

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

August-
October 2015

Library Homebound Service

Chris Jackson

Special Audiences Strategist, Monroe County Public Library

Our community is fortunate enough to have many wonderful institutions, but they are wonderful only if you are able to access them. For many of us, it is easy to take such access for granted. Want to go to a movie? Visit a museum? Hear live music? Enjoy a good meal? All you have to do is find your wallet, car keys, and a little free time in your schedule and you just go.

At Monroe County Public Library, we strive to have informative, fun collections and programs, giving the community a wealth of educational, entertaining options. We even have multiple locations, with the Ellettsville Branch and Bookmobile, in addition to our Main Library on Kirkwood. What's more, while funded primarily by tax dollars, all of our services and events are free to county residents, so you can leave your wallet at home, if you can get to our doors.

But getting to us, obtaining access, is a significant barrier to many. To help address this problem, the Library offers Homebound Service. County residents who are unable to visit us due to a disability, an extended illness, or significant transportation problems can

instead receive a monthly delivery of library materials.

To register for the service, an individual or their caretaker should contact Ann Segraves at (812) 349-3084, or segraves@mcpl.info. There is also an online registration option at <http://mcpl.info/homebound>.

During the signup process, we learn the patron's interests—what authors, genres, and formats they want to receive. Individuals can make their own selections through the Library's online catalog, but Library staff are happy to do the selections too, and can use their experience to recommend new authors and titles. Books, audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs, and magazines are all available for delivery.

The Library's growing collection of downloadable eBooks, music, and movies are additional options that expand access, though they do require a computer and Internet connection on the user's end. Library staff is always happy to help with these newer formats, too.

One patron, Alice Vaughn has been on the Homebound Service since 1977. She reports, "The Library has really saved my life and helped my brain stay younger



Library patron Alice Vaughn receiving books from Monroe County Public Library's Homebound Service.

than my years. When I read a book, I live the story, and can go to another world for a while. When you have limited mobility, books allow you to travel."

If you or someone you know would benefit from Homebound Service, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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

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



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

SCCAP celebrates 50th anniversary celebration on May 7

By Doug Wilson
Director of Communications and Development



Guests at the SCCAP 50th Anniversary Celebration enjoyed a free barbecue dinner, music performed by Don Ford, Sarah Flint and Jim Anseldo, as well as displays and presentations honoring the history of SCCAP and explaining the services it currently provides to more than 4,000 people per year.

The South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) celebrated its 50th Anniversary on May 7 with an open house that drew more than 400 people.

The event offered live music and a cookout outside SCCAP's main office in Bloomington as well as indoor displays highlighting SCCAP's current services and the history of the organization.

The information on current services included participants from Thriving Connections, the Individual Development Account program and the Housing Choice Voucher program talking about their experiences in becoming financially self-sufficient. Two Thriving Connections participants were highlighted in the Bloomington newspaper, The Herald-Times, on May 8 talking about their paths to earning

degrees, building stronger community connections and pursuing their desired careers and jobs.

Current services information also included exhibitions of high-tech tools used in weatherizing client homes, including thermal cameras and blower doors that measure home heat loss, and a working Head Start classroom that participants

A 50-year timeline highlighted SCCAP's role in spearheading such projects as Monroe County's Legal Aid Program, Alternative High School, Well Baby Clinic, Rural Transportation, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Comprehensive Manpower Center/Occupational Development Center, Willie Streeter Garden Project, Thriving Connections (formerly Circles Initiative) and Growing Opportunities greenhouse,

among others.

SCCAP also presented a thank you poster with photos of dozens of key people who



Iris Kiesling and Charlotte Zietlow pose by a poster that thanks the many people, including Kiesling and Zietlow, who have played important roles in the 50-year history of SCCAP.

played important roles in building the organization and serving the community over its first 50 years.

Mayor Mark Kruzan proclaimed May 7, 2015 as South Central Community Action Program Day in Bloomington.

The original name of the organization was Monroe County Community Action Program, which was incorporated on May 6, 1965, following approval of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act on Aug. 20, 1964. The federal government approved Monroe County Community Action Program as a nonprofit organization on Dec. 6, 1965. The first day of operation for the organization's first program was Feb. 14, 1966.

The organization became South Central Community Action Program in 1982 after it expanded to Brown, Morgan and Owen counties.

About *Safety~Net*

David White
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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.

Growing Opportunities celebrates greenhouse grand opening

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

Participants in Growing Opportunities joined organizers and supporters of the new job training program to celebrate the official public opening of their greenhouse in Bloomington on July 9.

Growing Opportunities, a program of the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP), provides job training useful for seeking employment in the growing local foods movement. Just as important, it emphasizes much-needed soft skills that are crucial to success in any job. Graduates will receive job placement assistance.

At the Thursday celebration, members of the first class of Growing Opportunities participants, who have completed almost 14 weeks of a 20-week curriculum, spoke with attendees after a ceremony in which several people affiliated with the greenhouse spoke. Speakers included Todd Lare, Executive Director, South Central Community Action Program; Jacob Sipe, Executive Director, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority; Leslie Green, CEO, Stone Belt; Cayla Wrightsman, Growing Opportunities client; and Nicole Wooten, Growing Opportunities Manager.

The event marked the first public opportunity to see the 2,880-square foot greenhouse. Ground was broken on the greenhouse at a previous public event on Oct.



Leaders of partner organizations and Growing Opportunities staff and clients celebrate after cutting a ribbon signifying the official greenhouse opening.

30. SCCAP is still seeking additional funding and land for two additional greenhouses.

Growing Opportunities participants have grown Bibb lettuce that has recently started to be sold at Bloomington restaurants and stores, including Bloomingfoods, Feast Bakery Cafe, Lennie's, Lucky's Market, Sahara Mart and Upland Brewing. Samples of the Bibb lettuce were provided for tasting at the

celebration. They will also soon be offering basil, chard, kale and other greens. Revenue will support ongoing operation to serve new classes of participants.

The City of Bloomington, Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, Geller Foundation, the Glick Fund, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Lucky's Market, Monroe County Master Gardener Assoc., Old National Bank Foundation and Perry Township have awarded grants to launch and operate Growing Opportunities. IHCDA provided the largest contribution with \$100,000 in grant funds.

The South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) is a nonprofit organization based in Bloomington that has served low-income people for 50 years. Its mission is to provide opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence. SCCAP administers Growing Opportunities, Head Start and Thriving Connections (formerly Circles Initiative) in Monroe County, and operates Affordable Housing, Energy Assistance, Individual Development Accounts, Section 8 Housing and Weatherization in Brown, Monroe, Morgan and Owen counties. It serves more than 4,000 households annually and employs about 90 people.



Attendees at the Growing Opportunities Greenhouse opening listened to remarks from Todd Lare, Executive Director, South Central Community Action Program; Jacob Sipe, Executive Director, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority; Leslie Green, CEO, Stone Belt; Cayla Wrightsman, Growing Opportunities client; and Nicole Wooten, Growing Opportunities Manager.

Housing First

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

In the summer of 2011, Frank Crawford died. He passed away homeless and alone behind a dumpster out back of an abandoned Ponderosa's. He had been released just a few weeks earlier from a nursing home, declared too healthy to stay.

Frank was disabled, chronically ill, and suffering from late stage alcoholism. He had been in and out of nursing homes for several years. On the streets, he would decline to the edge of death and then get nursed back to health—only to be released to the streets once again.

Every time Frank came back to the Shalom Center, we all sighed with despair, astonished that anyone thought Frank could care for himself. We knew soon enough he would be in a nursing home again... if he was lucky.

Unfortunately, this last time, Frank wasn't so lucky and he passed away.

His death sparked a collaborative effort in Bloomington to prevent this from ever happening again. That effort led to the Crawford Homes program.

You may have read about communities across the country and how they are ending homelessness—Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Houston, and others.

They are doing so using a simple practice—Housing First. By providing housing without conditions (plus voluntary wrap-around services) for people who are both disabled and experiencing long-term homelessness, these communities were not only able to reduce homelessness but dramatically improve the lives of the new residents, benefit the community, and save money.

The Crawford Homes program has shown similar results, providing homes for over 60 long-term homeless adults and children. Through the first year:

- The program had a 92% housing retention rate (55 of the 60 people maintained their homes).
- Residents had an 88% reduction in

incarcerations, dropping from 141 in the year prior to 17 in the first year.

- Residents' use of the emergency room dropped 65% as compared to the year prior to the program.

But, even more importantly were the intangible results.

Resident Jeremy Blackwell described his new life: "I'm sober, I'm not in jail, and I've noticed the stronger presence of God in my life. I'm grateful for having a home, not sleeping in churches, porches, sidewalks, and alleys... it's just 100% much better with me being here."



Forrest Gilmore

Resident Durrell Patton said, "It's like God has opened the sky and let me into Heaven... I think this is as close to Heaven as I am going to get here on earth. When I

was homeless, my responsibility was one thing—finding me a warm spot to sleep. Right now, my sole responsibility is to seek gainful employment and get off this Food Stamp card."

Resident Woody Wilson described his new found outlook: "I believe there's a future. There's hope. Before I knew there wasn't a future. Now I can get things straightened out."

Resident Deborah Flowers talked about the improvements from her former life: "I'm not sleeping in the rain, not lying on the ground with the bugs and snakes and skunks and wild animals and everything else we ran into out there. It's a safe place. It's a healthier, cleaner environment. It's a great place to be."

Resident Billy Young said, "If I could count the clouds I've climbed up on since I've been here!! Love got me here. I'm blessed. I have something to live for."

There is still much more to do. Many chronically homeless people still sleep on the streets of Bloomington... and some are still dying. We've found a method that works—investment in Housing First. If we have the will, we, too, can end chronic homelessness in our beloved city.

Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

Addicts In Recovery Program: The AIR program provides a place for inmates to participate in intensive addiction recovery programs. All inmates are welcome to apply to the program. New Leaf/New life staff interview and select appropriate participants to live in a block where all residents commit to full-time classes and work groups. These classes and groups focus on addiction treatment, anger management, community building, meditation, parenting and family relations, life values, and decision making. A number of volunteers from the community teach classes or visit with the AIR residents on a weekly basis as well. These elements make the AIR block a therapeutic environment where inmates can gain the skills they need for success upon release.

Flight

By Sonny Smith

Mighty motivator you exist out there in the wild.
In a lush green jungle growing a muse lives and thrives for you.
Predators find game there, but do not fret.
Honed is the skill that you bare so well.
Healthy-veined leaves give shelter from the illuminating light in the iris of eyes
awaiting silver moon light.
Move on, move away but keep moving.
Birds of paradise lost in the branches of witnessed wisdom.
They live there for you.
Winged creatures of flight foreshadow your path with song.
Birds know, they feel a deep, primal passion.
Instinct, awareness and self-preservation filled in the feathers...
When they soar,
So do you.....

All too familiar

By Sonny Smith

Grey-zoned, alone and orange
kaleidoscope pulverized...
Melting Salvador Dali clocks,
Endless halls of hidden sparkling
Mica...
Filed cinder blocks, each and every
thought metamorphosing into the
lamenting lamb of wolves left to
slaughter...
The lamb,... The wolf,...
Falling, descending to unending and
impending doom.
All too well aware and scared
Now back to a life of Spartan disrepair.

WTF

By Sonny Smith

Glowing embers ache to spark into
majestic vessel flames
Find solace in the deep seas of dormant
pain that await below
Each harrowing King that you create in
the dark ages of your mind
Every Queen of disappointment
mirrored in clouded memory delusions
Loss...
Shame...
Regret...
This is the epic metaphorical Viking
funeral developed in a grandiose
bipolar mind...
Absolute Fairytale
insanity.....

Pantoum
By Stacey Terrell and Marci Joynt

Prayer, Faith, hope, Love
Our Father stays within us through time
The Spirit is with us all the time
What to say & what to do in his Will

Our Father stays within us through time
Even through our life's destructions
What to say & what to do in his will
Tear drops for good bad, sad happy &
Restoring hope have been kept

Even through our life's destructions
He has never left, but carried our Burdens
Tear drops for good bad, sad happy &
Restoring hope have been kept
For comfort within our souls.

He never left, but carried our Burdens
The spirit is with us all the time
For comfort within our souls
Prayer, Faith, hope, Love

Women writing for (a) change Bloomington and the Writing for a Change Foundation–Bloomington started their work at the Monroe County Corrections Center in August of 2006. This summer marks nine years of this writing program coming together with New Leaf; New Life to try to help incarcerated women make new lives for themselves.

ORANGE
By Annie Simpson

The color of confinement.
Confined to our thoughts, our emotions, ourselves.
The color that slips us down to our purest state.
The color that represents that we belong to the state.
The color that causes heartaches & suicide.
It brings reality to life.
It brings pain to life.
I HATE the color orange ...

Our project involves inviting women into a safe community that encourages writing as a tool for self-expression, story telling and community building. We ask each participant to reflect on and write about her experience in poetry and prose, to share her words with the rest of the writers in the circle and to listen deeply to her fellow writers and community members.

We are proud of the work we do encouraging strength, voice and self-expression through writing. We see these women become more insightful and reflective about their own lives. We are excited to continue to offer writing services to women at the MCCC every Saturday throughout the year. For more information on our adult circles, young women's programs and other outreach programs, please see our website: www.womenwritingbloomington.org

—Amy L Cornell

6-1 Today I want to die I am not going to lie The pain the sorrow What about tomorrow The way we say good bye Sometimes we want to think of lies The ones we think are close Are the ones we need to fear The laughter is far, but seems so near People are in disguise If only I could see into their eyes The truth relies I feel like a failure in so many ways Every direction I go seems to go up in a blaze Which way do I turn I am in such a haze. What will tomorrow lay	the right one I look to the sky & I ask that guy no one ever seen I get on my knees and I pray to thee Father please stay with me. 6-2 Battling the nightmares In my head Screaming, yelling What have I said Action taken Been mistaken With aggression Flowing thru my head The color red Battling emotions Are resumptions Yearning close Of what should have been 6-2 I want to leave But where will I be What has this life brought me The choices I've made I didn't foresee My life has become nothing but therapy The days are turning quickly	Like a book you read with anticipation & despair I want to be that someone So free the happiness which lies within me 6-2 Familiar Faces Lost souls Where do we go I want to know Once young Growing old Have no control Want to show you what I can be But how will you ever trust me Lies I told Promises I made Is there a chance I have changed? 6-8 people die ... so love them everyday Beauty fades ... so look before its gone love changes ... but not the love you give And if you love, you're never alone by Stacey Terrell
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Community

By David Field
Shalom Center Writers Circle

Community is a word often spoken nowadays, but little understood. I have had the good fortune of living communally for 27 years in a Utopian settlement just an hour drive from Bloomington in Martin county, next to Crane Naval Base. We, through an immense amount of hard work, bought land, built buildings, built our own school system from nursery through 12th grade. We built our own businesses to support ourselves, built three lakes, bought horses for the children to ride. Later, we bought 4-wheelers, and provided a protected area for them to play in almost as large as a state park. The wealthiest families in Indiana do not have estates larger than we do.

The name of our place is God's Valley, or sometimes Padanaram, an unincorporated town in God's Valley which we built. In God's Valley, there is no jail, no policemen, no hunger, no homelessness, and no unemployment. The rules were very simple. Nobody had to turn over their personal assets. The rule was "Whosoever will, let him come." We got up early, left at 6:15 in the morning to work at our sawmill and bark company in Bloomington, and to work on logging crews which kept the sawmill supplied with logs. We worked until 5:30, came home, ate dinner, and went to sleep; completely worn out, we slept like babies. On two nights a week and sometimes more, we had study and worship meetings which began at 8:00 and lasted until 10:00 or 10:30.

It was these evening meetings that provided the nourishment I sought, which made all the hardship worthwhile. Our little society was a patriarchy. One man, the founder of the place, held forth on whatever anyone wanted to talk about. This man was a very talented teacher. Many times, he told us that we had been promised nothing but food and reinment, and that our pay was wisdom. The men who sat in these classes were saw millers and loggers, generally uneducated. But they conducted themselves with more dignity than I have ever seen in a college classroom. They would sit with uninterrupted attention, completely motionless, no fidgeting or movement of the feet. Questions were always in order. No question was considered unworthy. We would discuss a matter as long as anyone wanted to pursue it. Those who spoke, spoke without interruption. The only requirement was that whoever spoke agreed to accept questions. An overall spirit of brotherhood prevailed.

I found this environment very rewarding. The secret to the creation of a strong community is

See "COMMUNITY", page 7

Action Needed to Preserve Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Benefits

Submitted by Leslie Green CEO, Stone Belt Arc, Incorporated

The following is taken from the fact sheet of The Arc of the United States regarding potential threats to the Social Security Disability Insurance program. Congress must take action to stem these threats and maintain the program at its current level.

Background. Social Security insures nearly all Americans and provides benefits to nearly 56 million individuals, including over 12 million people with disabilities, their spouses, and children. Social Security is an interrelated system built up over many decades, so even small changes may affect everyone.

Social Security Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) insure workers against poverty in retirement or when disability may limit the ability to work, and provide life insurance for workers' survivors. Additionally, spouses and children may receive benefits based on the earnings record of a parent or spouse. People with disabilities and their families access benefits under all parts of the Social Security system, and all parts of the system are important to people with disabilities.

Social Security benefits are paid from two Trust Funds (one for OASI and one for DI), which are funded with payroll contributions (FICA taxes) paid by employees and employers.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a cash assistance program operated by the Social Security Administration that provides benefits to people who are aged, blind, or have disabilities and have very low income and assets. Over 8 million people receive SSI. Funding for SSI comes from general revenues.

Key Issues. People with disabilities and their families have an enormous interest in any proposed Social Security or SSI changes. These issues are bipartisan. All policymakers must address the concerns of people with disabilities and their families.

Future Challenges for the Trust Funds. By law, Social Security's Trust Funds must be able to pay benefits for at least the next 75 years. Social Security is currently running a planned surplus

address the retirement and disability needs of the baby boom generation. At the end of 2013 the Trust Funds had reserves of about \$2.7 trillion, which are expected to grow to \$2.9 trillion by the end of 2020. Social Security's Trustees project that, without any changes, the combined Trust Funds can pay full scheduled benefits until 2033, and would then cover about 77 percent of scheduled benefits.

Congressional Action Needed by 2016 to Prevent a 20% Cut in Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). On its own, the DI Trust Fund is projected to be able to pay full scheduled benefits through the end of 2016. After 2016, the DI fund's reserves are projected to be depleted, and SSDI would only be able to pay about 80 percent of scheduled benefits, based on money coming into the system. Social Security's actuaries estimate that temporarily raising the share of FICA taxes going to the DI Trust Fund would enable both funds to pay full scheduled benefits through 2033. This process, called "reallocation," can only happen if Congress acts. Congress has authorized this kind of shift 11 times in the past, about equally from one Trust Fund to the other, and has always done so in a bipartisan manner. Cuts to Social

Security and SSI Would Harm Beneficiaries with Disabilities: Proposals to cut Social Security or SSI benefits could result in significant harm to beneficiaries with disabilities, who often rely on these extremely modest benefits to meet most or all of their daily living expenses. The Arc opposes cuts to eligibility and benefits, including proposals to cut SSDI for people who also receive Unemployment Insurance (UI). Currently, individuals may receive benefits from both UI and SSDI because they receive SSDI, have attempted to work, but lost their job through no fault of their own and as a result also qualify for UI. Proposals to cut these Page 1 of 2 concurrent benefits would single out SSDI beneficiaries and treat them differently from all other workers under the UI program, create new disincentives to work in the SSDI program, and erode the economic security of SSDI beneficiaries and their families.

Improvements Needed. Many parts of the SSI and Social Security disability systems need to be strengthened to better meet the needs of people with disabilities. These include: increasing the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level for people with disabilities (currently \$1,090 per month) to the level for people who are blind (currently \$1,820 per month); increasing, and indexing for inflation, the asset limits and income exclusions for SSI; eliminating marriage penalties for people with disabilities; eliminating the two-year waiting period for Medicare; improving work incentives; and addressing policy issues which have a harsh impact on people eligible for Title II benefits as disabled adult children.

Recommendations

- Congress should promptly reallocate Social Security payroll taxes to prevent a 20 percent across-the-board cut in SSDI benefits at the end of 2016 and to ensure that SSDI can pay full scheduled benefits through 2033. Congress should reject proposals to do a short-term financial patch for the DI Trust Fund, or to include cuts to benefits or eligibility along with reallocation.

- Congress should consider Social Security and SSI outside of deficit reduction and should reject benefit cuts, including cuts to concurrent SSDI and UI benefits.

- Congress should address the many areas in which improvements are needed in the SSI and Social Security disability programs.

- Congress should request a beneficiary impact statement on any proposal to change Social Security, to look beyond budgetary issues to the impact on people's daily lives

Please call your Congressional representative and ask him/her to follow the recommendations. For more information on this and other threats to Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare, go to www.thearc.org and click on the "Take Action" tab. You can sign up there to receive legislative alerts and the weekly e-newsletter.

Smoke Alarms, Have you Checked Yours Lately?

Scott Smith, Fire Prevention Officer
Bloomington Fire Department
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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.

See "SMOKE ALARMS", page 7

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, 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.

Midwest Pages to Prisoners Orientation

The Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project is an all-volunteer effort that strives to encourage self-education among prisoners by providing free reading materials upon request. They hope to promote rehabilitation and reintegration and to stimulate critical thinking. The project is developing volunteers who are able to stay involved for an extended period of time. Contact them about the next orientation, where you will learn about the project's goals, structure, functions, and volunteer expectations. You can reach them at mwpp@pagestoprisoners.org to RSVP for the orientation session. (pagestoprisoners.org)

Food Pantry Volunteers

The Grace Center food pantry is seeking volunteers to stock, set up, clean up, and fill-in during their open hours, which are 3-7 p.m. on Thursdays. The Center offers a place where the people of Clear Creek, Indian Creek, and Polk Townships (Harrodsburg, Kirksville, and Smithville) can gather to strengthen community by providing programs that create a balance between social, recreational, and cultural activities. They place a special emphasis on providing and distributing food to those in need and offering hot nutritious meals for those with low incomes. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Matt Hinshaw at (812) 272-9472 or gracecenterinc@gmail.com. (www.gracecenterindiana.org)

Community Bike Project

The Bloomington Community Bike Project is a local coop that emphasizes bicycle maintenance and repair education. They provide free used parts, space, tools, and bike maintenance books to community members with bicycles in need of repair. There is also a Shop Monitor to help you diagnose and fix your own bike. Volunteers assist with cleaning and organizing the shop; identify bike repairs needed for Bike



Volunteers preparing a meal for participants in the South Central Community Action Program Thriving Connections program.

Project bicycles; and repair those bikes. Minimum age is 15; 13 if with an adult. Please contact them at bloomington.bike.project@gmail.com. (www.bloomingtonbikeproject.com)

Group Opportunities at New Hope for Families

Volunteer groups of all sizes are welcome to contribute to the work of New Hope for Families! You can create "Baskets of Hope" with friends - small care packages created around a theme that families leaving the shelter can take with them into their new homes. When a family

has stabilized and is ready to move, volunteers can help! Gather a few friends, a truck, and help a family transition to their own apartment. There are also volunteer work days from 1-5 p.m. every Wed. when groups are welcome to help out with current projects. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Elaine Guinn at (812) 334-9840 or director@nhfsinc.org for more information. (www.nhfsinc.org)

VITAL Literacy Tutor Orientation

To become a VITAL literacy tutor, the first step is to attend an introductory orientation, which are held on a regular basis. VITAL literacy tutors provide adults, including non-native language learners, with instruction in basic to intermediate reading, writing, and math. Volunteers are provided with free training after which they are matched with adult learners. The expected commitment is two to three hours a week. The VITAL office is located near the checkout area on the second floor of the Monroe County Public Library. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Bethany Terry at (812) 349-3173 or vital@mcpl.info. (www.mcpl.info/vital)

Midweek Construction

Habitat for Humanity's midweek construction volunteers are an important part of the build schedule, helping with tasks small and large! Volunteers build from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with a break during the lunch hour. Volunteers arrive on time and stay all day. Volunteers do not need previous construction experience, just a willingness to learn and have fun! Minimum age is 16. To sign up for an upcoming build day, go to: <http://vols.pt/k7t8Ta> or contact the office at (812) 331-4069 or volunteer@monroecountyhabitat.org. (www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

See "VOLUNTEER", page 8

SMOKE ALARMS

Continued from page 6

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 a 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.

COMMUNITY

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having a place where people will listen to you with patience and respect.

This requires that the number of people in a strong community not be larger than 30 or 40, so that there will be an opportunity for whoever wants to speak to speak. Extended periods of silence must be accepted, and not taken as an indication that the meeting has failed.

No one is to have a higher status than another in seating, elevation above others, or preferred position at a table. No attention should be paid to dress, or ability to speak easily, or to being designated as a leader by an institution outside the group. In other words, no paid clergy, and

therefore no collection if the meeting is of a spiritual nature.

Matters that are not agreed upon will be left to further consideration will be "put on the shelf" until later.

I feel that somewhere in here is the future of the human race. Time will tell.

VOLUNTEER

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Patriot Pals: Lift the Spirits of Local Veterans

Become a Patriot Pal - a friendly neighbor to a senior citizen who is a military veteran. This program, which operates in Monroe and Owen Counties through the RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program, provides the opportunity to give time and attention to those who have given so much to our country. Activities range from friendly visiting to running errands, light housekeeping or pet care. Minimum age is 16; no minimum if with an adult. Please contact Rebecca Nunley at (812) 876-3383 ext. 523 or rsvp@area10agency.org. (www.area10agency.org/patriotpals)

CASA Child Advocates

There are over 40 children waiting for you! Get trained to be a Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA is seeking community members aged 21+ who are interested in learning about family dynamics, the juvenile court system and how to write reports for the judiciary. Interested individuals must be team players, enjoy learning and share a vision of a community where all children live in a safe, permanent and loving home. Ideal candidates will have a fairly flexible schedule, reliable transportation and 12 - 15 hours available a month. No special skills are needed. Training is provided at no cost to those willing to invest about 33 hours. Be the Difference. Become a CASA Today! To learn more, please contact Kelli Shannon at (812) 333-2272 or kelli.shannon@monroecountycasa.org. (www.monroecountycasa.org)

Cooking for SCCAP Thriving Connections!

If you like to cook, South Central Community



Volunteers preparing a meal for participants in the South Central Community Action Program Thriving Connections program..

Action Program's Thriving Connections could really use your help! Thriving Connections participants work together to build relationships across class and race lines to end poverty in our community - one person at a time. They meet at 6 p.m. every Thursday at St. Mark's United Methodist Church to have a meal as a community and connect through programming. Fun and enthusiastic volunteers are sought to help plan, shop, prepare, serve, and clean up after these meals serving around 40 people. This is a fun opportunity for groups to volunteer together and the commitment is flexible. Minimum age is 18 years old, or 13 if accompanied by an adult. Please contact Megan Carpenter at (812) 339-3447 ext. 206 or tcv@insccap.org for date options. (www.insccap.org)

House Manager

House Management volunteers at Middle Way House receive, sort, and distribute donations. They also prepare rooms for new residents. They shop and maintain the food pantry, and participate in routine chore completion. If you are interested in helping with the general day to day work at this domestic violence shelter this is the volunteer position for you! They ask that each volunteer work one day a week for a minimum of 3 hours. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Debra Morrow at (812) 337-4510 or volunteer@middlewayhouse.org. (www.middlewayhouse.org)

Greenhouse Education

'Growing Opportunities', a program of the South Central Community Action Program, is seeking greenhouse education volunteers to assist staff as they teach participants greenhouse-related job skills. Participants may include people with traumatic brain injury, mental illness, memory impairment, and/or physical disabilities. Experience working with people with disabilities is helpful but not required, but volunteers must be able to tolerate heat, occasional heavy lifting, and kneeling for extended periods. Volunteers will be asked to initiate suggestions to improve the program. A background in social work, nursing, or teaching 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. (www.insccap.org)

Wednesday Shopping Crew

The Mother Hubbard's Cupboard shopping crew build muscles while building food security! These volunteers go to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, load food for the Cupboard food pantry onto the truck, caravan to the pantry, then unload. Positions are available on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to about 1 p.m. This position requires access to transportation and the ability to lift 50 pounds. Minimum age is 16, 12 if with an adult. Please contact Stephanie



Volunteers preparing a meal for participants in the South Central Community Action Program Thriving Connections program..

Solomon at (812) 355-6843 or stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org. (www.mhcfoodpantry.org)

Internships at My Sister's Closet

My Sister's Closet is accepting high school and college internship applications. Do you enjoy working with women? Love fashion and shopping? Interested in gaining experience? Intern positions include: boutique, data management, journalism, stock management and event planning. Interns receive a 25% discount and \$1 per hour towards the purchase of merchandise. A minimum commitment of 120 hours is required, which may be scheduled in short periods throughout the semester, full-time for three weeks, or something in-between. Minimum age is 16. Prospective interns are asked to submit a two-page letter to Julie Tobin at info@SistersCloset.org requesting a position, stating why the services provided by My Sister's Closet are important, and sharing your interests, education, life goals, and reason for seeking this opportunity. (www.sisterscloset.org)

All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center

The All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center provides open-hearted support across all of the pregnancy and parenting turning points by providing free pregnancy tests, peer counseling, referrals to other services, and material support, such as diapers and baby clothes. Peer Counselor Advocates complete a 40+ hour training, then provide in-person peer counseling and answer calls on Backline's national Talkline. After only one day of training, office support volunteers greet clients and provide material donations to them. Volunteers gain experience in client-centered counseling and reproductive justice issues. Bilingual individuals, women of color, and people who have personally experienced abortion, adoption, parenting, or pregnancy are especially encouraged to apply. Minimum age is 18. Please complete a volunteer application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S886B3N> or contact Shelly Dodson at (812) 558-0089 or shelly@yourbackline.org. (www.alloptionsprc.org)

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.

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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, 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

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 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.

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)

Facility Address: 7644 W Elwren Rd, Bloomington, 47402

Phone: 812-336-2798

Web: www.palstherapy.org

Volunteer Contact: Jennylynn Vidas, (812-336-2798 ext. 15, 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

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.

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

Acerca: 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.

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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

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm

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

WIC Program

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3221

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

Food stamps

Division of Family Resources

See family services.

Health care

Futures Family Health Clinic

Address: 338 S. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 349-7343

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

Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice

Address: 619 W 1st St.

Phone: (812) 353-9818

Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org

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

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

Hoosier Healthwise for Children

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

Phone: (812) 349-3851

Web: www.hoosierhealthwise.net

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

Monroe County Public Health Clinic

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3244

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

Planned Parenthood

Address: 421 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 336-0219

Web: www.ppin.org

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

Vistacare Hospice

Address: 1801 Liberty Dr., Ste. 103

Phone: (812) 330-9640

Web: www.vistacare.com

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

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

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Address: 811 West 2nd Street

Phone: (812) 333-4001

Web: www.vimmonroecounty.org

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

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

Housing (abused women)

Middle Way House

Address: 338 S. Washington St.

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

Web: www.middlewayhouse.org

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

Housing (emergency, for adults)

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

Web: www.backstreet.org

Phone: (812) 333-1905.

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

Backstreet Missions

Address: 215 Westplex Ave.

Phone: (812) 333-1905

Web: www.backstreet.org

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

Martha’s House

Address: 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.steppingstones-inc.org

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

Youth Services Bureau

Address: 615 S. Adams St.

Phone: (812) 349-2506

Web: www.youthservicesbureau.net

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

Legal and court-related services

Community Justice & Mediation Center

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

Phone: (812) 339-1551

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

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

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

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

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

Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

Address: 214 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 339-7668

About: Cannot help people in criminal cases. Helps people in civil cases, including: Housing (eviction, foreclosure, landlord/tenant); Public Benefits (food stamps, SSI, unemployment, poor relief, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)); Health (Medicaid, Medicare); Divorce or child custody where there is child abuse or spouse abuse; Child In

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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

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.

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.mhcfpantry.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://ecomediacentre.org
greenthecity@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

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DIRECTORY

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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 (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 Voland, mvoland@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.