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South Central Community Action Program
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Safety~Net

April-May 2018

El Centro Comunal Latino: Connecting Newcomers to Opportunity

By Ryan Stacy for Monroe County Public Library

Imagine leaving your home country—out of ambition or necessity—and starting over in a place where less than seven percent of the people around you speak your language. Until you can learn to communicate, how do you find a job and a place to live? How do you register your children for school, get around town, or visit a doctor’s office or a bank? How do you keep yourself and your family safe, and avoid being treated unfairly?

These are the questions Jane “Juanita” Walter has to be prepared to answer every day in her role as Health Projects Coordinator at El Centro Comunal Latino, a Bloomington organization dedicated to serving the needs of Latino people in our community, particularly those who are not yet fluent in English, or who lack the means to integrate easily into Midwestern culture.

El Centro’s only paid staff member, Jane offers assistance to Monroe County’s Latino population that

often goes well beyond the realm of health education. Through word of mouth, new arrivals to the United States from places like Mexico and Central America learn quickly that in addition to advice on staying healthy, El Centro is a place they can trust to help them get adjusted to their new life, find opportunities for their children, and navigate the path to permanent residency and citizenship.

“We broadly understand health concerns,” Jane said about the many hats she wears in her work. “Yes, we focus on nutrition and exercise, and other medical issues in the Latino community, but when you think of a person’s health, you’re really dealing with their well-being overall—their stability, their safety and their mental health. In many cases, you can’t be effective in addressing physiological needs without addressing these other needs too.”

And for just one person and the Board of Advisors,

interns, and volunteers that assist her, the scope of El Centro’s work is impressive. From an office in Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington, Jane regularly addresses a matrix of issues facing the local Latino immigrant population. At the top of the list are things like applying for jobs and ensuring that children are succeeding at school, and Jane can often be found helping clients one-on-one or in groups with these concerns. She also coordinates interpreting services, conducts cultural competency training in the community, and organizes cultural events, among other things.

But just as important, Jane said, is the role El Centro plays in acting as a liaison between her clients and other community service providers. Through a tight-knit network of local organizations like the City of Bloomington’s Latino Outreach Office, SCAAP, and

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OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Editorial Comment

Our Guiding Principle is to reach out to others who are coping with practical and emotional crises, and to say, we are here as one community, interconnected with each other in a positive way. This means, among other things, providing shelter, food, medical care, opportunities to step out of poverty, peace, and mutual respect. This whole world would be a much better place for all people if everyone felt this way about our brothers and sisters. As individuals, we cannot change the world. However, we can all come together and help others in our own community. Let us show others, what we can do right here in Bloomington by reaching out to each other, and climbing that mountain together. To paraphrase Pete Seeger, We WILL Overcome.



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

New Leaf-New Life Annual 5k walk/run

By Kelley Wellman-Intern, New Leaf-New Life, 1010 S. Walnut St. Suite F, (812) 355-6842



New Leaf–New Life is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization that offers services to inmates in the Monroe County Jail during incarceration and after release. Applying the philosophy of therapeutic justice, we encourage personal growth and self-advocacy, supporting incarcerated individuals in their efforts to make a successful transition back into the community.

Those that have been incarcerated come to New Leaf New Life without the basic necessary items needed to function daily. Such things as hygiene’s, socks, underwear or a change of clothes. When

a person walks through our doors after just being released they are greeted with a smile and a question. What do you need and how can we help you. Then Marilyn Burrus or Bruce Terry get busy gathering the essentials. We gather hygiene’s, such as soap, tooth brush and tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo, razors, a wash cloth and towel. We pull from collection of clothing, socks and underwear that we keep on hand. If we do not have their size, we give them Goodwill vouchers. We appreciate all donations to help us supply those in need.

This is your opportunity to help New

Leaf-New Life financially. New Leaf New Life is planning to have their annual 5k walk/run May 5th, 2018 starting at 9:30 AM. We will be raising money and support to help provide for our clients. After the 5k there will be food for participants as well as raffles. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, each tickets includes a t-shirt. For more information, check out our Facebook event New Leaf New Life 5k, sign up on Eventbrite, or register the day of the race.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE THERE!

THE CROW AND THE MAN

By David White



He was a retired school teacher, 50 years old, and he lived by himself in a quiet residential part of town. He loved his old home and the large back yard surrounded by the tall oak trees. He would sit out there during the warm summer months, drink some wine, read his novels, and always play his flute.

At the beginning, he did not pay any particular attention to the crow. Lots of crows lived in the neighborhood. He would see them, and hear them as he walked around. He started to pay attention to the crow when he noticed that it always flew to the same oak tree and settled on the branch whenever he came outside to play

the flute. And, it made the “caw caw” sound only when it initially sat on the branch. After that, it simply sat there, and seemed to be looking at him. It was a large bird, much larger than the others he would see. Curiously, it seemed to listen to his flute playing.

All spring and summer the crow would come, and listen to him play his flute. The man got used to the bird, and always expected that he would be there when he began to play.

One day he decided to build a small platform on the tree branch so that the bird would be able to perch on the platform where the man could feed him. So, he brought his tools and wood into

the yard, and one afternoon built the platform. The crow perched on the tree and watched him, and then flew away when the man placed a ladder against the tree, climbed up with the platform, and attached it to the tree next to the branch where the crow usually perched. He used a rope that acted like a pulley so that he would be able to lower the platform when he wanted to place food on it for the crow. Then he descended from the tree, took away the ladder, sat on his chair in the yard, and began to play his flute. Sure enough, the crow flew onto the platform, perched there, and listened to the music.

He placed food on the

platform everyday just before he began to play the flute. The crow would come, eat, and stay and listen to the music.

Soon he began to notice that the crow stayed on the platform all the time.

So, whenever the man looked out his window, or ventured into his backyard, there was the crow, perched on the platform. Every day he would feed the crow, and when the weather was warm, he would sit down and play the flute. The crow would listen.

On days when it rained, the man would look out his window, and there was the crow, sitting

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OPPORTUNITY

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IU’s La Casa, Jane is able to connect people to the best providers for their particular needs. “Some people need help we can’t provide here, like legal advice or housing information,” Jane explained. “That’s when I point them to one of our partners who can help.”

Working out of the Main Library has also been a benefit for El Centro in itself. “Being centrally located is really good for people who depend on public transportation, and the Library is great for finding Spanish-language materials and homework help for kids,” said Jane. “And of course, there’s a path worn between El Centro and VITAL [Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners, the Library’s adult education unit]. We’re always sending each other referrals.” El Centro is also called

upon to assist Library staff with Spanish-speaking patrons, and to offer advice as the Library considers its services to the Latino community.

As a community that welcomes people of all backgrounds, we appreciate the work El Centro and its partners do for our Spanish speakers. Learn more about El Centro by visiting their office at the Main Library (303 East Kirkwood, Bloomington) or their website at elcentrocomunal.com.

About *Safety~Net*

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AGENCY REPORTS

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

AGENCY GUIDE

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

WE WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Please send these to the editor at white@indiana.edu.

Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.

Leading Volunteers Recognized at Be More Awards Ceremony

Submitted by Bet Savich, City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, volunteer@bloomington.in.gov

The Be More Awards, which honor local volunteers for committed community service, were presented Tuesday, March 27 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

Forty individuals and twenty groups, all of whom had been nominated by community members, were recognized for their generous commitment to substantially improve the lives of community members.

The awards program is sponsored by the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, with the IU Credit Union, United Way of Monroe County, City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department and WTIU Public Television acting as co-sponsors. In addition, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County presented a check for \$500 to each of the ten Be More Award recipients, made out to the primary organization where each volunteers.

Award recipients in 10 categories were chosen by an independent selection committee, which included representatives from each of the program sponsors, a representative from Indiana University and two youth representatives. Mayor John Hamilton presented the final award, the Be More Dedicated award, to Robert Muldoon, who volunteers with several organizations, including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Shalom Community Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging and New Hope for Families. Mayor Hamilton stated "With his years of experience helping people, Bob Muldoon is able to offer sage advice to both the clients he serves and his fellow volunteers on how to solve problems and give assistance in the most effective and compassionate ways."

Mayor Hamilton also presented each honoree with a commemorative plaque and Community Foundation President Tina Peterson presented each with a check for \$500 for the organizations where they volunteer.

Additional presenters included Efrat Feferman (Executive Director, United Way of Monroe County Executive), Josefa Luce (Latino Outreach Director, City of Bloomington Community and

Family Resources Department), Brent Molnar (Station Operations and Content Director, WTIU), Dexter Griffin (student, Bloomington High School South and 2016 recipient of the Outstanding Black Male Leader of Tomorrow Award), Bryan Price (President, IU Credit Union), Dr. Lori Reesor (Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Indiana University), Tomilea Allison (former Mayor of Bloomington), Tina Peterson (President and CEO, Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County) and Whitney Thomas (Student and Family Advocate, Fairview Elementary School.)

The Be More Award recipients were:



Sue Cull (right). Courtesy photo

Be More Knowledgeable Award (Education/Literacy)

Presenter: Bryan Price, President and CEO, IU Credit Union
Recipient: Sue Cull, Teachers Warehouse

Summary: Sue Cull has been a driving force at Teachers Warehouse, a Bloomington-based nonprofit providing free classroom supplies to teachers in numerous Indiana counties. Teachers Warehouse supports equitable and exciting education, creative problem-solving and student engagement, and offers an opportunity for local businesses, organizations, and individuals to donate useful items. As President, Sue is a remarkable visionary, fundraiser, and connector, whose leadership has transformed Teachers Warehouse into what it is today. She took the organization,



Backpack Buddies, Community Kitchen. Courtesy photo

whose supply inventory was dangerously depleted, and built it up through supply drives, successful grant proposals, and presentations to Rotary Clubs. She also worked to increase the number of teachers using supplies from Teachers Warehouse and the value of donations brought in.

Be More Collaborative (Group)

Presenter: Whitney Thomas
Recipient: Backpack Buddies, Community Kitchen

Summary: Backpack Buddies volunteers contribute about two hours each Thursday afternoon packing the bags and loading the van for distribution to 17 schools. Over 400 backpacks are packed each week to serve children throughout the Monroe County Community School Corporation's district who have been identified as food insecure. Each child is given about eight pounds of food each Friday during the school year to supplement the groceries they have at home. Helping these families provide food for themselves and their children means that children have a chance to eat more than once a day and that their diets will be more varied. The Backpack Buddies are dedicated to the mission of Community Kitchen; they care about the children and their families who are in need of food.



John Labban (right). Courtesy photo

Be More Healthy Award (Health and Wellness)

Presenter: Efrat Feferman, Executive Director, United Way of Monroe County
Recipient: John Labban, Volunteers in Medicine

Summary: Dr. John Labban has volunteered his services through Volunteers in Medicine since they opened in 2007, providing prenatal care for many community women who are not U.S. citizens. Typically, these women would not receive any care for themselves or their babies without the compassionate care Dr. Labban and his staff provide. There are also many women who do not qualify for health insurance and must use emergency

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BE MORE AWARDS

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Medicaid for delivery of their babies. However, emergency Medicaid doesn't provide any prenatal care. Dr. Labban is the only obstetrics and gynecology specialist to accept these women as patients. Without him, Volunteers in Medicine would not be able to offer this essential service and the safety and well being of many women would be compromised.

Be More Phenomenal Award (Board Member)

Presenter: Brent Molnar, Station Operations and Content Director, WTIU

Recipient: Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Summary: As Bloomington's Latino population has grown, the City of Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs has completed deep work attending to needs, concerns, and interests of this community. The Commission's work has touched so many lives because of their smart work partnering with local agencies, the police department, the school system, the medical community, and many other groups serving the public. Bringing Latinos to the forefront is important not only to create understanding and cultural awareness but also to demonstrate to Latinos that they are recognized, not as visitors, but as an integral, vibrant and welcome part of the community. Addressing issues and assuring that needs are being met is a crucial part of the Commission's work,

as is highlighting the richness of Latino cultures.

Be More Energized Award (Youth)
Presenter: Josefa Luce, Latino Outreach Coordinator, Community and Family Resources Department, City of Bloomington

Recipient: Molly Wagschal, El Centro Comunal Latino

Summary: Molly Wagschal has been volunteering every Monday to tutor children in a variety of subjects at the Monroe County Public Library's 'El Centro Comunal Latino' outreach programs. The parents of these students are non-native English speakers, who are unfamiliar with the U.S. public school system, and are grateful for native English speakers who volunteer to help their kids with literacy and their homework assignments. As a high school student balancing advanced placement courses and studying violin through IU's Jacobs School pre-college program, she wants to support the educational development of Latino children in our community, and help their families succeed in U.S. society through educational achievement. She has made it a commitment to make her community a more welcoming place for Latino immigrants.

Be More Involved (College Student)

Presenter: Dr. Lori Reesor, IU Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Recipient: IU Civic Leaders Center

Summary: The IU Civic Leaders Center seeks to connect first year college students with the Bloomington community as a way to give back and make meaningful



Molly Wagschal (3rd from left), El Centro Comunal Latino. Courtesy photo

contributions to the place that they now call home. They work hard to fill what the Bloomington community needs, contributing over 500 hours of service each year. The Civic Leaders seek to understand our community's largest issues and find ways that they can make a difference. They have partnered with many community organizations and are continually seeking new opportunities for their engaged students. They have participated in one-time, repeating, and Dr. King Day of Service activities in the Bloomington community over the past five years. They truly believe in the value of service and the impact it has in the community.

Be More Creative Award (Arts/Culture)
Presenter: Dexter Griffin, student at Bloomington High School South and 2016 recipient of the Outstanding Black Male Leader of Tomorrow Award

Recipient: Lotus Education and Arts Foundation 2010-2017 Powerhouse Volunteers

Summary: The Lotus Education & Arts Foundation 'powerhouse volunteers' - people who have sustained the organization from 2010 to 2017 - do every activity imaginable. They work in the office, put up posters, staff crafts tables at Lotus Blossoms Bazaar, serve food or work in the kitchen at Edible Lotus, create visual arts installations, plan the festival, arrange venues, close streets, work with community partners, and train and orient

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Bloomington Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs. Courtesy photo



IU Civic Leaders Center. Courtesy photo

BE MORE AWARDS

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over 500 volunteers. These amazing volunteers direct set up and tear down of the festival, house-manage venues, work on the volunteer database, and create homemade gifts. They pack boxes, haul equipment, loan their vehicles, and paint walls. It is amazing that this group was volunteering in 2010 and every single one is still working to pull off the 2018 festival - Lotus' 25th!



Rita Lichtenberg (left). Courtesy photo

Be More Peaceful

Presenter: Tomilea Allison, former mayor of Bloomington

Recipient: Rita Lichtenberg, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Summary: Fifty two years ago, Rita Lichtenberg founded the Southern Indiana branch of the Women's International

League for Peace and Freedom, and she is still its most active board member. She brings in speakers to discuss issues of peace, including nuclear disarmament and strategies for peace processes, and she organizes membership drives and fundraising efforts. Just two years ago, at age 86, she founded Sisters in Peace, an organization designed to foster communication and understanding among Jewish and Muslim women.

Rita never stops advocating, working hard, supporting others' work, never taking credit for her accomplishments, and being there for anyone who needs her advice, her helping hand, or just her ear. She never stops helping, and is a true inspiration. Perhaps inspiration is her greatest gift to the community.

Be More Sustainable Award (Environmental Sustainability)

Presenter: Tina Peterson, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County

Recipient: Friends of Lake Monroe Steering Committee

Summary: Friends of Lake Monroe is a citizens group dedicated to finding solutions to improve the water quality of Lake Monroe by enhancing its use as a drinking water, recreational, and ecological resource. The committee's service includes outreach, educational events, connecting with stakeholders, and developing scientific programs. Though several groups are involved with managing Lake Monroe, no entity shares this group's scope: to protect and preserve the lake and its watershed. Lake Monroe is the sole



Friends of Lake Monroe Steering Committee. Courtesy photo



Robert (Bob) Muldoon (center). Courtesy photo

drinking water source for Bloomington and surrounding counties. Without a clean lake, the city would suffer significant health and economic impacts. Over the last two years, these six volunteers have connected over 150 people with local experts and stakeholders under the collective umbrella of an ambitious goal - to keep the lake clean.

Be More Dedicated (Lifetime of Service)

Presenter: Mayor John Hamilton
Recipient: Robert (Bob) Muldoon, St. Vincent de Paul Society

Summary: Bob Muldoon has served the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) for over 20 years ago, serving as its president for six years. He tests and repairs donated

washers and dryers given to those in need. For many years, he met weekly at Shalom Community Center with up to 15 people needing financial assistance. Then he'd do dishes! To this day, he visits those in need in their homes. He also volunteers through Area 10 Agency on Aging, helping seniors in need with household repairs. He provides special project resources for New Hope for Families weekly, and was instrumental in organizing the Hope Builder tools and supplies. Hundreds of people who are homeless, elderly or with low incomes have benefited over the decades Bob has served.



Lotus Education and Arts Foundation 2010-2017 Powerhouse Volunteers. Courtesy photo

Special Section: South Central Community Action (SCAAP) Programs

Your Voice Matters

Often, people who need to be heard the most in order to create a well-informed community struggle the hardest to make their voices heard. There are many barriers to participation in important public conversations for people who don't have enough resources: in particular, low-income people face a lack of time, transportation, and childcare. Our systems of government are not set up to collect information and input on public issues from people who are struggling to meet their most basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter. However, not only is it possible for people without enough resources to have a voice, it is absolutely crucial that they do. Many public policy decisions are made without any input at all from people without enough resources, even when these policies directly and drastically affect their everyday lives.

Aja Jester is an example of someone who has found her voice and is now using it to advocate for change in her community, especially when it comes to her children and their education. Aja is a concerned and

attentive parent to her children, one of whom is in college at the age of 17. Her children make good grades in school and participate in sports and extracurricular activities. She feels very strongly about her children giving back to the community, as evidenced by the family's participation in Family Volunteer Day last year.

Aja first served on the SCCAP Head Start Parent Policy Council, where she initially found it difficult to speak in meetings. However, her experience with Policy Council enabled her to feel comfortable speaking out and advocating for her children. When her daughter came home from Arlington in February with a homework assignment about slavery that included a "critical thinking" exercise that asked students to imagine what they would do as slaves who were recently bought and put to work in the fields on a tobacco plantation, Aja handled this sensitive issue with grace by calmly making her displeasure with the materials known to her child's teacher, the school, and the school



Courtesy photo

board. The subsequent outcry and public meeting caused MCCSC to ultimately pull the materials from the curriculum and terminate their contract with the vendor, a change that would not have happened if

Aja had not spoken out. She is quoted in the Herald-Times about the assignment, saying it "minimalized the topic of slavery,

See "YOUR VOICE MATTERS", page 11

How SCCAP Has Helped Me

By Tricia Bock, President of the Board at SCCAP

Moving to Brown County in 1996, I had three sons under the age of 13 and very little prospects. I wanted my boys to grow up near their grandpa; he was a lifelong resident of the county. I had no job, home or money; just the desire to give my sons a better life.

I found a job and moved from my father's home into a small home with a woodstove and electric base board heat. With no support other than my income, and a high electric bill and never operating a woodstove before... to say we were 'babes in the woods' was an understatement! Without Linda Welty's help at the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) office in Brown County, I know we would have frozen all winter in that little house!

The money received from the heating assistance program through SCCAP allowed me to pay other bills and care for my sons. In essence, that bit of help allowed

me to move toward a self-sustaining household.

Fast forward to July of 2015, when I was asked by Linda to serve as a board member for SCCAP. I couldn't have been happier to do so! Not only do they provide the heating assistance program but also affordable housing, Headstart, Growing Opportunities, Thriving Connections and they collaborate with other organizations to help the neediest of our community... people who were just like me in 1996!

I greatly enjoy my seat on the board and it's wonderful to see the organization adapt and grow with the times. Most recently, our Executive Director, Frank Peacock, sent a very timely letter to staff members, reassuring them that we would provide programming even in the case of a government shutdown. This type of leadership is heartening. It is what our country and community needs: to be inclusive and to provide for those who need not only material goods but words of encouragement!

On April 2, 2018 I was named the President of the Board for SCCAP. What an honor to be offered this position. And what a wonderful world it is where a woman with little more than three sons and a hope for a better life could go from receiving assistance to being elected president of the Board! It is not an honor I will take lightly, and I do not write this to 'toot my own horn'. I write it so that others who read this know that where you start doesn't matter, but what you stand for in the meantime, and the willingness to help others determines where you finish. Never lose hope! Be a person who lifts others up. Be that positive force in the universe, even on the cloudy days! You may find that one day you are helping others: to stay warm, to be educated, to grow fresh produce, to find affordable housing and to move forward. You may find yourself in wonderful places you never thought you would! They may even elect you president! You just never know!

Head Start accepting applications for 2018-2019 school year

Parents and guardians of Monroe County children prenatal to age 5 can enroll in Head Start and Early Head Start now before the start of the school year in August.

Head Start, operated by the South Central Community Action Program in Monroe County, is a federally funded preschool program providing services for low-income families at no cost to them. In addition to receiving preschool services, enrolled families will benefit from family development programs, access to other local resources, additional staff support, family events and parent trainings.



Courtesy photo

SCCAP has Head Start classrooms at 11 sites in Monroe County. Its Early Head Start program has five center-based classrooms at Jack's Defeat Creek Mall in Ellettsville that serve children from 6 weeks to 3 years old in a group setting.

Early Head Start also has a home-based program for children prenatal- 3 years, where a home visitor comes to each child's home once a week for 90 minutes to work with parents and their child one-on-one. Its home-based program also includes a playgroup for the children in the program to interact with each other and have opportunities to socialize with their peers.

Those interested in enrolling in Head Start or Early Head Start may call

812-334-8350, ext. 301. In order to apply, you will need to bring in your child's birth certificate, health insurance card, immunization records, and proof of income for any parents/guardians supporting the child.

Head Start follows federal poverty guidelines to determine eligibility. If a family makes less than the amount in the table below in a year, the family will be income-eligible for Head Start. Foster children, children transitioning through homelessness, and families that receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are categorically eligible for the program as long as they provide proof that they fit those criteria. The 2018 federal poverty guidelines are as follows:

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,140
2	\$16,460
3	\$20,780
4	\$25,100
5	\$29,420
6	\$33,740
7	\$38,060
8	\$42,380

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,320 for each additional person.

Trinity 'Meal Makers' Cook Meals for SCCAP Thriving Connections For Ten Years!

In 2008 the South Central Community Action Program's poverty eradication model, then called the Circles Initiative, began meeting weekly to share a meal, connect low income adults and their children with programming and support from volunteers. We wanted to create a community. Jennifer Lloyd organized her fellow congregants at Trinity Episcopal Church to prepare dinner for 50+ of our group on the fourth Thursday of every month. Today, ten years later, Leslie Wilson, and many of the same volunteers, continue every month to feed the folks who now belong to what is now called Thriving Connections or TC!



Courtesy photo

Part of what is different about TC's approach to getting rid of poverty is the focus on relationships as an agent of change. People are able to try new things when they feel safe. An important part of creating a safe environment is making people feel comfortable and equal. Having a meal with someone is a wonderful opportunity to get to know people on a personal level at the same time our basic need of hunger is being met! We have been told that when making the decision to come or not at the end of a busy work and school week, knowing that a freshly prepared meal will be waiting for you is often the encouragement people need join us! Providing a weekly meal for up to seventy people is an expensive task which would be difficult for SCCAP to pay for without donations from volunteers.

We have many wonderful meal volunteers but we particularly appreciate Trinity for their monthly commitment. We always know if it's a Trinity week no one at TC has to worry about not having enough food, dinner being late or the quantity of food being less than amazing!

Between 2008 and 2018, Trinity has served well over 6000 meals to fifty or more

See "TRINITY 'MEAL MAKERS'", page 9



Courtesy photo

Special Section: Writings From Jail

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 11 years of this writing program coming together with New Leaf; New Life to try to help incarcerated women make new lives for themselves.

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

New Leaf-New Life is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization that offers services to inmates in the Monroe County Jail during incarceration and after release. Applying the philosophy of therapeutic justice, we encourage personal growth and self-advocacy, supporting incarcerated individuals in their efforts to make a successful transition back into the community.

Trust the Stars *Beth & Rhiannah*

Where sickness and sadness live side by side
time ticks away like sand through
the hour glass
I wonder daily what might make
life more wonderful.
Looking up to the sky makes
my future less dull.
Day or night I trust the stars
To answer my call
Listen, I say to myself
Maybe the answer is inside
Facing my truths I no longer
Hide.



I want to see the wonder

By Angela and Donna

Of what my future may hold
always asking first how was
your day. And looking at the joy
in my son's eyes
This is my fallen down self
Waiting to put myself back
Together for our children.

Beautiful Gardens

By Glenda and Lisa

Blooming, growing, begging for my
attention. The sweet smell of
beautiful hydrangeas along with
bright butterflies – I try to pay
attention to all of it—soak it
up, suck it in, swallow it
down. The beautiful view as well as
the beautiful smell and the peace it brings
within Peace and release from
all this sadness, all the ugly.
Peace and release

Freedom

By Brittney Embry and LaToya Evans

Freedom to happiness
Freedom to speak
Freedom to fly
Freedom to sky
Freedom to New Beginnings
Freedom in my son and my daughter's eyes
Just being freedom to live our lives.

CROW AND THE MAN

Continued from page 2

on the platform. So, the man decided to build a roof for the platform so that the crow would not have to sit in the rain.

Fall and winter came, and it became very cold. Whenever the man looked out his window, there was the crow sitting on the platform. He was protected from the rain and snow, but he did seem to be cold. So, the man hung a tarpaulin around the branches so that the platform was within a sheltered area and the cold wind did not blow on it. He knew that if the crow wanted to leave the platform it could fly down and leave through the bottom because the tarpaulin covered only the top and sides. But, whenever he went outside to look and to feed the crow, the crow was always there. It did not fly away even when the man

lowered the platform to put the food on it.

In the spring and summer, the man removed the tarpaulin, sat in his yard, and the crow listened to him play the flute.

This went on for many, many years. The man grew very old. He wondered about the crow. How long do they live? 30 years went by, and the crow was always there. The man fed the crow and played his flute during the warm seasons while sitting in the yard.

Then, the man became very feeble and stayed in his bed most of the day. He could see the crow through the bedroom window. Occasionally, the man rose from his bed and sat in the living room to look out of window at the crow. However, he no longer went outdoors, and he could no longer feed the crow. His son came to live with him and to take care of him. But the son knew nothing about the crow. The mystery about the man and the crow remained a secret

that only the man and the crow shared. The man wondered about his friend the crow. What did he eat? The man reasoned that now the crow must occasionally leave the platform to find food, and then return. Was the crow waiting for the man to come out and play the flute?

One summer day as the man was lying in bed and looking out of the open window he saw the crow looking in his direction and make the "caw-caw" sound. The man immediately understood. It was time. Although very feeble, he left his bed, took his flute, and went outside to play for the crow. His son had gone to work and was not home. The man sat in his chair in the backyard and began to play. He played all afternoon as the crow listened, and then late in the day he dropped the flute onto the ground, slumped over, and died.

*See "CROW AND THE MAN",
page 11*

Special Section: The Shalom Writers Circle

The Shalom Writers' Circle meets every Wednesday at the Shalom Center to share stories, writing (including poetry, prose, and songs), and to write together. All are welcome and no preparation is needed for participation. Questions about the group can be directed to Shannon Gayk at sgayk@indiana.edu.

Today ~ by Athena Straface

Today
I say
Though it sounds cliché
Thank you, Oh Lord,
For you have poured
A blessing on me
By giving my family
The ability
To take me on
And bring me home
Where I belong.
You've changed my life
At the speed of light
And answered my prayers
To shed these layers
Of unending sin
Shedding old skin.
Thank you again.
Amen.



The Audition ~ Billy Young

He was walking slowly with a limp up the hill and towards me. As he came, he was looking at me, but his eyes seemed fixed on a half-way between a million miles of nowhere, and the destiny of emptiness. When he arrived, he shook my hand and asked, "How ya doing?"

From the firmness of his honest grip, I answered, "Fine and you?"

He only nodded to my question. He paused for a moment and then asked, "Who do you do there fellow?"

I said, "I am a farmer."

He asked, "What do you harvest?"

I told him that I grow rows and rows of songs, but they never seem done.

He asked, "What do they need for water and light to grow?"

I said, "A pair of eyes for water and a heart to receive them as the sun"

"Are you hoping to get rich off this farm?" he asked.

"No," I said. "The songs are their own reward and since I am a sharecropper, I borrow the cords and notes from the sky. It lifts me off the ground to love."

As he walked away I asked, "Could I play you a song?"

He said, "There is no need, and no need for goodbye. Because I have a band for you to play in and this will come at an unpredictable time, but when it comes, the gig will last forever and there are no Auditions."

TRINITY 'MEAL MAKERS'

Continued from page 7

different people every month! They have been there when the weather was bad, when visitors are checking us out or between trainings when our numbers were down. Trinity shows everyone that just because people are poor doesn't mean they should be fed cheap or unhealthy meals. They are thoughtful about providing child friendly food, vegetarian options, a wide variety of meals and foods that may be new to some people. They have made holiday celebrations memorable through their food, decorations and festive attitudes!

In the words of one of the original and still active low income participants, Tracey, who is now off of all government benefits, "with Trinity to cook our meal, not

only do we know we're going to have something very tasty, but they add small touches that show that they care. These folks have been consistent cheerleaders throughout the years learning our names and listening to our stories. When it has been a tough day, it's always nice to walk into the building and see smiling faces and the cute headwear on holidays and special occasions!"

Not only is the length of Trinity's service and the amount of time and resources they have donated through the years impressive, they have served with such kind hearts and without judgment.

Another low income participant, Haley, writes "The thing I love most about Trinity is how personal they are with each leader and other volunteers like asking how's life, and remembering certain things like how was your birthday? I also love how friendly they are to the kids at TC. You can tell they put so much time into meal planning for us which

is so nice to have and they keep everyone in mind like the vegetarians and other dietary restrictions. I always look forward to seeing them. They donate their time and spirit here at TC. **They are a part of our Thriving Connections family.**"

Much heartfelt thanks from SCCAP and the hundreds of people you have served over the years!! Trinity Episcopal has been a downtown leader in support for those who don't have enough resources or have other needs. We are a lucky community to have so many people willing and able to volunteer!

Besides Leslie Wilson, current Trinity 'Meal Makers' include: Margaret and Don Jones, Pat and Gates Agnew, Jane Martin, Randy and Mary Ann Keko, Sue Doorlay, Nancy Rayfield, Ann (in memoriam) and Jim Heath, Mary and Tim Hallett, Jennifer Lloyd, Alexis Allee Bond, Jim Skomp.



volunteer

Ways to Get Involved - to Relieve Poverty, to Prevent Poverty, and to Work towards Social and Economic Justice

Submitted by Bet Savich, Director, City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, 10/20/17
(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. This is not an exhaustive list or organizations working in this area. 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.

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Community Bigs Program

Big Brothers Big Sisters believes that every child can succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest volunteer supported mentoring network, they make meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"). The positive relationships that develop have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people. Match activities are based on the needs and interests of the

Big and Little. The minimum commitment is eight hours per month for one year. Volunteers must have their own vehicles. Please contact Diane Monroe at 812-334-2828 or diane@bigsindiana.org. (www.bigsindiana.org)

LIFEDesigns - LIFE Mentors

LIFEDesigns has a new one-on-one volunteer opportunity, where volunteers will encourage and mentor LIFEDesigns customers in the community. Volunteer LIFE Mentors are



My Sisters Closet volunteers pose outside their nonprofit store on South Walnut Street. Courtesy photo

encouraged to engage in social activities with LIFEDesigns customers that will encourage good health and wellness while enhancing their mentee's feelings of connection in the community. The times you volunteer and the activities you arrange will be determined by the volunteer and mentee. The Community Engagement Coordinator will match you with a customer who has similar likes, and work to ensure a good match. Individuals who are organized, communicate well, have patience, flexibility, creativity, and an open mind are ideal candidates to be a successful LIFE Mentor. Volunteers in this role will receive support at least every month and as needed to ensure a successful experience. Please contact Kristen King at 812-332-9615 or kking@lifedesignsinc.org. (www.lifedesignsinc.org)

Mary Elftman at 812-349-2537 or melftman@co.monroe.in.us. (www.co.monroe.in.us/tsd/community/veteransaffairs.aspx)

Opportunity House - Saturday Cashiers

Opportunity House thrift store invites you to come check them out – literally! Several reliable volunteers are needed to commit to regular weekly or monthly 3-hour Saturday cashier shifts. If you enjoy working with people, are flexible, patient, have a good sense of humor, and can commit to a regular shift, they would like to hear from you. No experience is necessary and training is provided. Shifts are 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 12:30-3:30 p.m. Teens are welcome! Please contact Nicola Payne at 812-336-2443 or nicolabp@juno.com. (www.ophousethrift.org)



Becca Kamins sorts and folds donations for All Options Pregnancy Resource Center with a smile. Courtesy photo

Monroe County Veterans Treatment Court - Mentor a Veteran

The new Monroe County Veterans Treatment Court is searching for veterans to be mentors to other veterans. Mentors act as coach, guide, role model, and advocate for the individual with whom he or she is working. This includes listening to concerns, making suggestions, determining needs, reminding the participant of his or her responsibilities in civilian life and to the court, and providing support that only another veteran would understand. The mentor must be a veteran, guard/reserve or active duty member of one of the branches of the US military: Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, or corresponding reserve branches. Veterans who have a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge are not normally eligible, but those with exceptional success stories are welcome to apply. Please contact

Volunteers in Medicine

Volunteers in Medicine clinics rely on donated time from both retired and active physicians and nurses, as well as volunteers from the community who provide administrative support. Volunteer roles include: physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, psychologists, patient educators, dietitians, wellness and fitness instructors, and administrative and operational support. When volunteering in the clinic, health professionals are protected from malpractice lawsuits by the Federal Tort Claims Act. They always have a need for licensed professional volunteers. Minimum age is 21. If you would like to volunteer, please complete the online form on the website under the "volunteer" tab or contact Shelley Sallee at 812-333-4033

See "VOLUNTEER", page 11



Above: Teachers Warehouse volunteers Sara Laughlin, Barb Marks, Kate Cruikshank (front row), Doug Cull, Ron Barnes, Craig McDonald and Cathy McDonald (rear) pose with donations for teachers; **below, left:** Phil Trinkle helps serve a meal at Wheeler Mission; **below, right:** Wheeler Mission. Courtesy photos



VOLUNTEER

Continued from page 10

or ssallee@vimmonroecounty.org. (www.vimmonroecounty.org)

Wheeler Mission

A warm meal and a smile go a long way to the men, women, and children at Wheeler Mission! Volunteers will prepare trays, hand out drinks, roll silverware, and clean-up. You can also participate in recreation night by planning an activity and bringing supplies, or assisting with games, movies, crafts, bingo, or snacks. You can also participate in a work project. Wheeler Mission has nearly 300 acres north of Bloomington, which is where Camp Hunt, their long-term addiction recovery program is located. There they have a heavily wooded prayer trail. Volunteers are needed to repair wooden hiking bridges and clear out fallen trees or overgrown vegetation. Please contact Josie Levine at 812-332-2452 or JosieLevine@wmm.org. (www.wheelermission.org)

Women Writing for (a) Change® Bloomington

Women Writing for (a) Change® Bloomington is part of a national network of writing schools that provide opportunities for individuals to craft more conscious lives through the art of writing and the practices of community. Outreach collaborations over the years have included the Monroe County Correctional Center, Bloomington Hospital Hospice, Olcott Cancer Center Family Support Group, Head Injury Support Group, Fibromyalgia Support Group, Meadowood Retirement Community, Circles® Initiative, Girls Inc., and Mental Health America. Volunteers are welcome to share their passions and skills in programming or as administrative support. Read more about this organization and connect to opportunities to serve at www.bloomingtonvolunteernetwork.org/agency/detail/writingforachange



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Continued from page 6

trivialized it, and glossed over its worst aspects... 'I feel like this is the start where children should be beginning to understand the wrongs that were done to African-Americans and how it's affected interracial relations all the way up until now.'"

Aja also recently played the role of a schoolteacher in SCCAP's Poverty Simulation, an event where participants take on roles within based on real families receiving help from a Community Action Program in Missouri. These participants attempt to survive a month with limited resources. Many of the roles of service providers in the simulation (social workers, employers, school employees) were played by volunteers who have experience receiving those services. The goal of the poverty simulation is to provide those who are not in poverty a short glimpse into the ongoing stress of life without enough resources. After the simulation concluded, there was a discussion where low-income people shared their experiences trying to get by in Bloomington. Aja, despite her social

anxiety, stood up in front of a group of 40 people and spoke about the challenges she faced trying to provide for her children's miscellaneous school expenses. On a tight budget, two dollars here and five dollars there, when multiplied by five children, can quickly put extracurricular activities and field trips out of reach.

When asked about her recent activism and visibility in the community, Aja said: "I would hope that maybe people who I have met previous to recent exposure who may have stereotyped me as a young, black, single mother and concluded that my opinions and input have less value have a change of heart... and choose to be more open-minded in the future. I also hope to serve as an example to others in similar situations that their voice matters. The exposure has overall made me feel more a part of the community, I have met some wonderful people with like intentions and interests. One of the biggest challenges has been battling my social anxiety disorder in order to do what's best for my children. Every trip outside of my safety zone is terrifying, but each time I manage to put on my strong face and venture into another world I am more convinced of my ability to win this war."

CROW AND THE MAN

Continued from page 8

The man's son returned home and found his father. He carried him gently into the house. The funeral was held two days later. Besides the son, who was the only surviving member of the man's immediate family, two old friends of the man attended, as well as the priest. Before the grave was filled with dirt, the mourners walked by the casket and threw flowers into the open grave.

Suddenly, there was a loud "caw-caw". The mourners looked up to see a large black crow flying down towards the grave. In its claws it held the flute that they had shared for so many years, and which the crow had picked up from the ground where the man had dropped it. The crow dropped the flute into the grave, uttered "caw-caw" for the last time, and flew away.

The next day the son went out into the yard, and wandered around. For the first time he noticed the platform high up in the oak tree. He saw the pulley, lowered the platform, and discarded it.

The Return of the Crow

Many years later, the crow was very old. He had lived nearby all those years, in the forest next to the small town. He lived alone, mostly looking. He had lived much longer than other crows, and was very tired. It was hard to fly. Mostly, he sat in his tree, and looked around. But, one day, he knew that it was time to go. He sensed it. He was not sure where, but he knew. So, with great difficulty he stretched his wings and he began to fly. He flew from the forest, and instinctively towards the small town nearby, where he used to live in the backyard where the man once lived. Sure enough, he found the same tree. Something inside of him made him go there. The end of a long journey. The house was abandoned, yet he recognized it. Why had he returned? He flew over to the bedroom window where once the old man had looked out at him. And he uttered "caw-caw". Then he flew, with great difficulty, up to the branch where he always sat. A few months later bulldozers came to tear down the old house and all of the trees in the backyard. The land was going to be used for a suburban housing complex. No one noticed the feathers on the ground.

Directory of agencies and services

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

Addiction Counseling

Amethyst House

Address: 645 N. Walnut St.

Phone: (812) 336-3570

Web: www.amethysthouse.org

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

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

Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.

Address: 645 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 339-1691

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Address: Hours and locations vary.

Phone: (812) 334-8191

Web: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

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

Adult Education

MCCSC Adult Education

Address: Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

Phone: (812) 330-7731

Web: www.adult.mccsc.edu

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

About: The Monroe County Community School Corporation's Adult Education program at Broadview Learning Center offers free, individualized instruction and guidance to teen and adult learners. We offer support for successful preparation for the High School Equivalency and other work placement tests as well as Adult Basic Education. Are you looking to improve your basic job and literacy skills or learn new ones, we can help. English as a Second Language course and supportive tutoring for students to create better opportunities of themselves and their families. Call 812-330-7731 to register for orientation and also visit our website www.mccsc.edu/adulted. Located on Coolidge between Rogers and Rockport Road, on the #2 South Bloomington Transit 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.

See Employment resources and job counseling.

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

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,

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

See "DIRECTORY", page 13

DIRECTORY

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Employment resources and job counseling

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

Address: 414 S. College Ave.

Web: www.SistersCloset.org

Volunteer Contact: Julie Tobin, (812) 333-7710; Info@SistersCloset.org

About: Provides women facing issues of poverty, homelessness and domestic violence—who are looking for employment, with free interview and/or workforce attire, interview skills training & coaching through job mentors, image consulting, and life skills training through workshops with the Success Institute. All services assist women to overcome the hurdles they face on the road to independence & family self-sufficiency. All new and gently-used Clothing & Accessories, Undergarments, New Make-up, and Personal Hygiene items are provided free to those with vouchers from referral agencies, and for sale to the general public.

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.

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. 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: 119 W. 7th 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.

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

See "DIRECTORY", page 14

Local Health Care Enrollment Assistance

All U.S. residents are required by law to have health insurance. If you are uninsured, there are coverage options that meet your needs and fit your budget:

- Affordable Care Act "Health Insurance Marketplace"
- Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP 2.0)
- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (Hoosier Healthwise)

There are several free local resources that can guide you through the process, explain coverage options, answer questions, and help you enroll. Indiana Navigators provide free unbiased assistance and can work with you one-on-one to enroll in health care plans.

ASPIN Health Navigators:

Call (877) 313-7215 for Navigator assistance.

City of Bloomington:

Call (812) 349-3851 for enrollment assistance. Para Español, (812) 349-3860 o latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov

Individual Solutions-IU Health:

Call 1-888-531-3004 to make an appointment to see a certified Navigator, or visit iuhealth.org/individual-solutions

Monroe County Health Department:

Call Scott Stowers at (812) 349-2075 or e-mail sstowers@co.monroe.in.us

SCCAP Health Coverage Assistance Program:

Call (812) 339-3447 for Navigator assistance.

Visit www.in.gov/healthcarereform to find a certified Navigator.

Call 211 (available 24/7 free of charge) or visit www.in211.org/healthcare-project to learn how to apply, try a health insurance cost calculator, and get more local information.

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([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.

Friend's Place

Address: 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

Phone: (812) 332-1444

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.

Wheeler Mission

Phone: (812) 332-2452

Center for Men

Address: 215 S Westplex Ave

Programs and services:

Emergency Low Barrier Shelter

Orientation to addictions recovery program

Long term supportive housing

Working guest program

Public meals

Center for Women and Children

Address: 100 S Opportunity Lane

Programs and services:

Emergency Low Barrier Shelter

Referral Service to other agencies (connect to care)Long term supportive housing

Housing (Family Shelter)

New Hope Family Shelter

Phone: (812) 334-9840

E-mail: newhope@nhfsinc.org

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

Housing (Intact Families/Adults)

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

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

Housing (Pregnant women)

Hannah House Maternity Home

Address: 808 N. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 334-2662

Web: www.cpcbloomington.org

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

Housing (Rental)

Bloomington Housing Authority

Address: 1007 N. Summit St.

Phone: (812) 339-3491

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

Housing and Neighborhood Development

Address: 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

Phone: (812) 349-3420

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/hand

About: Creates affordable housing opportunities in the City of Bloomington by working through its partnerships with local non-profit and for-profit developers and through its in-house housing programs. HAND provides housing counseling to individuals with housing needs or difficulties and provides a variety of learning

opportunities for the community on housing related issues. In addition, HAND enforces the Property Maintenance Code and the City's weed and trash ordinances.

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: 205 S. Walnut Suite 16

Phone: (812) 336-8677

Web: www.cjamcenter.org

E-mail: cjam@cjamcenter.org

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

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

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

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

Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

Address: 214 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 339-7668

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

and access to special education services and Vocational Rehabilitation); Access to Justice (e.g. denial of a court-appointed attorney in certain civil cases).

Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Address: 201 N. Morton Street

Phone: (812) 333-2272

Web: www.monroecountycasa.org

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

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

Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

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

Phone: (812) 349-2670

Web: www.co.monroe.in.us

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

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

Meals and pantries (no cost)

Meals

Area 10 Agency on Aging

Address: 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

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 congregare 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.

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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://ecomediacenter.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, 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.

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Rent, utility, bill assistance

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

Youth programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Address: 807 N. College Avenue

Phone: (812) 334-2828

Web: www.bigsindiana.org

Volunteer Contact: 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.bgcblloomington.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.

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.