

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 2015

## The Power of Partnership

by Forrest Gilmore

Last winter, I came across a man at the eastside Barnes & Noble. Matted hair, torn and dirty clothing, an unshaven face, he had the distinct look of a chronically homeless person. He cast an aura of kindness but also extreme privacy. I caught a vibe of fragility and a touch of fear. So, I let him be.



Forrest Gilmore

I learned later that he had been sleeping at the local Laundromat and spent the days in bookstores and fast food restaurants. No one knew him and he wasn't using any services.

I spoke with the PATH caseworkers from Centerstone to see if they could track him down, but they were unable to find him.

That Spring, we hired Virginia Hall as a street outreach worker (thanks to the support of City and Federal funding). Her first day I told her to, "Go get him." And she did.

She began just with simple conversation.

"Hi. My name's Virginia."

He would speak with her, but barely. She would sometimes invite him to Shalom, but he would respond, "They're coming for me. They're coming for me."

She shared one story when he was sitting on a bench outside Target with a blanket over his head. She approached him and said, "Hi, Michael (not his real name). It's Virginia."

He poked his head out.

"Is there anything I can help you with?" she said.

"No," he gently replied and covered himself back up.

While progress was slow, we were elated when about a month later he walked into Shalom for the first time. He came in, had lunch, didn't say a word, and left quickly.

The next day he stayed a little longer, and the next, until he started to spend his entire day at the Center.

Fearful of scaring him away, we let him move at his own pace. We offered him clothing, new shoes,

See "PARTNERSHIP", page 2

## 2015 Btown AIDS Walk and Light the Night Festival Community AIDS Action Group hosts 11th annual walk and glow themed festival to raise money for regional HIV Prevention and Client Services

The Community AIDS Action Group will be hosting the 2015 Btown AIDS Walk on Friday, April 10th 2015. The festival will be held in the City of Bloomington parking lot on the West side of 10th and Rogers beginning at 5:00 p.m. Walk registrants are encouraged to raise donations for the walk and all funds will go to IU Health Positive Link, the region's HIV Prevention and Client Services organization serving South Central Indiana. The festival will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the walk will step off at sundown, around 7:30 p.m. This year's theme, "Light the Night" will be a fun and family friendly event with games, performers, and face painting. Food will be available for purchase. The festival and walk will incorporate glow-in-the-dark activities and attire. Admittance

See "AIDS WALK", page 2

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

Safety-Net is a free volunteer-driven community publication that is published once every three months and is sponsored by the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP). Its mission is two-fold. Part of the mission is to educate community members about programs available that help individuals and families to enrich their lives. And a second part of the mission is to make positive connections between those in our community who have resources, and those who do not. The ultimate goal is to encourage everyone to participate in making Bloomington a special community that links everyone together. A big "thank you" to all of you who encourage the publication of Safety-Net by contributing articles that make Safety-Net possible. Each issue features the many agencies, as well as City and County programs, that reach out to people and offer much needed community services. At the end of the publication there is an extensive Agency Guide that enables individuals to locate appropriate resources. Comments from readers are most welcome. Please address them to the editor, white@indiana.edu, as well as to the assistant editor, doug@insccap.org. Place Safety-Net on the subject line, and state whether you would like your comments printed in the next issue. Past issues of Safety-Net are available at the Safety-Net website, <http://safety-net-newspaper.com/>.

## 13th Annual Homeward Bound 5k Walk

From the Homeward Bound committee  
[www.homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington](http://www.homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington)

Time: Noon Registration  
Walk Starts at 1pm

Start Date: 04/19/2015

The Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park  
Formerly known as 3rd Street Park

Come join us for the 13th Annual Homeward Bound 5K Walk on April 19th! The walk is a fun filled day packed with entertainment, food, and exercise. Best of all, your participation helps promote positive change in our community:

See "HOMEWARD BOUND", page 3



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

# Alzheimer's Resource Service

By Dayna Thompson

When families receive a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or dementia, their first question is often "What do we do now?" The task ahead can feel daunting to say the least. The Alzheimer's Resource Service (ARS) in Bloomington seeks to guide families along that unfamiliar path. Dayna Thompson, the Alzheimer's Educator for IU Health's Community Health Department is available to individuals and families in Monroe

County and ten surrounding counties.

Although provider referrals are a common way of accessing services at the Alzheimer's Resource Service, no referral is required. Dayna seeks to connect families with information about the disease and to help them make connections with helpful resources in the community. Individual and family consultations are available by

appointment. There are also several support groups in Monroe County for people with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or a related dementia, as well as for those supporting them.

In addition, the Alzheimer's Resource Service seeks to educate the community on the issues surrounding brain health and various types of dementia. Public events are listed in IU Health's

Community Events calendar. Private events for groups or organizations are also available. There is no charge for the services that are provided by ARS.

To learn more about support groups or educational opportunities, or to schedule an appointment with the Alzheimer's Resource Service, please contact Dayna Thompson at (812) 353-9299 or [DThompson6@iuhealth.org](mailto:DThompson6@iuhealth.org).

## AIDS WALK

*Continued from page 1*

to the festival is free and registration for the walk is \$20.00 per person and includes a t-shirt and two glow items. An after party for those over 21 will be held at The Back Door following the walk. For more information and for individual and team registration visit [www.btownaidswalk.org](http://www.btownaidswalk.org).

Positive Link, a program of IU Health Bloomington, provides HIV case management

and HIV and Hepatitis C education and testing services. In 2014, Positive Link served people in 23 counties throughout South Central Indiana; serving nearly 200 people living with HIV, educating over 2,000 individuals through group outreach and testing nearly 1700 individuals for HIV. Funds raised from the walk will go directly to support these vital programs. For more information on how you or your business can sponsor the walk please visit our website or contact Rachael McAfee at [rmcafee@iuhealth.org](mailto:rmcafee@iuhealth.org).

## PARTNERSHIP

*Continued from page 1*

blankets, a place to store his things. He usually turned us down, but occasionally would accept something from us. Virginia considered getting socks on his feet one of her biggest victories with him.

He started to ask for magazines and would occasionally be reading one and laugh out loud.

Michael was always respectful, always responsive when we would speak to him, but he remained very distant and quiet.

Then, a breakthrough this Fall—one of the Bloomington Police Department's new downtown resource officers found his family online. Amazingly, she discovered an old Facebook profile of his. His photo cast a different image of this man, clean-shaven, trim, clear eyes. His last entry, a joke about how to have pickles on

your sandwich without soaking the bread, was 3 years ago.

Through Facebook, the officer was able to find Michael's mother and brother, both in Indianapolis, who were elated to finally track him down.

We learned Michael was an Iraq war veteran. We learned that he had been staying with his father who had left him at the McDonald's on the east side. He told Michael he would come back for him once he started taking his medication, explaining Michael's "they're coming for me" comments and his reticence to leave that side of town.

The police and Chase Techentin, our other street outreach worker, arranged a surprise meeting (so as not to scare him off) between Michael and his brother and mother.

The family arrived and Michael's brother sat down with him at a restaurant and convinced

Michael to come home with him. Chase told me Michael's mother said, "You will never be on your own again."

This story, of course, moves on from here. Michael has a lot of healing ahead of him that will begin with a stay at the hospital and his family has to learn how to be with him and all his challenges.

But, thanks to an amazing community partnership, he's home again, reunited with his family.

The work of ending homelessness can be slow and arduous, but moments of heart-stirring transformation like these make it all worthwhile. Thanks to you and your support, this is why we do what we do.

Written by Rev. Forrest Gilmore, Executive Director of the Shalom Community Center. To support the work of the Center, visit our website—[shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://shalomcommunitycenter.org).

## About *Safety~Net*

**David White**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Doug Wilson**  
Assistant Editor

**Joe Lee**  
Editorial Cartoonist

### 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](mailto:white@indiana.edu). Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.

## HOMeward BOUND

*Continued from page 1*

Homeward Bound assists five local agencies ( Amethyst House, LifeDesigns, Shalom Center, Martha's House and Stepping Stones) in combating homelessness here in Bloomington! Everyone is welcome, including pets! Come to The Waldron, Hill, and Buskirk Park on April 19th. Registration starts at noon and the walk commences at 1 p.m. Before and after the walk, there will be performances, food, and other fun activities. All funds raised stay in Bloomington to help those in need. For more information visit, [www.homewardboundindiana.org/walk/bloomington](http://www.homewardboundindiana.org/walk/bloomington), or find us on Facebook and Twitter! Help us fight homelessness one step at a time by participating in Homeward Bound.

Entertainment and Registration start at Noon—walkers can pre-register online or register the day of the walk. Registration tables will be set up inside the Allison Jukebox Center. All walkers who donate \$20. or more will automatically receive a free t-shirt!! Walk starts promptly at 1pm—so don't be late—hurry back to the park for more entertainment, fun at our Kids Island, and Pet Island—free food and lots of fun!! See you on April, 19th!

# Smoke Alarms, Have you Checked Yours Lately?

*Scott Smith, Fire Prevention Officer  
Bloomington Fire Department  
[smiths@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:smiths@bloomington.in.gov) • 812-349-3888*

Smoke alarms are a critical piece of lifesaving equipment that should be in every home but is too often not found after a fire. Fire doubles in size every minute so early warning of a smoke is extremely important. Recent studies have shown that having smoke alarms in your home **DOUBLES** your chances of survival. Most people don't realize that when you go to sleep your sense of smell also goes to sleep, meaning the smoke is not likely to wake you up.

So what do I need? There should be a smoke alarm in every sleeping room, in the hallway outside the sleeping rooms, and one on every level of your home. There are several types of smoke alarms. The two most common types are ionization and photoelectric detectors. If you are purchasing detectors these two technologies can be found in a "dual sensor" alarm to give you better coverage of all fire types. These alarms can be found in battery, electric or a combination of both. There are a number of "smart" alarms that are being developed that can notify you via text message as well as alarm in your home.

The alarms should be mounted either on the ceiling at least 12 inches from the wall, or on the wall at least 12 inches down from the ceiling. This will allow smoke to reach it faster. It is recommended that you test your alarms monthly and change the batteries at least one time a year. There are detectors available that have 10 year batteries, eliminating the need to change them, but the testing still needs to be done.

The most important thing you can do in addition to the smoke alarms is to develop and **PRACTICE** a home escape plan. Knowing what to do and where to meet during as fire will definitely add to your chances of survival. The fire escape plan is too often ignored or forgotten and can have tragic results.

In addition to smoke alarms you should have at least one Carbon Monoxide detector if you have gas appliances or park your vehicles in an attached garage or basement. CO alarms are not required in every sleeping room but should be placed so they can be heard during sleeping. Carbon Monoxide is odorless and colorless so it can not be detected without the alarms in place. CO alarms greatly increase your chances of survival during a carbon monoxide emergency.

If you know someone in the City of Bloomington who can't afford the alarms or have questions about smoke & CO alarms or other safety information you can call the Bloomington Fire Department at 812-332-9763 and ask for the Fire Prevention Officer. NEVER hesitate to call 911 if you think you have ANY type of emergency.

You can now find us on Facebook at Bloomington Fire Department or Bloomington Fire Department—Fire Prevention Division and Twitter at @BloomingtonFire.

# Indiana Code allows victims of domestic violence and other applicable offenses to terminate rental agreement

*By Anu Kumar  
Communications Intern at Middle Way House*

There are circumstances when women are trapped with the perpetrator due to the restrictions of a lease. But an Indiana statute protects women and can help them get off their lease. This statute applies to women who have undergone domestic and/or family assault, stalking, or sexual assault.

This provision continues to be important for the safety of victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, and often necessary due to financial restraints.

According to Sharon Grover, a legal advocate at Middle Way House, in order to have this statute apply, you need to have either a protective order or criminal no-contact order against the perpetrators, or the perpetrators needs to be convicted.

Protected individuals is an applicant under this statute if they are a victim, alleged victim of an applicable offense, has received a civil order for protection or criminal no contact order. This can be dependent on how the judge rules in a specific case.

"Sometimes a judge can be fairly creative in order to get the woman the protection she needs," Grover said.

In order to get out of a lease, the applicant needs to give their landlord 30-day written notice as well as a copy of the protective order or criminal no-contract order. Additionally, a letter from an accredited sexual assault or domestic violence program must certify that the applicant needs to relocate as part of the safety plan designed for them.

"It can be a real problem," Grover said. The proposed safety plan is meant to show the landlord that the applicant needs to terminate their lease as part of a necessary course of action to attain protection.

The individual is still responsible for rent and other expenses due under the rental agreement during the 30-day period.

Landlords have the obligation to uphold this agreement. Additionally, landlords are required to change the locks of the home or apartment if the perpetrator is restrained from contact with the tenant. The locks should be changed within 48 hours of the written request of the tenant, if the locks are not changed within this time frame, the woman can change the locks and have the landlord reimburse her.

"Sometimes landlords might be resistant," Grover said. But, they are obligated to help the applicant under the statute and are immune from civil liability for excluding the perpetrator from the unit under a court order. Additional the landlord is not responsible for the "loss of use of or damage to personal property while the personal property is present in the dwelling unit."

Additionally, even when the applicant terminates the lease, the perpetrator is still obligated to pay the full amount of rent.

The legal advocacy team at Middle Way said that initially landlords were resistant to comply, but Indiana Legal Services has been very diligent about getting applicants the assistance they need. Grover said that in the past year, larger apartment complexes have been disputing the statute.

If you feel you are eligible for protection under this Indiana statute and need help in getting out of your lease, please contact the legal advocacy team by calling 812-333-7404 and ask for either Sharon Grover or Virginia White.

# It's Not Too Late to Get Your Taxes Filed For Free!

By Tina McAninch, Community Initiatives Associate at United Way of Monroe County

## Free Community Tax Service

Have you filed your federal and state income taxes yet? If you haven't already filed and your income is below \$53,000, consider using the Free Community Tax Service. Over one hundred volunteers have been IRS certified and are ready to prepare your federal and Indiana state returns for FREE at a number of locations in Monroe and Owen counties. You also have the option to file your taxes from the comfort of home or a local computer lab by logging on to MyFreeTaxes.com. This service is free of charge for those with a combined income of \$60,000 or less.

## Are You Claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit?

Did you work in 2014? Depending on your total income, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), up to \$6,143—even if you don't owe taxes. You can only get the EITC and other tax credits IF you file a federal return. The Free Community Tax Service is available to provide tax preparation services to low and moderate-income individuals at no cost and to help more individuals claim the credits they've earned.

If your total gross income for 2014 (earned income plus unearned income such as social security benefits or retirement benefits) falls within the following guidelines, you may qualify for the EITC:

- Less than \$46,997 (\$52,427 for married filing jointly) and you have three qualifying children
  - Less than \$43,756 (\$49,186 for married filing jointly) and you have two qualifying children
  - Less than \$38,511 (\$43,941 for married filing jointly) and you have one qualifying child, or
  - Less than \$14,590 (\$20,020 for married filing jointly) and you do not have a qualifying child
- If you meet the above income guidelines and any of these apply to

you, you may also qualify for the EITC:

- You earned wages in 2014 but not enough to owe taxes
- You are a foster parent
- You are a grandparent raising one or more grandchildren

## Free Community Tax Service Sites

Appointments are still available at most sites, although availability is limited. Please contact the sites directly for scheduling availability.

- **Broadview Learning Center**, 705 W. Coolidge Drive (812) 330-7731
- **Ellettsville Branch Library**, 600 W. Temperance Street (812) 876-1272
- **Ivy Tech Community College**, 200 Daniels Way (812) 332-1559 ext. 0
- **Owen County Public Library**, 10 S. Montgomery, Spencer (812) 829-3392 ext. 1
- **South Central Community Action Program**, 1500 W. 15th (812) 339-3447
- **Indiana University Maurer School of Law**, 211 S. Indiana Ave  
First-come, first-served. Visit <http://law.indiana.edu/students/activities/tax-help> for information.

## AARP Tax-Aide locations (First-come, first-served)

- **Monroe County Public Library**  
303 E. Kirkwood (812) 349-3050.  
Monday and Tuesday: 2 – 6pm.  
Friday: 2 – 5:45 pm
- **Twin Lakes Recreation Center**  
1700 W. Bloomfield Rd (812) 349-3720.  
Wednesday: 9 am – 2:30 pm.  
Thursday: 2 – 5:30 pm
- **Bilingual Mobile Site**  
March 8th, 1:30 – 4:30
- **St. Paul's Catholic Church**, 1413 E. 17th St. (812) 349-3860; by appointment only

## Additional Mobile Sites in March and April

To better serve every resident in

our community, we are taking the Free Community Tax Service on the road! The following agencies still have Mobile site visits planned this tax season. Customers must be clients of these organizations to access tax preparation services: Bloomington Housing Authority, Positive Link, Recovery Engagement Center, and Stone Belt. Please contact the agency directly.

## Self Service Site

Certified tax preparers are available to assist as you file your own taxes. No appointment necessary!

- **WorkOne Bloomington**,  
450 S. Landmark Ave., (812) 331-6000 ext. 7001  
Friday 8:00 – 10:30 am through April 10th

For more information on any of the Free Community Tax Service options, visit [MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes](http://MonroeUnitedWay.org/FreeTaxes) or call 2-1-1.

Preparadores de habla hispana estarán disponibles en selectas localizaciones. Comenzando en enero, por favor llame al 812-349-3860 para más información.

Along with the 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, ASCEND, Bloomington Housing Authority, Broadview Learning Center, City of Bloomington, Ellettsville Branch Library, Indiana Legal Services, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Internal Revenue Service, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, LifeDesigns, Monroe County Public Library, New Leaf-New Life, Owen County Public Library, Positive Link, Recovery Engagement Center, South Central Community Action Program, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Stone Belt, Twin Lakes Recreation Center, Walmart, WorkOne Bloomington, and community volunteers.

# Health Coverage Special Sign-up Period

By David Meyer, Cover Monroe & Nancy Woolery, City of Bloomington

Many local residents will get another chance to sign-up for affordable health coverage from March 15–April 30. Because so many folks do not understand that they are going to be fined for failing to get health insurance last year until they file their 2014 tax forms and get fined, U.S. Health and Human Services decided to open up a 1-time Special Enrollment Period to allow residents to again sign-up. Nearly 9 out of 10 folks that sign-up for coverage get financial help to make the insurance affordable.

Both the fine for not having insurance and the limited time period to sign-up for coverage are new to folks. A lot of people are just now learning about all this when they file their taxes and discover that a bite has been taken out of their refund for failing to get coverage. This is BIG news because the regular sign-up period for coverage is over and without this special sign-up period uncovered folks would have to wait another year to wait to get covered and the fine for not having coverage grows BIGGER each year.

To help folks navigate this new opportunity to get affordable coverage, the Cover Monroe Project is holding eight free sign-up events with our volunteer licensed health coverage navigators. Events will be held at the Monroe County Public Library at 303 E. Kirkwood Avenue from 1pm–5pm on March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17 and 24. These are all Friday afternoons. We will also have a special Sunday event at the same time on April 26 and a final event on Thursday, April 30.

Usually Special Enrollment Periods are reserved for folks that experience “life events.” The usual life events that trigger a Special Enrollment Period where you can sign-up during the year are: losing health coverage, getting married, having a baby, adopting a child, getting divorced and a few other unusual circumstances. We want residents to understand these triggers that can make them eligible to sign-up for coverage all year round. The regular annual Open Enrollment Period for next year is scheduled to begin on November 1, 2015. At that time you can change your coverage or sign-up for the first time.



# Good News for Uninsured Hoosiers with Low Incomes!

By Nancy Woolery, City of Bloomington & David Meyer, Cover Monroe Project

You're a single mother of three children working two part-time jobs to support your family and neither one of your employers offer health insurance to you or your children. You were lucky enough to get your children on Hoosier Healthwise, Indiana's Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP. However, you did not qualify for Indiana Medicaid because your income was considered too high for this healthcare program. Then on January 27, 2015 you heard that Healthy Indiana Plan, Version 2.0 (HIP) had been approved, and you might be eligible to enroll! How do you know if you qualify for this new expanded Medicaid program? Where do you go for help to enroll? How much do you have to pay? Continue to read on and find out answers to your questions!

**1. What is HIP 2.0?** Healthy Indiana Plan (or "HIP 2.0") is a health insurance program from the State of Indiana that pays for medical expenses and provides incentives for members to be more health conscious. HIP 2.0 provides coverage for qualified Hoosiers with low-income who are interested in participating in a low-cost, consumer-driven health care program.

**2. Am I eligible for this program?** Indiana residents ages 19-64 with incomes of up to \$16,297 per year for an individual, \$21,967 for a couple or \$33,307 for a family of four are generally eligible to participate in HIP 2.0.

**3. What's covered?** There are two levels of coverage in HIP 2.0: HIP Plus and HIP Basic. Each covers medical expenses such as doctor visits, hospital care, therapies, medications, and medical equipment. HIP Plus offers members the best value and, unlike HIP Basic, also covers vision and dental care, and even bariatric surgery.

**4. Do I have to pay for the health care plan?** POWER Account contributions are a key part of the Health Indiana Plan (HIP) and are required for HIP Plus.

**5. How does the POWER Account work?** The first \$2,500 of medical expenses for covered benefits are paid with a special

savings account called a Personal Wellness and Responsibility (POWER) account. The state will contribute most of this amount. You will also be responsible for paying a small portion of your initial health care costs. The portion is an affordable, monthly contribution to your POWER account based on your income.

**6. What if I'm currently enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace Plan (through the Affordable Care Act)?** The state is reaching out to Hoosiers with incomes between 100 and 138 percent of the federal poverty level to help ensure they understand that they are likely now eligible for health insurance in the new HIP Plus Plan. If you are one of those Hoosiers, you need to know that the federal Marketplace may not terminate your coverage automatically. You will need to take action immediately to see if you qualify for HIP Plus. If you are qualified for HIP Plus and your continue on a Marketplace plan without converting to HIP then you could end up owing back taxes for the premium support that you are getting through the federal program. Visit the website [www.HIP.IN.gov](http://www.HIP.IN.gov) or call 1-877-438-4479.

**7. Isn't the sign-up period over health coverage for this year?** HIP 2.0 can be signed up for all-year-long. The federal Marketplace insurance program has limited sign-up periods each year but, HIP 2.0, as a Medicaid program has continuous sign-up.

**8. Where can I find help in Monroe County to ask questions and also to enroll in health insurance?** Indiana Navigators are certified to provide unbiased help to enroll residents in healthcare plans. This assistance is provided free of charge.

Individual Solutions-IU Health-800-313-1328  
Cover Monroe-812-269-2991  
City of Bloomington-812-349-3851 (also help in Spanish)  
Premier Healthcare, LLC-812-355-2762  
Monroe County Health  
Department-812-339-6481  
ASPIN Health Navigators-877-313-7215

## Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

War must be forbidden because war is a crime against children.

To kill someone a child loves is to commit a crime against that child.

Who can see to it that this standard is followed? The spiritual leaders of the human race. They have the job of saying what is right and what is wrong. If we are to survive, they must do their jobs and tell the truth.

By David Field

### Natural Beauty

I enjoy the peace of mind I get when I sit by the still lake water in the early morning.

It is calm, serene and tranquil.

And I like when the water is like glass reflecting the trees along the shore line like a mirror.

And I relish overlooking the colors in the forest from the fire tower during the fall season. The contrast between the peace and quiet and the explosion of colors are so picturesque.

I like the harmony in the sounds of the river as the water gently passes by on a sunny day as I sit in the shade on the bank chewing a blade of grass.

I delight in sitting in my warm house in my most comfortable chair looking out my window and seeing the fields covered by a thick blanket of clean undisturbed virgin snow.

This world has so many magnificent things of beauty I like to look at but none of which are as elegant, breathtaking and flawless as you, Faith Ann, when you smile.

By Mark Estanislaou

*“No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.”*

*~ Anonymous*

# volunteers

## There Are SO MANY Ways to Work towards Social Justice!

*Submitted by Bet Savich, Director, City of Bloomington Volunteer Network  
volunteer@bloomington.in.gov • (812) 349-3472 • www.BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org*

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](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer), call 349-3433 or email [volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto: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.

### Karmakit Delivery

Karmakind, a newly-formed nonprofit organization, utilizes art to provide children battling cancer with a creative outlet, while raising funds for pediatric cancer research. Inspired by its founders' own experience with cancer, Karmakind sends children who are currently battling the disease a complimentary Karmakit full of art supplies. Creativity can help children battling cancer get through the physical and emotional challenges of this illness. Volunteers reach out to children by delivering Karmakits to patients at Riley and other local hospitals. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Brienne Harness at (318) 405-2762 or [beatcancer@karmakind.org](mailto:beatcancer@karmakind.org). ([karmakind.org](http://karmakind.org))

### First Friends

First Friends is an activity program for children who are waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister. Two group activities are offered each month; First Friend volunteers provide transportation and supervision to one to three children per activity. Volunteers must have access to reliable, insured transportation; training and an interview are required. Volunteers are asked to participate in at least one activity per month for eight months. This is a great way to support and get to know the children on the waitlist! Minimum age is 18. Please contact Mark Voland at (812) 334-2828 ext. 227 or [mvoland@bigsindiana.org](mailto:mvoland@bigsindiana.org). ([www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org))

### Banneker After-School Program at Fairview School

Whether you simply enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to do so, the Banneker after-school program at Fairview School will give you valuable hands-on experience. The program is held from 3:30 to 5 p.m., Mon. through Thurs. until May 22. Eight volunteers per day tutor one-on-one or in small groups, helping students excel in math and reading. Volunteers also facilitate art and

science activities, as well as active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking. Volunteers commit to two or more days per week. Minimum age is 18. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/BannekerattheView> or contact Kim Ecenbarger, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, at (812) 349-3739 or [ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:ecenbark@bloomington.in.gov). ([www.bloomington.in.gov/parks](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/parks))

### Mother Hubbard's Volunteer Orientation— Jan. 23

Join Mother Hubbard's Cupboard's dynamic volunteer team who keep the pantry shelves full, select food at the Food Bank, and tend



*Volunteers from the North Central Church of Christ at  
the Community Kitchen*

to their community gardens. At the volunteer orientation, you will learn how to get involved! Minimum age is 16; no minimum if with adult. Please contact Brandon Shurr at (812) 355-6843 or [volunteer@mhcfoodpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@mhcfoodpantry.org). ([www.mhcfoodpantry.org](http://www.mhcfoodpantry.org))

### Orchard Service Corps

The Bloomington Community Orchard is seeking several students or community volunteers to spend their spring term (and potentially summer and fall) engaging in one of the most progressive sustainability organizations in the country. The perfect candidates will be interested in hands-on education, improving local resilience, and making a tangible difference. Internships will run from Feb.-Aug.; expected commitment is 10 hours/week. Positions available: Junior Stewards Program Manager, Educational Programming Assistant, Event Planning Coordinator, Orchard Manager Assistant, Community Engagement Assistant, Donor Stewardship Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, and Social Media Manager. Minimum age is 18. Please send a letter of interest, resume, and your top three position choices to Josh David at [governance@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org](mailto:governance@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org). ([www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org](http://www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org))

### Food Purchasing and Pickup for Sunday Breakfasts

First Christian Church serves breakfast to people who are homeless on Sunday mornings throughout the year. They are seeking someone to shop for food from the Hoosier Hills Food Bank during the week (three weeks a month) and also pick up outdated food from various locations in Bloomington. Training is available; having your own transportation is necessary. Additional volunteers to assist in the

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## VOLUNTEER

*Continued from page 6*

kitchen from 7-9:30 a.m. on most Sundays would also be welcome. Minimum age is 25; 16 if with an adult. Please contact Gale Hill at (812) 345-1408 or [gbhill45@gmail.com](mailto:gbhill45@gmail.com). ([www.fccbloomington.org](http://www.fccbloomington.org))

### ‘Growing Opportunities’ Greenhouse Education

‘Growing Opportunities’ is a new social-business project of the South Central Community Action Program which provides job-training opportunities for people with low-incomes with barriers to employment. Greenhouse education volunteers will assist individuals of varying ages and abilities, such as persons with traumatic brain injury, mental illness, memory impairment, or physical disabilities. Volunteers must be able to tolerate summer heat, occasionally lift heavy items and kneel for extended periods of time. A background in social work, nursing, teaching, or experience working with persons with disabilities is helpful, but not required. Minimum age is 18; 15 if with an adult. Please contact Nikki Wooten at (812) 339-3447 ext. 233 or [nicole@insccap.org](mailto:nicole@insccap.org). ([www.insccap.org](http://www.insccap.org))

### Conduct Accessibility Surveys

The City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility (CCA) is recruiting volunteers to survey a variety of locations to determine their accessibility for people with disabilities. Volunteers work in pairs, with all training provided. Accessibility screeners check locations using established criteria for parking; path of travel; entrance; elevators, stairs and railings; common areas; restrooms; and customer service. Qualifying businesses are presented with a decal to display on their storefronts. Minimum age is 18. For details, please contact the CCA liaison at (812) 349-3433 or [cca@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:cca@bloomington.in.gov). ([www.bloomington.in.gov/cca](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/cca))

### Robotics Club Instructors

Robotics is a great way to get young people excited about science, technology, and math, all while having fun. Robotics Club instructors through the organization Cry of the Children help kids create a robot, from a kit or from scratch, on Saturdays or after school. You can volunteer for one or more sessions during the school semester or the summer three-week program. Volunteers should have some knowledge of robotics and an interest in working with children. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Dellsie Boddie at (812) 361-4059 or [cryofthechildren@gmail.com](mailto:cryofthechildren@gmail.com). ([www.cryofthechildren.com](http://www.cryofthechildren.com))

### Fill the Gap! Meal Preparation at Community Kitchen

Volunteers make the Community Kitchen run by preparing and serving free meals Monday through Saturday. No previous experience is needed, just a willingness to help. The meal preparation shift, which requires six people, is from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. These volunteers make cold carry-out meals and lunches for after-school programs, slice and dice for the dinner meal, and do some cleaning and dishwashing. When inquiring about this opportunity—by email or phone—please provide your phone number. Minimum age is 14; 10 if accompanied by an adult. Please contact Debbie Hopson at (812) 332-0999 or [debbie@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:debbie@monroecommunitykitchen.com). ([www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com))

### Garden Work Days

Join Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard in their organic fruit and vegetable community gardens! Novices and experts of all ages are welcome, as they plant, weed, and turn compost. Garden days are held at Butler Park garden, Banneker Community Center, the Hub garden, and Crestmont gardens. The Hub site at Butler Park includes a 16 ft. x30 ft. hoophouse for seed starting, vermicomposting, and season

*See “VOLUNTEER”, page 8*



*Stephen Hale with Bloomington Community Orchard Volunteers*



*Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Volunteers on Martin Luther King Jr. Day*



## VOLUNTEER

Continued from page 7

extension. Regular work days are held from April and continue through Oct. Please contact Kendra Brewer at (812) 355-6843 or [garden@mhcfoodpantry.org](mailto:garden@mhcfoodpantry.org). ([mhcfoodpantry.org](http://mhcfoodpantry.org))

### Bargain Boutique Staff

My Sister's Closet has assisted over 1200 women in our community by giving them two weeks worth of interview and workplace attire to help them on their way to employment and self-sufficiency. You are invited to be part of this dynamic organization by volunteering at their store, where you will assist customers, tag and straighten clothes, and receive clothing donations. Volunteers are asked to cover one two-hour shift each week. It is a fun and rewarding place to be, with the extra bonus of earning \$1.00 in store credit for each hour you volunteer! Minimum age is 16, or 10 if with an adult. Please contact the volunteer coordinator at (812) 333-7710 or [volunteer@sisterscloset.org](mailto:volunteer@sisterscloset.org). ([www.sisterscloset.org](http://www.sisterscloset.org))



Spring Gardening Volunteers at the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Garden at Crestmont Apartments

# 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](http://www.amethysthouse.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x10; [amethyst@bloomington.in.us](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu)

**Volunteer Contact:** Melanie Hunter (330-7731 x 52137; [mhunter@mccsc.edu](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

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## DIRECTORY

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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](http://www.sisterscloset.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Laura Robinson, (812) 333-7710; [info@sisterscloset.org](mailto: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](mailto:monica_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org))

**About:** Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, nursing home visitation, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**Address:** 4607 West State Road 46

**Phone:** (812) 961-1510

**Web:** [www.bloomingtonsvdp.org](http://www.bloomingtonsvdp.org)

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

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

## Disabilities assistance programs

### **Abilities Unlimited**

**Address:** 2620 N. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-1620

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

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

### **LifeDesigns, Inc.**

**Address:** 200 East Winslow Rd.

**Phone:** (812) 332-9615

**Web:** [www.lifedesignsinc.org](http://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)**

**Facility Address:** 7644 W Elwren Rd,

Bloomington,

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 1033, Bloomington, IN 47402

**Phone:** 812-336-2798

**Web:** [www.palstherapy.org](http://www.palstherapy.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Jennylynn Vidas, (812-336-2798 ext. 15, [jennylynn@palstherapy.org](mailto:jennylynn@palstherapy.org))

**About:** PALS provides therapeutic Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) to individuals with disabilities, veterans and at-risk youth in South Central Indiana. PALS programs are designed by professionals and aim to develop and restore functional skills, enhance well-being and improve quality of life. Services are available to individuals ages three and up. PALS is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl) Premier-Accredited Center and United Way of Monroe County Member Agency.

### **Stone Belt**

**Address:** 2815 E. 10 St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-2168

**Web:** [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Amy Jackson (332-2168 x314; [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto: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](http://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/](http://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.

### **Programas de Alcance a Latinos**

#### **Latino Programs and Outreach Division**

**Address:** 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47402

**Phone:** (812) 349-3430

**Web:** <https://bloomington.in.gov/>

**Contact:** Araceli Gómez-Aldana, [latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov)

**Acercas:** El Departamento de Recursos Comunitarios y Familiares de la Ciudad de Bloomington ha enfocado sus esfuerzos para alcanzar a la comunidad Hispana ofreciendo una gran variedad de programas. Eventos culturales, educación cívica, servicios directos y traducciones. El programa de radio Hola Bloomington en WFHB y la publicación Del Boletín Comunitario. **About:** The City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Department has focused its outreach efforts on the Hispanic and Latino community by offering a variety of programs. Cultural events, civic education, direct service and translations, The Hola Bloomington Radio Show on WFHB and The Boletín Comunitario.

### **Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)**

**Address:** 827 W. 14th Court

**Phone:** (812) 339-3429

**Web:** [www.mcum.org](http://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

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## DIRECTORY

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testing, birth control counseling, emergency contraception, health education, birth control pills, birth control shots, IUD (intrauterine device), and condoms.

### **Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice**

**Address:** 619 W 1st St.

**Phone:** (812) 353-9818

**Web:** www.bloomingtonhospital.org

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

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

### **Hoosier Healthwise for Children**

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

**Phone:** (812) 349-3851

**Web:** www.hoosierhealthwise.net

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

### **Monroe County Public Health Clinic**

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive

**Phone:** (812) 353-3244

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

### **Planned Parenthood**

**Address:** 421 S. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 336-0219

**Web:** www.ppin.org

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

### **Vistacare Hospice**

**Address:** 1801 Liberty Dr., Ste. 103

**Phone:** (812) 330-9640

**Web:** www.vistacare.com

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

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

### **Volunteers in Medicine Clinic**

**Address:** 811 West 2nd Street

**Phone:** (812) 333-4001

**Web:** www.vimmonroecounty.org

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

**About:** Provides free medical care, including dental care at the offices of participating dentists, for people living in Monroe or Owen County who lack

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

## Housing (abused women)

### **Middle Way House**

**Address:** 338 S. Washington St.

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

**Web:** www.middlewayhouse.org

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

## Housing (emergency, for adults)

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

**Web:** www.backstreet.org

**Phone:** (812) 333-1905.

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

### **Backstreet Missions**

**Address:** 215 Westplex Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 333-1905

**Web:** www.backstreet.org

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

### **Martha’s House**

**Address:** 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

**Phone:** (812) 332-1444

**Web:** marthashouseofbloomington.org

**About:** An emergency shelter with 40 beds (18 for men and 12 for women). Services provided include case management, food, and clothing. Opens at 6:15 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 for 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.

## Housing (homeless youth)

### **Stepping Stones**

**Address:** PO Box 1366

**Phone:** (812) 339-9771

**Web:** www.stepsstones-inc.org

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

### **Youth Services Bureau**

**Address:** 615 S. Adams St.

**Phone:** (812) 349-2506

**Web:** www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

## Legal and court-related services

### **Community Justice & Mediation Center**

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

**Phone:** (812) 339-1551

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

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

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

### **District 10 Pro Bono Project**

**Address:** P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

**Phone:** (812)-339-3610

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

### **Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington**

**Address:** 214 S. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 339-7668

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

### **Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates**

**Address:** 201 N. Morton Street

**Phone:** (812) 333-2272

**Web:** www.monroecountycasa.org

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

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

### **Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program**

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

**Phone:** (812) 349-2670

**Web:** www.co.monroe.in.us

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

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

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### Meals and pantries (no cost)

#### Meals

##### Area 10 Agency on Aging

**Address:** 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

**Phone:** (812) 876-3383

**Web:** www.area10agency.org

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

**Congregate Meals**—We offer congregate 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.

##### City Church Food Outreach

**Address:** 1200 N Russell Rd. Bloomington IN 47404

**Phone:** 812-336-5958

**Web:** citychurchfamily.org

**Email:** info@citychurchfamily.org

**About:** City's Food Outreach brings the mission of LOVE people, BUILD family, LEAD to destiny to life. Currently the Food Outreach gives groceries to families every month following the 3rd Saturday of the month service. Saturday service starts at 5:30 and tickets are distributed discreetly during service. December 20th, January 17th, February 21st, March 21st

##### 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.

##### First Presbyterian Church

**Address:** Corner of Lincoln and 7th Streets

**Saturday:** Breakfast: 7:30-9:00 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:** Tues, Thurs 1-3:30 and Wed, Fri 9-11:30

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

##### SLO FoodS garden pantry

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

**When:** Wednesdays from 1:00–3:00 pm

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

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

**Web:** http://ecomediacycenter.org  
greenthcity@yahoo.com

##### First United Methodist Church

**Address:** 219 E. 4th Street

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

**About:** Provides brown bag lunch, groceries.

##### Township Trustees Food Pantries—Bloomington

**Address:** 2111 W. Vernal Pike

**Phone:** (812) 336-4976

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

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

##### Township Trustees Food Pantries—Perry

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-3713

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

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

### Medicaid

##### Division of Family Resources

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

### Older citizen programs

##### Area 10 Agency on Aging

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

**Phone:** (812) 876-3383

**Web:** www.area10agency.org

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

### Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

##### Planned Parenthood

See health care.

##### WIC Program

See family services.

See "DIRECTORY", page 12



## DIRECTORY

Continued from page 11

### Rent, utility, bill assistance

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

### Youth programs

#### Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Address:** 807 N. College Avenue

**Phone:** (812) 334-2828

**Web:** www.bigsindiana.org

**Volunteer Contact:** Mark Volland, mvolland@bigsindiana.org, 812-334-2828, ext. 227.

**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.

#### Reach High Consulting & Therapy LLC.

Autism ABA and Diagnostic Clinic

**Address:** 2101 W Tapp Rd. Bloomington IN 47403

**Website:** reachhighconsulting.org

**Phone:** 812-330-4460

**Fax:** 812-330-4461

**Email:** aba@reachhighconsulting.org

**About RHC:** Reach High is Bloomington's first ABA clinic. Reach High was birthed out of a growing need in the City of Bloomington. Providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has meant families and clients are equipped with the tools to reach their maximum potential. Reach High strives to have clients in multiple environments within the community, this allows for skill sets to be strengthened and become more natural overtime.