply going to call it the High School Equivalency Exam. You will earn the Indiana High School Equivalency Diploma. If you took the old test but did not pass—you must start all over again. If you earned your GED—congratulations!!! The GED was a high school equivalency test, so you can use that for getting a job or going to college.

If you did not pass high school and need your High School Equivalency Diploma or if you just need to brush up on your academic skills for any reason, Monroe County Community School Corporation's Broadview Adult Learning Center at 705 W. Coolidge Dr. can help you. We have classes 3, 4 and 5 days a week and class times in the morning, afternoon and evening. To go here you must call 812-330-7731 and make an appointment for our next Orientation Session. You may also come to Shalom Community Center at 620 South Walnut Street from 9 till 12 any Monday, Wednesday or Friday and begin classes there—we have open enrollment but it is requested that you come at 9 a.m., sign up at the desk and wait until you are told to go up or the signup sheet says ask to go up.

The test is more in line with the college level placement on the Ivy Tech Accuplacer and is more rigorous with math that includes Algebra and Geometry and will increase in difficulty over the next 3 years. So now is the time to try, don't wait. It is recommended that everyone take a class and get your academic levels high enough and take a readiness test before investing \$70 in taking the test. If you feel you are ready—you may sign up in person at Broadview Learning Center between 7:30 and 3:00, bring 3 pieces of ID, one must be a valid Indiana Picture ID and either exact cash or check to sign up. Tests are given over 2 days every Tuesday and Wednesday. You may take the test 3 times in a calendar year.

Having a High School Equivalency Diploma is more and more necessary to get a good job and go on to further training like college or an apprenticeship. The time needed varies by each individual, some will be ready in a month and others may take many months—it is just important to stick with it and see your goal happen by doing your best and focusing on attendance and study habits. Think how proud of yourself you will be when you succeed. You can do this—see you in class!

COMMUNITY

Continued from page 4

Project. The project will provide Bloomington customers with high-quality, hydroponically grown crops year-round and provide low-income residents with disabilities and other barriers with training and

job opportunities.

The grant helped purchase and demonstrates indoor gardening systems and allowed Stone Belt clients and Head Start children to grow vegetables. The project helped SCCAP seek funding but ultimately will become financially self-sustaining.

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

By Jake Mincey, VISTA/Community Initiatives Associate at Monroe County United Way

If you worked in 2013, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), even if you don't owe taxes! EITC can be a big financial boost for working people. The credit, which is based on income and family size, can be worth as much as \$6,044. One in four people who qualify for the EITC refund don't even claim it, but the Free Community Tax Service can help!

It is the goal of United Way and the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana to ensure that all eligible households in our area file a tax return and claim their EITC credit. We're letting low- and moderate-income individuals and families in south central Indiana know that you can "keep your cash and claim your credit!" Simply file your taxes free of charge at one of the many Free Community Tax Service tax preparation sites in Monroe and Owen counties. This is the fastest way to receive your refund—in most cases 10 days or less. IRS-certified volunteers at the Free Community Tax Service sites can assist you with the free tax preparation and electronic filing process.

In 2013, the Free Community Tax Service sites helped file 2,930 returns for free, which saved residents up to \$850,000 in tax preparation fees and brought millions of dollars back into our community. The Free Community Tax Service has expanded each year to better serve area residents.

Ashley Hall, United Way Community Initiatives Director, said "The FCTS is such a valuable resource for Monroe and Owen counties. We're proud to convene a community partnership that brings together social service agencies, education centers, the City, and a fantastic group of dedicated volunteers to ensure that folks have access to high quality, free tax preparation and claim the credits they qualify for."

United Way Executive Director Barry Lessow

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

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

Once again this year, residents have the option to file their taxes from the comfort of home by logging on to MyFreeTaxes.com/Bloomington. This service is also free of charge for those with a combined Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of under \$58,000.

For Spanish speakers, interpretation is available at each site by calling 812-349-3860 in advance.

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

Along with United Way of Monroe County and the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana, partners of the Free Community Tax Service include 2-1-1, AARP, Broadview Learning Center, City of Bloomington, El Centro Comunal Latino, Ellettsville Branch Library, Indiana Legal Services, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Internal Revenue Service, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, Monroe County Public Library, Owen County Public Library, South Central Community Action Program, Twin Lakes Recreation Center, Walmart, WorkOne Bloomington, and community volunteers.

LOCATIONS, DATES AND TIMES

Broadview Learning Center

705 West Coolidge Dr., Bloomington,

Phone (812) 330-7731

Feb 5th–April 10th (Call for appointment)

Wednesday: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Thursday: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

BONUS days—April 5th & April 12th (9:00am to 1:00pm)

Ellettsville Branch Library

600 W. Temperance St., Ellettsville

Phone (812) 876-1272

Feb 1st–April 12th (Call for appointment)

Friday: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am to 1:00pm

See "TAX SERVICE", page 8

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

Poems from *Writing for (a) Change Foundation*,
Bloomington

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When I Close My Eyes

When I close my eyes,
the freedom reigns.
All the way to heaven,
My soul sings

When I close my eyes,
my mind sets free...
All that keepeth me.

by Crystal Weber

.....

My life like a crystal glass
shattered into a thousand
pieces. I began to pick it up
wishing it could be that easy
to clean up. Overwhelmed I
collapsed crying tears of regret.
Part of me wishes I would've
never met him. I wouldn't be
so lost and stuck in such a
dark place. Who ever said it
was better to have loved and
lost obviously didn't know
what it was like to lose a love
that never loved, he seized my
heart.

by Deanna Davis

.....

I was tired of running,
running the opposite direction
of the love of my life. His
disappearance had cut deeply
like salt in a bleeding wound—
it burned like a child who
awaited punishment for a
bad deed. I was supposed to
let go of his memory, let go

and forget but he was such a
prevalent force in my life—I
couldn't. His face haunts my
dreams every night. To love a
man like him was dangerous,
but not to love him was torture.

by Deanna Davis

.....

I woke up today with a second
chance.... I would have never
used any drug! That alone
would've changed my whole
life. I would've laughed more,
loved more, hugged more, been
more patient and kind. To the
most important people in my
life, my children, who are now
grown and having children of
their own, one getting married.
Proud, yes I'm proud of them.
Even with the road I took I
have three wonderful children
who will someday love me as
they once did, before I got lost.

They will soon see me happy
and sober and that will make
them happy! A very wise
woman once told me, "Deanna,
if they see you happy it will
make them happy, they will
want to spend time with you!"
Well, my children are coming
around...I mean, how could
they believe in me when I
didn't even believe in myself?

by Deanna Davis

.....

Letters from Home

I'm sorry about yesterday, I
know it was your birthday, I
thought you would like to hear
from sis. I don't like doing
anything that has to do with
jail anymore. I got tired of that
a long time ago.

I'm sorry you're in there
but you are the only one
that could've kept that from
happening. I'm so happy that it
sounds like you're getting your
head on straight. Hope you're
really serious this time, not for
me but for you.

Mom, you have such a big heart
and you're so smart when you
want to be. Why can't you see
you deserve a better life? You
have so many people making
your life hard that when they
stopped you made it hard for
yourself. Now I just hope that
it's not too late for you to turn
your life around.

There are so many things you
could've done with your life,
so many things you can still
do. I know it's hard, especially
when you feel alone, but keep
your head up, make goals
for yourself, and you will be
surprised where you end up. I
know you have potential cause
I got my talents and potential
from someone.

Letters from home—Explains
itself! Every reason in the
world not to look back to
someone who has used you,
hurt you and still trying to put
the blame on you, who has
taken your freedom, your self
worth, your whole world and
yet still continues his pathetic
lies! He will no longer be your
slave.

I am a mother, I am a
daughter, I am a sister I am
an Aunt, I am a wife! I am
somebody, no longer a slave to
you, and no longer a slave to
my addiction.

FAMILY FIRST FOREVER
by Deanna Davis

.....

Poems from inmates taking part in the *New Leaf-New Life Air Program*

.....

Little Poison Pill

Anonymous

I remember the day
When you first came my way;
A sapphire jewel, but only for fools,
You took all my will, all my mental tools.

Like a wolf in sheep's garb, you let yourself in,
Thus I started a battle, that I'd never win.
And through all the years, and with all the tears,
I tried to break free, but you wouldn't let me.

So things just got worse, as you strengthened your curse,
Thus I came to learn, and even to yearn;
That it wouldn't be long, until my final song.
And the comfort I gained, as I thought about death,
Made me pray every day, for my final breath.

After so many years, it finally went down,
As I struggled to live in this old college town.
They locked me away—I deserved it, I'd say.
And to my surprise, I wasn't so wise,
For my time of such strife has now saved my life.

To my family and friends, I've needed to say,
That I long for the day, when see you I may,
So I can fix all the things, that I've taken away;
I'd take back the hurt, if there was only some way.

And to my father who died, after I robbed his pride,
Myself I'll never forgive, for as long as I live.
If I could take back your tears, and quell all your fears,
I'd gladly give in—I'd trade fifty years.

To my loved ones and, and all.
I pray you'll recall,
My heart was once good, not once and for all,
And forgive all I've done, that caused you to run.
For with this return, to the honest life's trail,
I swore from my soul, that I'm not going to fail.

I wrote this about my addiction and the damage it caused to
those I love....

.....

See "POETRY", page 7

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

POETRY

Continued from page 6

Untitled 1

Rob Siegrist

“ I wish that we would’ve met years ago,
While I was still married to Chuck,
(Her uncle touchy husband)
We would have fucked and changed all of
this then”
She says with uncontagious laughter.

Her words floated
They tore the air
As they scraped against it
Like the notes of a symphony of untuned
violins
They gang rape my heart by way of my ears,
Smother fucking it, stripping the
Hopefulness away
And refilling the void with their
Off key love

I just shake my head
She’s unaware that the statement
Didn’t land as intended
It didn’t comfort
It crashed
It cart-wheeled down the airstrip
Tossing it’s intentions about
Like raggedy crash-test dummies,
Stuffing littering the wind.

Was I supposed to agree?
...to be happy?
...to burst into laughter as well?
...to be grateful....
That she wished to have me enter her life,
Only to have me deal with my “carry on”
Earlier?

Untitled 2

Rob Siegrist

My memories coagulate into patches of,
Cool damp moss that cling
To the walls of my soul.Yesterday, the years
before, the years before that,
“Not only on the East” they scream,
inching along,
As I crawl through the maze.
“We are everywhere and going nowhere,

We rule you, leave us, or run from us, you
will not!”

I try.
Desperately I whitewash myself,
Changing my description, meshing as the
Cameleon does.
I am free for a while,
But....like a lie always does,
The truth permeates through the façade.
The scab is scraped off,
The abscess leaks its thoughts and
emotions.
I am forced to relive again and again, and
Again.

I glow with anger as the embers of
Resentment and embarrassment
Burn white hot.
I tiptoe around the situation
So as not to insinge what remains,
Of my spirit.
I bellow,” All I want is a
Fucking peace of mind.”
Instead my fleeting thoughts ice cream
scoop
To the bone, what truly was ,
Or is, or wants to become, away.
Again
I try.
I wake to sleep
To escape,
To move along
Just a little further
In the catacombs
Slithering my way through
This maze
What was my “carrot” again?

I can...

Rob Siegrist

I can’t stomach to look at
my own fucking reflection
long enough to shave or brush my
horrible fucking smile anymore.
The hurt and pain flood back in and
rule over my tattered, blackened,
soul and brain...
again and again
like a fucking tragic re-occurring car crash
every time I catch a glimpse of the
vacant, blueish-green orbs
that pierce the glass and poke my soul.
I claw them closed
and pray to god to give me the strength
to nullify the urge to shatter the mirror

and slit my wrists beyond the bone
with the jagged sliver of my image,
regularly.
Like fucking regularly.
When awarded, I trudge to my rack
and fall into a fetal
crying myself to sleep,
asking myself, over and over...
Why I have allowed myself
to fall back down this same fucking rabbit
hole
time and time again.
always forced to re-live my
failures, disappointments, and sins
everytime I hit this bottom.
Is it torture that I enjoy?
Am I ever going to fucking change
Toward the good?
To my defense, the other voice says that
I may just be as broken as the mirror that
I’ve shattered
in my mind, more times than I’m able to
count...
cubed.
And torture?... ha ha
Torture is breathing.
But I can

Hasta La Muerte

Rob Siegrist

I did not stand at the altar,
I levitated at the foot of the jury box
With my beloved,
And the pious judge that sat on his stoop,
Reciting from the Bible, as he looked down
Our “church” was a courthouse, a
courtroom,
Carpet and wood, painted ivory inside,
With hardly anyone else there, but God,
That was fine with us. It was our day
anyway.
It was a brisk, overcast November morning
11-19-12 was the date. Our date.
You in a plaid jacket and a tight black skirt,
Me in black and white stripes, shackles,
and handcuffs.
We stood face to face, crying slightly, from
Fear and awe. But in truth, we had nothing
to fear,
We had already married the first night I
gave you kisses.
We had been married by our bodies, and
our souls.
But there we stood, in history,

For what our bodies had said mouth to
mouth,
We then said publicly. We vowed to be
together
As one, until death.
Hasta la muerte!
It was a vow of the present, and the future,
And yet I felt it to have some touch on the
Distant past, of the distant past draped
over it.
I felt the wordless, wispy, crying ghost
Of my mother there, somewhere in the
echoing space,
Perhaps one of the plummeting tears,
gliding down
Your cheek, as he said “for better or for
worse”,
Then was banished away as I said “I do”.
I felt as if I had come
To claim a promise, something I had been
working toward
This hour, and all my life, you were offering
me, no matter what,
Your life
All I had to do that morning was accept it,
As if being asked if I breathe
Do I take thee?
Of course I do, without a doubt in my mind,
I want...
I take as you take, baby-girl, I do!
Hasta la muerte!

Back Out of Hell

Cody Price

Why was I put back in this place?
Back to this proverbial hell.
That I much like Dante just overcame.
One would think all the progress,
no, better yet all those who depend on me.
would be enough to prevent such
indiscretions,
from being so thoughtlessly made.
Well think again because here I lay.
Dying inside wishing I could,
take back my selfish uncaring ways.
Wishing I was with you.
However, when I was I was not really.
Choosing to ignore what I had.
When in reality I had it all.
How sad is it that it took being,
cast into this dark pit of despair.
To come to the realization that if,
I do not change my ways.

See “POEMS”, page 8

TAX SERVICE

Continued from page 5

Indiana University Maurer School of Law

211 S. Indiana Ave.,
Bloomington

Feb 10th–March 11th (First
come, first served)

Monday: 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Tuesday: 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Bonus Days: March 24th &
25th (6:00pm to 9:00pm)

Super Saturdays: March 8th &
March 29th @ Kelley School of
Business (9:00am to 5:00pm.)

[No service the week beginning
Sun March 16th]

Ivy Tech Community College

200 Daniels Way, Room B201,
Bloomington

(812) 332-1559 ext. 0

Jan 28th–March 8th (Call for
appointment)

Tuesday: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Wednesday: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Friday: 12:00pm to 7:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Monroe County Public Library

303 East Kirkwood Ave.,
Bloomington

Phone (812) 349-3050

(AARP Tax-Aide)

Feb 3rd–April 11th (First come,
first served)

Monday: 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Tuesday: 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Friday: 2:00pm to 5:45pm

Owen County Public Library

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

Feb 1st–March 15th (Call for
an appointment)

Thursday: 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Friday: 11:30am to 2:30pm

Saturday: 9:00am to 12:00pm

South Central Community Action Program

1500 W. 15th St., Bloomington

Phone (812) 339-3447

Feb 6th–April 12th (Call for
appointment)

Thursdays: 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Twin Lakes Recreation Center

1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.,

Bloomington,

Phone (812) 349-3720

(AARP Tax-Aide)

Feb 5th–April 10th (First come,
first served)

Wednesday: 9:00am to 3:00pm

Thursday: 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Self Service Site

Swing by our self-service
tax preparation site and file
your own federal and Indiana
state tax returns for FREE!

Using a computer, you
can electronically file with
assistance from an IRS-trained
volunteer. No appointment
necessary.

WorkOne

450 S. Landmark Ave.,

Bloomington,

(812) 331-6000 ext. 7001

Feb 5th–April 11th (First

come, first served)

Wednesday: 9:00am to

12:30pm

Friday: 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Mobile Site

Free Community Tax Service
is on the road! To better
serve every resident in our
community, we are taking the
Free Community Tax Service
to Bloomington Housing
Authority, Positive Link,
LifeDesigns, and Stone Belt.
Visit www.MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes or call 2-1-1 for
details about dates and times.

MyFreeTaxes.com/ Bloomington

Now you can file your taxes
for free from the comfort of
your own home! This online
self-preparation and filing
tool helps users prepare and
file their federal and state
taxes at no charge. Your
combined Adjusted Gross
Income (AGI) must be under
\$58,000 to receive this
service free of charge. Visit
www.MyFreeTaxes.com/
Bloomington to file your own
taxes for free today!

You must bring the following to receive free tax help:

- Valid picture identification for taxpayer and spouse.
- Social Security cards and birth dates for yourself, spouse, and dependents.
- All W-2s, W-2Gs, 1099s, and Social Security or unemployment benefit statements related to income received during 2012.
- If filing jointly, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

Additional information may be required— visit www.MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes to find out.

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

POEMS

Continued from page 7

You will no longer be there.
Then what would I have to live
for?
Really? Nothing!
You are the light in my life, and
now at the
end of my tunnel, and if
extinguished,
my heart goes cold, and I die.
Trying to find my way out.
Out of this tunnel.
Forget the current situation its
temporary.
With you I can fight through,
the seven circles of hell with ease.
Because with you I have got
heaven,
right smack in the middle of hell

.....

Perfect Memory

Cody Price

There is only one memory,
that no matter where I am,
how I feel, or what I am doing.
It makes me feel whole again.
A memory of absolute beauty.
A reflection of pure serenity.
That conjures up a feeling of
purity.
It makes me if even for a second,
feel as if I am home.
Home is in your arms.
Gazing into your beautiful brown
eyes.
Touching your velvet soft skin.
Embracing the sweet taste of your
lips.
Feeling your heart race.
Beating harder with every second
that passes,
while I clutch your warm supple
body,
next to mine.
Hearing you say I love you.
Even just the memory makes me
melt away,
to infinite happiness.

.....

Incarcerated

Cody Price

Property of the state.
Surrounded by anger and pain.
Where others decide,
if I am to blame.
Should I allow myself to get
bitter?
When equivocally I know
that I am much bigger.
So fueled by self realization,
I rise above the rest.
Who chose to die in this prison.
I give my regard, to
those who tried their best.
But because of this flawed system,
where intent is not a considered
provision.
Only will power and knowledge,
prevents us from being left
behind.
I am much obliged that I realized
in time.

.....

Reform

Cody Price

I was born in isolation.
In cell, block B,
carved out of desolation.
Then born again,
in the 1st floor.
Where given the tools,
to chisel and reform.
How can I prove to you,
that I have changed?
This pen and this paper,
that keeps my brain form refrain.
That is all I have.
Until that door pops again.
Where I emerge with,
maturity, insight, and wisdom.

Poems from inmates
taking part in the
**New Leaf-New
Life Air Program**

Getting Health Insurance with Financial Help

by David Meyer, President • ACA Volunteers of Monroe County, Inc. • info@acavmc.org • www.acavmc.org • (812) 345-2322

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has opened up the possibility for many without health insurance coverage to get it and to get financial help to pay for coverage. At the same time, the new healthcare law also *requires* that you obtain health insurance by March 31, 2014 or you will have to pay a penalty on your 2014 income taxes that is due April 15, 2015. There are some exemptions from the individual

insurance requirement. One exemption is available for folks that do not file income taxes because your income is below the filing threshold for filing a federal tax return. Another exemption for low income families is that your income is below the federal poverty level and you were turned down for Medicaid insurance coverage here in Indiana—where the state government has declined to accept federal funding

to expand low-income coverage.

We of the ACA Volunteers of Monroe County Incorporated (ACAVMC) try to help local residents make sense of the new healthcare law. A big part of that effort is to provide residents with the information that they need to apply for coverage themselves to see whether they can get financial help to pay for medical insurance or even an exemption from the requirement to

buy health insurance. The ACAVMC has developed a self-help set of steps for completing the process that follows. Keep in mind that until you select a plan and pay you have not made any commitment so you can simply check things out using the application process and find out what may be in the new law for you and your family.

My Steps to Get Covered—A Self-Help Guide to ACA Insurance Coverage

- Write down all of the Social Security Numbers of every member of my household so that I will have them handy when I apply.
- Gather income information on every member of your household who needs coverage (such as W-2 forms, unemployment compensation checks, pay stubs, 2012 tax returns, etc.).
- Write down any health insurance policy numbers that cover any members of my household.
- **If I'm unsure of whether I can do the rest of this by myself, I can apply by phone by speaking with Federal Dept. of Health and Human Services staff at 800-318-2596 24-hours a day in English or Spanish (*que hablan español!*). I may be able make an appointment with IU Health Individual Solutions in Monroe County for 1-on-1 help with the following steps. They have Indiana licensed Navigators and I can call them directly at 800-313-1328.**
- Complete an Employer Coverage Tool (available at: https://www.healthcare.gov/downloads/MarketplaceApp_Checklist_Generic.pdf) for every health insurance plan from a job that covers me or others in my household or that I or a family member could sign up for at work.
- Setup an email account. (Monroe County Public Library staff can help with that).
- Visit www.healthcare.gov and create my account. (I will need to setup a username, a password and answer three security questions to help me if I lose my password). (*En español: www.cuidadodesalud.gov/es/*)
- Fill out and online application on www.healthcare.gov (for program qualification and to see how much of my premium and health costs will be paid for directly by the U.S. Government).
- Check regularly back on www.healthcare.gov to see if they have approved my application. I need to check my email regularly for notification too. I can use a Library computer to do this.
- If www.healthcare.gov asks for me to provide additional information (such as a birth certificate) I must get it to them as quickly as I can. They won't wait more than 30 days unless I ask for an extension.
- When www.healthcare.gov approves my application, I will check to make sure that I agree with the amount of any financial support that they offer. If not, I should file an appeal *right away* to make sure that I get the assistance that I am qualified for.
- Review and compare qualified health plans. I will remember that the one with the lowest premium may not be the cheapest in the long run—it depends on my medical needs.
- Select the best qualified health plan for me and my family's needs.
- If I qualify for premium support, I need to decide whether I want an advanced tax credit to help pay for the premium costs every month, otherwise I won't get the credit until I file my taxes.
- Enroll in a qualified health plan on www.healthcare.gov and ***make my first premium payment by March 31, 2014.***
- Notify www.healthcare.gov if I made a mistake on my application or have major life changes during the year [such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, a change in income (up or down), a change of address, my job's health insurance was changed or ended, etc.].

Remember—THIS OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD ENDS ON MARCH 31, 2014.

I WILL NEED TO ENROLL AGAIN EACH YEAR. Next year's enrollment begins November 15, 2014.

Take the Time to Make a Difference

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

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

Homeward Bound Walk—April 13

April 13 marks the 12th anniversary of Homeward Bound—a fundraising 5K walk to fight homelessness in Bloomington! The walk will begin and end at Waldron, Hill, and Buskirk Park (formerly Third Street Park) with festivities and music. Over 100 volunteers will join in the effort, helping with media, musicians, speakers, registration, t-shirts, team photos, refreshments, and walk route monitoring. Shifts are 2–3 hours in length. Minimum age is 18, with the exception of students accompanied by an adult. Groups are always welcome! Please contact Kathy Mayer at (812) 349-3467 or homewardboundbloomington@gmail.com. (www.homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington)

Furniture Pickup and Distribution

Each Saturday morning, the St. Vincent De Paul



Larry Berg, Volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul Society

“You have two hands—one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

~Audrey Hepburn

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

Habitat ReStore Volunteer Orientation

Join a fun group of volunteers at the Monroe County Habitat ReStore! ReStore sells gently used home goods to the public, sponsoring Habitat for Humanity homes with the proceeds. Your first step is to attend one of the short orientation sessions, which are held regularly. Minimum age is 16. Please contact Sandy Myers at volunteerrestore@monroecountyhabitat.org or (812) 331-2660. (www.monroecountyhabitat.org/restore)

Middle Way House Volunteer Training

Middle Way House is seeking new volunteers to maintain the level of service they provide to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Both women and men are strongly encouraged to attend the next eight hour training, which is a prerequisite for those interested in volunteering with Middle Way but is also appropriate for anyone interested in learning more about the dynamics of gender and domestic violence. Volunteer opportunities exist in crisis line, childcare, tutoring, legal advocacy, community reception, and youth mentoring. Just complete the volunteer application on the website and bring it to the training. Minimum age is 18; 16 if with an adult. Please contact Debra Morrow at (812) 337-4510 or volunteer@middlewayhouse.org. (www.middlewayhouse.org)

middlewayhouse.org)

Area 10 Food Pantry

Area 10 Agency on Aging's volunteers offer home-delivered groceries to over 250 people with low incomes who cannot access a food pantry due to age or disability. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for a monthly food pantry shift. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Holly McLaughlin at (812) 876-3383 ext. 522 or hmclaughlin@area10agency.org. (www.area10agency.org)

Books for Prisoners

The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project sends reading materials to incarcerated men, women, and juveniles. Volunteers directly serve others by reading their letters requesting books and then choosing a book and composing a response to each person. Through this interaction, each volunteer can relate to a prisoner at an individual level. Incarcerated letter writers receive much-needed books and moral support to help alleviate their boredom, open intellectual possibilities, pursue self-education, and interact with the outside world. Volunteers are welcome to join Midwest Pages to Prisoners for any of their regularly scheduled sessions, which are from 7–9 p.m. on Mondays, from 7–10 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 2–5 p.m. on Sundays. Minimum age is 18, but 10 if with an adult. Please contact Michael Lewis at mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org or (812) 325-1378. (www.pagestoprisoners.org)

Serve Meals at Community Kitchen

The serving shift at the Community Kitchen of Monroe County is from 3:30–6:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Five volunteers serve the evening meal 'cafeteria style' and do some clean-up as well, such as sweeping, mopping and taking out the trash. When inquiring about this opportunity—by email or phone—please provide a phone number where you can be contacted. Minimum age is 14; 10 if with an adult. Please contact Debbie Hopson at (812) 332-0999 or volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com. (www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)

Bargain Boutique

Since its inception, My Sister's Closet has provided 1200 women in our community with workplace attire to help them on their way to employment and self-

See "VOLUNTEER", page 12

EMERGENCIES HAPPEN! ARE YOU READY?

By Antonya Wallace and Beatrice Thungu, AmeriCorps Members, City of Bloomington Volunteer Network.

If you are interested in volunteering in the area of emergency preparedness, contact them at (812)349-3501 or wallacea@bloomington.in.gov.

Natural disasters like floods or tornadoes can strike any time leaving many people displaced and fearful. Our city of Bloomington, just like many cities in the US, is not immune to natural disasters. The key to surviving these disasters is emergency preparedness.

In December 2012, the community of Ellettsville was affected by rare winter floods that left some residents stranded due to lack of electricity, heat or plumbing. In November 2013, serious thunderstorms and tornadoes ravaged through central Indiana, leaving a trail of snapped power lines, uprooted trees, and destroyed buildings. If this happened to your community, ask yourself the following questions: Are you prepared if floods or tornadoes strike? What resources are available? Do you have a family preparedness plan?

In Indiana, floods occur every month, and Indiana is situated in the Tornado Belt. In November 2013, there were 26 tornadoes in Indiana in just one day! With flood and tornado seasons coming up, let's look at some simple steps you can take to be prepared!

Make a kit: Every home should have an emergency preparedness kit. For the basics, you will need enough water for three days per household member, a three day supply of non-perishable foods per household member (don't forget a manual can opener!), a first aid kit, flashlight, batteries, sturdy shoes, and for those who

really want to be prepared for a tornado, helmets for all family members (sports helmets would work!).

Make a plan: Each member of your household should be familiar with your family plan. Place an emergency contact sheet on your refrigerator or in some other easy-to-see location. Your family should know where to meet in case you get separated, emergency contact numbers, where all emergency kits are located, and have a plan for your pets (if you have any). It is also suggested that each member should have an emergency contact card for his or her wallet or backpack.

Be informed: Is your home in an area that is at a high risk for a flood? Where will you go if there is a tornado? Do you have a plan for your pets? Does your family have an escape route from your home? What will you do if you get separated?

Know your weather alert terms: What is the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning? What about a flood watch and a flood warning?

A **tornado watch** is when the conditions are perfect to form a tornado.

A **tornado warning** is when a tornado or funnel cloud

has been spotted.

A **flood watch** is when the conditions are perfect to cause a flood.

A **flood warning** is when a flood is occurring or about to occur.

Stay informed: Get your family and home ready for a tornado with the official Tornado Warning and Alert App from the American Red Cross. This app has everything you need to know to prepare for a tornado and includes simple step-by-step advice. From your mobile phone, dial **REDCROSS (73327677)** and you will receive a link to download the free app to your phone or you can download it directly from the iTunes or Google Play app stores.

No smart phone? No problem! Visit <http://bit.ly/1jbVTdd> and register for free for **ReadyNotifyMonroe**. This program will send alerts to your email, cell phone or pager in the event of a severe weather alert.

Be sure to share these tools with your friends, family, and neighbors! Together we can be a more prepared Bloomington!

Compliments of the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SOCIAL MEDIA: CAN I USE IT DURING AN EMERGENCY?

By Scott Smith, Fire Prevention Officer, Bloomington Fire Department • smiths@bloomington.in.gov • 812-349-3888

Use of social media today is commonplace for a large portion of the population. With the growth of smart phone and tablet use it is very easy to access all forms of social media. From posting family photos on Facebook and Google + to quick status updates by teenagers it is very fast and simple to use. While all of this info is important to the individuals it is also an excellent platform for emergency services to reach a large portion of the population quickly. From posting important fire safety messages on Facebook and Twitter to "Tweeting" time sensitive emergency information during severe weather, large fires and other emergencies.

Bloomington Fire Department is now using social media as a platform to pass on the important safety messages and other time sensitive information. We are currently using two Facebook accounts to

post safety messages, product recalls and other information related to the fire department. These accounts can be found by searching Facebook for Bloomington Fire Department and Bloomington Fire Department—Fire Prevention Division. The department also has a Twitter account where the information is posted. This account can be found by searching for @BloomingtonFire. The Twitter account will be the one that is updated most often for any emergency information or during any disaster situation since it is much faster to update and it can be easily done from a mobile device. Social media should never be considered as a replacement for other forms of emergency info but it can be used to supplement those other sources such as radio, TV, local warning sirens and weather alert radios. We encourage folks to sign up for both Facebook and

Twitter to ensure you are getting the information in a timely manner.

As with any technology there are times that the service may not be available due to power outages, etc. During a major disaster situation it is recommended that you use text messaging to reach other family members rather than trying to call since there will be heavy use of the cell phone system. Text messages use very short bursts of data and can be sent much easier than voice calls. Once you have hit the "send" button on your message it should remain on the phone until it gets a signal to send it, tying up the system for a much shorter time. If you have questions about our social media accounts or other safety information you can call the department at 812-332-9763 and ask for the Fire Prevention Officer.

VOLUNTEER

Continued from page 10

sufficiency. Be a part of this effort by volunteering two hours per week at the Bargain Boutique, assisting customers, tagging and straightening clothes, and receiving donations. It is a fun and rewarding place to be! Minimum age is 16. Please contact Emily Stern at (812) 333-7710 or volunteer@sisterscloset.org. (www.sisterscloset.org)

Friends of Susie's Place

Susie's Place Child Advocacy Center is committed to strengthening the community's ability to nurture and protect children and respond to child abuse. The "Friends of Susie's Place" group has developed new and innovative ways to raise funds for the center's varied needs. You are invited to work with this group to brainstorm, plan, and execute ideas for fundraising! Lower-commitment options, such as collecting gas cards and other donations, shopping, or cleaning the center occasionally would also be appreciated. Volunteers can also assist by organizing small fundraisers, such as dine-and-donate events at area restaurants. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Elise Headley at (812) 822-1570 or elise@susiesplace.org. (www.susiesplace.org)

Habitat ReStore Volunteer Orientation

You are invited to join a fun group of volunteers at the Monroe County Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which sells gently used home goods to the public and sponsors Habitat homes with the proceeds. You will meet other great volunteers and learn how to run a social enterprise. Please sign up to attend an orientation session, held every other Saturday throughout the year. Minimum age is 16. Register on the Habitat volunteer calendar at: www.monroecountyhabitat.org/involved/volunteercalendar or contact Sandy Myers at (812) 331-2660 or volunteerrestore@monroecountyhabitat.org to discuss alternate orientation times. (www.monroecountyhabitat.org/restore)

Directory of agencies and services

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

Addiction Counseling

Amethyst House

Address: 645 N. Walnut St.
Phone: (812) 336-3570
Web: www.amethysthouse.org
Volunteer Contact: Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x10; amethyst@bloomington.in.us)
About: Provides structured living environments, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with addictions. Amethyst House operates three transitional living facilities: (1) a men's 1/2 way house, (2) a women's 1/2 way house that serves women and their dependent children up to 6 years old, and (3) a men's 3/4 way house. Amethyst house also operates an outpatient treatment facility in Bloomington as well as Evansville.

Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.

Address: 645 S. Rogers St.
Phone: (812) 339-1691
About: Provides services for people with behavioral and mental health challenges, such as depression, stress, panic disorders, alcohol and chemical dependencies, phobias, child behavioral disorders, grief and loss, marital and family problems, and severe and persistent emotional disorders. Services provided include psychiatry, 24-hour emergency services, and vocational and residential services. Centerstone hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments must be made for services in the evening and weekend.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Address: Hours and locations vary.
Phone: (812) 334-8191
Web: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org
About: Provides support for those wanting to stop alcohol consumption.

Adult Education

MCCSC Adult Education

Address: Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive
Phone: (812) 330-7731

Web: www.adult.mccsc.edu

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

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

AIDS/HIV Services

Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

Address: 333 E. Miller Dr.
Phone: (812) 353-9150
Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org
About: HIV testing and extensive care coordination for those living with HIV/AIDS. Serve as a community resource regarding HIV/AIDS education and awareness. Also offer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing.

Clothing, furniture, housewares

Monroe County United Ministries

Address: 827 W. 14 Ct.
Phone: (812) 339-3429
Volunteer Contact: Rebecca Gordan ([812] 353-9150; mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us)
About: Provides a subsidized Child-Care Program for low-income families in Monroe County, which includes a year-round program for children two to six years old, and a summer camp subsidized child-care for children ages six to ten, when school is out of session. All care-givers in the families either work full time or attend school part-time and work part-time. There is also an Emergency Services Program that assists families who are experiencing a short-term crisis. The Emergency Services

Program includes a food pantry, a clothing program, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

Address: 404 W. 2nd St.
Web: www.sisterscloset.org
Volunteer Contact: Laura Robinson, (812) 333-7710; info@sisterscloset.org
About: Provides low-income women with free interview and workplace apparel, helping them overcome hurdles they face to independence and family self-sufficiency. Also sells used, affordable clothes to the public.

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.
Phone: (812) 336-4310
Volunteer Contact: Monica Clemons ([812] 336-4310 x100; monica_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org)
About: Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, furniture, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, summer child care, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, child care connection, nursing home visitation, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store. All services are without charge with the exception of Child Care Connection and thrift store.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Address: 4607 West State Road 46
Phone: (812) 961-1510
Web: www.bloomingtonsvdp.org
Volunteer Contact: Scott Alber, ([812]335-1280 volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org)
About: A Catholic led ecumenical society of volunteers dedicated to helping those in need. Assistance is offered in the form of community resource information, vouchers for furniture, and in some cases limited financial help with a utility bill, rent, rent deposit or other essential need. Almost all funding comes through

See "DIRECTORY", page 13

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 12

donations and assistance is given without regard to religion, race or creed. Volunteer opportunities abound.

Disabilities assistance programs

Abilities Unlimited

Address: 2620 N. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 332-1620

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

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

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

Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Inc.

Address: PO Box 1732

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

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

LifeDesigns, Inc.

Address: 200 East Winslow Rd.

Phone: (812) 332-9615

Web: www.lifedesignsinc.org

Volunteer Contact: Cindy Fleetwood

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

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

Address: 680 W. That Rd.

Phone: (812) 336-2798

Web: www.palstherapy.org

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

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

Stone Belt

Address: 2815 E. 10 St.

Phone: (812) 332-2168

Web: www.stonebelt.org

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

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

Employment resources and job counseling

WorkOne

Address: 450 Landmark Ave.

Phone: (812) 331-6000

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

Stone Belt

See disabilities assistance programs.

Job Links

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

Family Services

El Centro Comunal Latino

Address: 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11

Phone: (812) 355-7513

Web: www.elcentrocomunal.org

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

Head Start Program

Address: 1520 W. 15th St.

Phone: (812) 334-8350

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

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

IN Dept. of Child Services

Address: 1717 W. 3rd St.

Phone: (812) 336-6351

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

Division of Family Resources

Address: 1711 N. College Ave.

Phone: 1-(800)-403-0864

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

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

Address: 827 W. 14th Court

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm

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

WIC Program

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3221

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

nutritional need. All services are provided free of charge.

Food stamps

Division of Family Resources

See family services.

Health care

Futures Family Health Clinic

Address: 338 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 349-7343

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

Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice

Address: 619 W 1st St.

Phone: (812) 353-9818

Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org

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

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

Hoosier Healthwise for Children

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

Phone: (812) 349-3851

Web: www.hoosierhealthwise.net

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

Monroe County Public Health Clinic

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3244

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

Planned Parenthood

Address: 421 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 336-0219

Web: www.ppin.org

About: Services provided include pelvic exams, breast exams, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and counseling, pregnancy tests, various types of birth control, emergency contraception

See "DIRECTORY", page 14

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 13

(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 Counterterman ([812] 340-3467; cathi.counterterman@vistacare.com)

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

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Address: 811 West 2nd Street

Phone: (812) 333-4001

Web: www.vimmonroecounty.org

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

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

Housing (abused women)

Middle Way House

Address: 338 S. Washington St.

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

Web: www.middlewayhouse.org

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

Housing (emergency, for adults)

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

Web: www.backstreet.org

Phone: (812) 333-1905.

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

Backstreet Missions

Address: 215 Westplex Ave.

Phone: (812) 333-1905

Web: www.backstreet.org

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

Martha’s House

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

Rogers (Shelter)

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

(office)

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

Housing (Family Shelter)

New Hope Family Shelter

Phone: (812) 334-9840

E-mail: newhope@nhfsinc.org

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

Housing (Intact Families/Adults)

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue,

Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

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

Housing (Pregnant women)

Hannah House Maternity Home

Address: 808 N. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 334-2662

Web: www.cpcbloomington.org

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

Housing (Rental)

Bloomington Housing Authority

Address: 1007 N. Summit St.

Phone: (812) 339-3491

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

Housing and Neighborhood Development

Address: 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

Phone: (812) 349-3420

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

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

South Central Community Action Program, Inc.

Address: 1500 W. 15th St.

Phone: (812) 339-3447

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

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

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

Housing (homeless youth)

Stepping Stones

Address: PO Box 1366

Phone: (812) 339-9771

Web: www.stepsstones-inc.org

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

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

Legal and court-related services

Community Justice & Mediation Center

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

Phone: (812) 339-1551

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

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

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

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

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

Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

Address: 214 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 339-7668

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

Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Address: 201 N. Morton Street

Phone: (812) 333-2272

Web: www.monroecountycasa.org

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

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

Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

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

Phone: (812) 349-2670

Web: www.co.monroe.in.us

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

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

Meals and pantries (no cost)

Meals

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

See “*DIRECTORY*”, page 15

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 14

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Backstreet Missions (Gino's Cafeteria)

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

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

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Address: 727 W. 1st Street

Phone: (812) 323-4982

Web: www.bloomingtonmealsonwheels.org

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

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue,

Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

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

Community Kitchen

Address: 1515 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 332-0999

Web: www.monroecommunitykitchen.com

Volunteer Contact: Annie Brookshire

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

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

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

Community Kitchen Express

Address: 1100 W. 11th St.

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

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

First Christian Church

Address: Corner of Kirkwood Ave. and Washington St.

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

Harvest House Soup Kitchen

Address: 1107 S. Fairview Dr.

Phone: (812) 339-4462

Sunday: Lunch: 2-4 p.m.

Shalom Community Center

Address: 620 South Walnut Street

Phone: (812) 334-5728

Web: www.shalomcommunitycenter.org

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

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

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

Pantries/Groceries

Area 10 Agency on Aging

See meals and pantries —meals

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

Address: 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

Phone: (812) 334-8374

Web: www.hhfoodbank.org

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

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

MCUM Emergency Food Pantry

Address: 827 W. 14th Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

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

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

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Address: 1100 Allen Street

Phone: (812) 355-6843

Web: www.mhcfoodpantry.org

Hours: Monday-Friday 12-6 p.m.

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

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

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

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

SLO FoodS garden pantry

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

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

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

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

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

First United Methodist Church

Address: 219 E. 4th Street

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

About: Provides brown bag lunch, groceries.

Township Trustees Food Pantries—

Bloomington

Address: 2111 W. Vernal Pike

Phone: (812) 336-4976

Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

Township Trustees Food Pantries—Perry

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 336-3713

Hours: Monday–Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

Medicaid

Division of Family Resources

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

Older citizen programs

Area 10 Agency on Aging

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

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

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

Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

Planned Parenthood

See health care.

WIC Program

See family services.

Rent, utility, bill assistance

First call the Township Trustee in the Monroe County Township in which you live: Bean Blossom (876-5109), Benton (339-6593), Bloomington (336-4976), Clear Creek (824-7225), Indian Creek (824-4981), Perry

See "DIRECTORY", page 16

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 15

(336-3713) Polk (837-9446), Richland (876-2509), Salt Creek (332-9777), Van Buren (825-4490), Washington (331-0809).

Youth programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Address: 807 N. College Avenue

Phone: (812) 334-2828

Web: www.bigsindiana.org

Volunteer Contact: Alexandra Hall, Alex@bigsindiana.org, 812-334-2828, ext. 226.

About: Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana helps children in Monroe and Owen counties reach their potential through professionally supported, one to one relationships with measurable impact.

Bloomington Boys and Girls Club

Address: 311 S. Lincoln St.

Phone: (812) 332-5311

Web: www.bgcbloomington.org

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

Girls Inc.

Address: 1108 W. 8th St.

Phone: (812) 336-7313

Web: www.girlsinc-monroe.org

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

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

Harmony School

Address: 909 E. 2nd St.

Phone: (812) 334-8349

Web: www.harmonyschool.org

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

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

Rhino's Youth Center

Address: 331 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 333-3430

Web: www.rhinosyouthcenter.org

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

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

WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology

Address: 308 W. 4th St.

Phone: (812) 337-1337

Web: www.wonderlab.org

Volunteer Program: (812) 337-1337 ext. 20 or volunteer@wonderlab.org

About: WonderLab is an award-winning science museum with hands-on exhibits and programs for children and their families. WonderLab offers a free Teen Night monthly during the school year. WonderLab also participates in the Access Pass Program, which provides reduced admission of \$1 per family member per visit for eligible families. The museum also offers many half-price admission events. Volunteering is a natural next step for teens. Those entering grade 7 are eligible to become volunteers at the museum. Additionally, high school students are eligible to apply for summer internships at WonderCamp, the museum's summer science day camp.

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

About: Alongside youth shelter (see housing [youth]), provides counseling, education, supervised recreation, and transportation to and from school, as well as referrals to a variety of agencies for other needed services.

Additional services

Catholic Charities-Bloomington

Address: 631 North College Avenue

Phone: (812) 332-1262

Web: www.CatholicCharitiesBtown.org

About: Provides education, social service delivery, and advocacy. Takes special interest in poor, disabled, and otherwise disadvantaged persons. Serves residences of Brown, Lawrence, Morgan, Monroe, Orange and Owen counties, especially through mental health services. Provides individual, family, couples and group counseling to the English- and Spanish-speaking clients.

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

Address: 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260

Phone: 812-349-3433

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer

About: The Volunteer Network, which

has over 200 local partner nonprofit and governmental organizations, is your one-stop source for volunteer information in Bloomington and Monroe County. Member organizations post their volunteer needs on the Network's online database so potential volunteers can see what community needs they can meet. The Volunteer Network also offers training in volunteer management to new volunteer coordinators and training in nonprofit board service to new and continuing board members. The Network partners with the Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Commission in the organization of the 'A Day On, Not a Day Off' day of service, in which thousands of Bloomingtonians participate. In addition, the Network matches the material needs of local nonprofit organizations with community members and businesses who can meet those needs through our partnership with the Herald-Times on the Community Wish List.

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Address: 213 E. Kirkwood Avenue

Phone: (812) 331-4069

Web: www.monroecountyhabitat.org

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

Monroe County Safe Kids Chapter

Phone: (812) 353-5437

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

Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project

Address: 310A S. Washington St.

Phone: (812) 339-8710

Web: www.pagestoprisoners.org

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

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

Monroe County Public Library

Address: 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Phone: (812) 349-3050

Web: www.mcpl.info

About: Offers free books, magazines, music CDs, and movies to check out; public Internet computers; downloadable audiobooks and

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

Monroe County Wrap-Around

Address: 645 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 337-2225

About: Monroe County Wrap-Around is a multi-agency committee that provides needed services to families with children. For example, a case is brought to a particular agency, then a representative from that agency can present the case to Wrap-Around and all participating Wrap-Around agencies can play a role in coordinating help to the family in the most effective way. The planning process is done with the families "in the driver's seat". Each family identifies a "team" that works with them, and the team develops a plan based upon the strengths and needs of the specific family. Representatives from families also serve on committees that examine the policies and goals of Wrap-Around. This summer, the Lost Child Fund, which operates within Wrap-Around, is accepting funds to send children of working single parents to camp.

New Leaf-New Life, Inc.

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St., Suite F

Phone: (812) 355-6842

Email: newleaf1010@gmail.com

Web: www.newleaf-newlife.org

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