

# Safety-Net

October 2011

## Reflexiones de voluntarios

Por Mark Kruzan, Alcalde de Bloomington

Trabajar con agencias de servicios sociales es uno de los aspectos más satisfactorios de mi trabajo como alcalde de Bloomington. Nuestra ciudad cuenta con algunos de los más completos, dedicados agencias de servicio social en el país. La Ciudad de Bloomington Red de Voluntarios tiene la importante tarea de ayudar a conectar a miembros de la comunidad dispuestos y deseosos de una oportunidad para ser voluntariado que se adapte a sus habilidades e intereses.

Me gustaría utilizar mi espacio en esta edición de la Safety Net para compartir con ustedes algunas de las experiencias de los voluntarios en Bloomington. Tal vez el leer esto

Ve "REFLEXIONES", página 2



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

## Reflections from Volunteers

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

Working with social service agencies is one of the most satisfying aspects of my job as mayor of Bloomington. Our city has some of the most comprehensive, hard working and dedicated social service agencies in the country. The City of Bloomington's Volunteer Network has the important job of helping connect willing and eager community members with a volunteer opportunity that fits their skills and interests.

I would like to use my space in this issue of Safety Net to share with you just a few of the experiences of the many volunteers in Bloomington. Maybe reading these will inspire others to reach out and help an organization in the community.

This reflection is from a VITAL tutor:

"Being a volunteer is challenging and rewarding. My challenge is to plan the weekly lessons so that we are making progress on [my learner's] goals. The rewards are numerous—from the opportunity to get to know this remarkable individual to having a forum to share my enthusiasm for reading. I appreciate the initial and ongoing support from the VITAL staff and the chance to give a bit back to our library."

**Michael Shermis, who volunteers with Bloomington Community Orchard, Cardinal Theatre, Lotus and others, shares why he likes to volunteer:**

"Volunteering fills a hole in my soul to help my fellow human beings get to a better place. Volunteering enables me to

See "REFLECTIONS", page 2

## New Hope Family Shelter Opens

By Alan Backler, New Hope Family Shelter Board Member  
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New Hope Family Shelter, a United Way donor choice agency, opened on July 18 to serve as an emergency shelter for families in need from Monroe County. The agency is a non-profit 501 C organization. The formal opening of the shelter was held on September 7. Mayor Kruzan and over twenty other city, county and university officials as well as agency leaders were in attendance.

Homelessness has dramatically harmful effects on children that begin in the prenatal period and persist at every age into adulthood. These effects can be mitigated in a family shelter and by programs

See "NEW HOPE", page 2

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

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

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

## REFLEXIONES

Continua de la página 1

inspire a otros a alcanzar y ayudar a una organización en la comunidad.

Esta reflexión es de un tutor de VITAL: (Tutoría de Voluntarios en Educación de Adultos)  
“Ser voluntario es desafiante y gratificante Mi desafío es planificar las lecciones semanales de modo que estamos avanzando en los objetivos [de mi alumno] Las recompensas son numerosas—A partir de la oportunidad de conocer a esta persona notable para tener un foro para compartir mi entusiasmo por la lectura. Aprecio el apoyo inicial y permanente del personal de VITAL (como sus siglas en Inglés) y la oportunidad de dar un poco de regreso a nuestra biblioteca.”

Michael Shermis, que los voluntarios de la Comunidad de Bloomington Orchard, Teatro Cardinal, Lotus y otros, las acciones de por qué le gusta a los voluntarios: “El voluntariado llena un agujero en mi alma para ayudar a mis semejantes llegar a un lugar mejor. Voluntariado me permite hacer lo que mejor sé hacer en la vida, es decir, la pasión con que crie. Voluntariado tiene que ser una de las mejores maneras de conectarse con personas. Anímo a todos a voluntarios a hacer una diferencia en las vidas de aquellos que viven en

nuestra comunidad.”

Jenny Tracy explica por qué es voluntaria con los Guardia Nacional de Indiana y que es parte del Ejército (2-150 FA) “El voluntariado es importante para mí ya que me proporciona una sensación de logro que es diferente a un cheque de pago, y me siento muy complacida y premiada. Sirvo a los militares y sus familias, porque es importante para ayudar a aquellos que hacen tanto por nosotros. Es mi manera de pagar de vuelta a los que sacrifican sus vidas por nuestra libertad. Siento que entiendo la dinámica de este grupo, como me crié en una familia de militares y yo estoy casada con un militar de carrera hoy. Siento el impacto que hacen en nuestros soldados y sus familias, y es algo muy gratificante. La esperanza de que estas personas dicen que les traigo y la comodidad que expresar con mi participación no tiene precio. Cuando nos enfrentamos a una situación difícil, siento que soy capaz de ser la voz de la razón y proporcionar apoyo y orientación a algún tipo de solución. Tengo la esperanza de que cuando estoy en la necesidad de que alguien tan dedicado y entusiasta estará allí a mi lado para ayudar. Al experimentar los beneficios del voluntariado tanto en lo personal, así como la de los destinatarios de mi servicio, mi compromiso con ayudar a los militares y sus familias se ve reforzada 10 veces más.”

## REFLECTIONS

Continued from page 1

do what I do best in life, that is, foster passion. Volunteering has to be one of the best ways to connect to people. I encourage everyone to volunteer and make a difference in the lives of those who live in your community.”

**Jenny Tracy explains why she volunteers with the Indiana Army National Guard (2-150 FA)**

“Volunteering is important to me as it provides me a sense of accomplishment that is different than a pay check, a promotion or an award. I serve the military and their families because it is important to help those that do so much

for us. It is my way to pay back those that sacrifice their lives for OUR freedom. I feel I understand this group’s dynamics as I was raised in a military family and I am married to a career soldier today. I feel the impact I make on our soldiers and their families is rewarding. The hope that these individuals say I bring and the comfort they express with my involvement is PRICELESS. When faced with a difficult situation, I feel I am able to be the voice of reason and provide support and guidance to some sort of resolve. It is my hope that when I am in need that someone as dedicated and passionate will be there by my side to help. When experiencing the benefits of volunteering both personally as well as the from the recipients of my service, my commitment to help the military and their families is strengthened by 10 fold.”

## NEW HOPE

Continued from page 1

that maintain family unity and stability. New Hope Family Shelter is committed to creating a comprehensive approach to emergency family sheltering based on case management. The goals of case management at New Hope are family preservation and movement of families to a position of self-sufficiency. Key components of the New Hope program include building on family and community strengths: families stay in a home setting and are quickly connected to the many social services available to low-income and homeless people in Bloomington, and parents are encouraged to build the skills to become effective advocates for their families.

New Hope offers 24 hour a day on-site coverage 365 days a year. Families

sheltered at New Hope work with the case manager and staff each day to identify the problems that lead to homelessness and develop a plan to address these challenges. New Hope offers shelter to families head by two parents and by single dads and moms.

At the present time, New Hope is able to accommodate three families. However, we will soon be working on expanding our shelter space to house more. Since opening we have sheltered five families, with three of those families currently in residence. Families staying with us must have minor children. New Hope is the only shelter in the county that does not require couples to separate to be housed.

The shelter program is designed to maintain a home-like atmosphere as much as possible. To that end we balance the need to keep health and safety concerns paramount

**See “NEW HOPE”, page 4**

# About Safety~Net

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**Editorial Cartoonist**

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

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

### 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.

### 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.

# Bienestar—a Latino health program

## Positive Link—a program of IU Health

By Kelly Carson, Latino Health Educator. Community Health—Positive Link  
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The Latino Project of Positive Link, which was originally named “Community Mamas”, has a new name to better reflect what we are trying to achieve: Bienestar (wellbeing). Bienestar is a holistic approach with awareness and training for services related to HIV/AIDS.

Bienestar offers HIV testing and education in various locations, including La Casa Cultural Center at IU, Bloomington High School South Amigos Club, and at St

Paul Catholic Center. On September 26 in the morning, we will offer for the first time a mini health fair at Volunteers in Medicine. Some of the services offered will include rapid glucose testing, rapid HIV testing, blood pressure screening, and hearing testing. We will also have information about diabetes and other health services. We plan to offer the fair

See “LATINO PROJECT”, page 4

# Bienestar—una programa para salud latina

## Positive Link—una programa de IU Health

El proyecto latino de Positive Link, el cual desde un principio fue nombrado “Community Mamas”, ya tiene un nombre nuevo que refleja mejor lo que esperamos alcanzar: Bienestar. Bienestar es un enfoque integral con conocimiento y capacitación para servicios del VIH/SIDA.

Ofrecemos pruebas de VIH y presentaciones sobre el VIH/SIDA en varios lugares, incluso El Centro

Cultural La Casa en IU, Bloomington High School South Amigos Club, y el Centro Católico de San Pablo. El 26 de septiembre por la mañana, ofreceremos por vez primera vez una “mini” feria de salud en la clínica Volantees in Medicine. Por parte de esta feria, vamos a ofrecer pruebas rápidas de glucosa, pruebas de presión, pruebas

Ve “PROYECTO LATINO”, página 4

# Bank On Bloomington: Having A Bank Account Can Lead To Financial Stability

By Amanda Day, Communications Assistant, United Way of Monroe County

Many people do not have a bank account. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation [FDIC], more than 7 percent of all Indiana households are unbanked, meaning no one in the household has any type of checking or savings account. In Indiana, 20.9 percent of lower-income households (those households earning below \$30,000 per year) have no banking relationship.

### Why do people not have a bank account?

Until now, there were a lot of reasons people didn't have a bank account. Maybe they couldn't maintain the required minimum balance. Maybe they weren't sure how to manage an account. Maybe they didn't have the right identification. Or maybe they just liked paying check-cashing fees.

### What are the consequences of not having a bank account?

Many households without a bank account rely on services like check cashers, payday loan providers, pawn shops, and

rent-to-own outlets. These establishments typically charge high fees for their services. In fact, the average unbanked household in Indiana spends over \$1,000 a year in fees for alternative financial services. With an account at a bank or credit union, it can be easier to manage money, obtain credit and lower-interest loans, and save for the future.

### Bank On Bloomington can help!

Bank On Bloomington has worked to reduce or eliminate barriers for local residents who have never had an account or have had difficulties in the past. These barriers may include minimum balance requirements, difficulties with an account in the past such as unpaid overdraft charges, or lack of a U.S. driver's license or state-issued identification.

Bank On Bloomington is based on successful models in about 100 cities around the country. Participating financial institutions will offer accounts with no minimum balance, no or low monthly maintenance fee, and free basic online services. These banks and credit unions will make a reason-

able effort to open an account even if an individual had difficulties with an account in the past, such as unpaid overdraft fees. Some will also accept alternative forms of identification. They also help customers understand how to keep this relationship positive and strong.

According to Barry Lessow, United Way of Monroe County's Executive Director, “We are encouraging those in our community without bank accounts to join Bank On Bloomington. An account at a bank or credit union is increasingly important in building financial stability. The partners in Bank On Bloomington have worked to offer products, services, and education that will help new account holders build successful and sustainable banking relationships.”

Participants can choose where they open their account, as long as they qualify. Seven area banks and credit unions with over 25 different branch locations are participating in the Bank On program: Chase, Fifth Third Bank, IU Credit Union, KeyBank, Old National Bank, The Peoples State Bank,

and Regions. Simply look for the Bank On Bloomington sticker when entering the participating bank or visit [www.bankonbloomington.org](http://www.bankonbloomington.org) for a complete list of locations.

To help you manage your new account, financial education workshops are offered twice a month on the first Tuesday from 6:00–7:30 p.m. and the third Saturday from 10:00–11:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Public Library Room 2B. These workshops will help you learn to manage a checking account, develop and maintain a budget, and identify and work towards your financial goals. Workshops are free and no advance sign-up is required.

Bank On Bloomington is a partnership among United Way of Monroe County, the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana, local banks and credit unions, the City of Bloomington, 2-1-1, and several social service agencies.

If you know someone who needs banking help or if you would like to open a bank

See “BANK ACCOUNT”, page 4

## NEW HOPE

*Continued from page 2*

while at the same time promoting a culture of cooperation and respect. Residents are responsible for maintaining their own private living area and also for completing household chores on a daily basis. Each bedroom has a lock so that they may maintain security of their private property.

New Hope works closely with other organizations in the county. Since opening, we get at least one call a day from agencies, township trustees, and families seeking shelter for a homeless family. At the same time, we tap into the rich resources available in Bloomington to support our residents. These include Medicaid (for prenatal care), WIC and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (nutritional resources and counseling), BABS (childbirth preparation), VIM (physical and emotional health care), Healthy Families (parenting skills), First Steps (early intervention services), Centerstone, Amethyst, Bloomington Hospital, Early Head Start and Head Start, Job Links, Shalom Community Center, MCCSC and RBBCSC social workers, and many, many more.

Residents, working with New Hope staff, develop and maintain a self-sufficiency plan to become independent and able to maintain their own housing. We expected that families would stay with us for between 75 and 90 days, on average. But so far, the families that have moved on have stayed for a much shorter time. We continue to assist our families for up to a year after their stay with us.

One of our first residents was Amy (not her real name), a single mom with a three-year-old son. She stayed with us for 21 days.

Earlier this year Amy, a Bloomington resident, signed her son up early for Head Start, and went off to work as a certified nursing assistant. Shortly thereafter, Amy found herself without a place to live. Her immediate reaction was to turn to family. So, she quit her job and along with her son went to stay with her sister in another city in the state, even though she knew that was only a temporary solution. With her sister's help, and at the suggestion of the Head Start program in Bloomington, she contacted New Hope. She qualified

**See "NEW HOPE", page 7**

# Stone Belt's Empowered Learning Series: Grief & Loss in Families with Special Needs

*By Amy Jackson, Community Engagement Director, Stone Belt  
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## What is the Empowered Learning Series?

The Empowered Learning Series, established in 2010, provides the entire community with opportunities to connect with resources to best support their loved ones with special needs. Stone Belt works with local and regional experts to provide informative panels and workshops. Previous topics have included: financial planning, guardianship, accessing services, adult sibling responsibilities, and more. The Empowered Learning Series takes place three times each calendar year, and is always free and open to the public. Leslie Green, Stone Belt CEO, believes very strongly in the importance and impact of the agency's Empowered Learning Series. "Stone Belt serves as the local chapter of the Arc – the national advocacy organization for individuals with developmental and cognitive disabilities and their families. Our educational series is one facet of our on-going efforts to best prepare, empower and support individuals and their families to fully participate in the life of the community."

## Grief & Loss in Families with Special Needs

Stone Belt, the oldest and largest disability support agency in the region, has announced the next topic for its on-going Empowered Learning Series:

## BANK ACCOUNT

*Continued from page 3*

account, Bank On Bloomington is here for you. For more information, visit [www.bankonbloomington.org](http://www.bankonbloomington.org) or dial 2-1-1. If

Grief and Loss in Families with Special Needs. This free public event will take place on Thursday, November 17, 10-noon, at the Indiana University Innovation Center.

"Grief and Loss in Families with Special Needs" will feature presenter Margaret Gilbride, from the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. Gilbride is an attorney and a certified Thanatologist – an individual trained to counsel and to speak on issues specific to the experience of death and loss. Gilbride's area of Thanatology expertise lies within the disabilities community. Her presentation will answer questions such as, "How does one best support an individual with special needs to understand death and loss, and move through the grieving process?" And, "How do families best prepare for the future loss of a loved one with special needs?"

All members of the community are invited to attend this free seminar; however, registration is recommended as space is limited. Registration can be arranged by calling Stone Belt's Community Engagement Department at 812-332-2168 ext. 269 or emailing [communityengagement@stonebelt.org](mailto:communityengagement@stonebelt.org). Additional details for the event can be found on Stone Belt's website, [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org).

you are with an organization or financial institution that would like to learn more about Bank On Bloomington, please contact Jessica Mace, Community Initiatives Director, United Way of Monroe County at [jessica@monroeunitedway.org](mailto:jessica@monroeunitedway.org).

## PROYECTO LATINO

*Continua de la página 3*

rápidas de VIH, y pruebas de audición. También tendremos informaciones sobre otros servicios en la comunidad referente a la salud latina. Esperamos ofrecer estos servicios cada tres meses. Todos los servicios y pruebas son gratuitos. Como siempre, las pruebas de VIH se ofrecen confidenciales y anónimas.

Otra vez este año, ofrecemos charlas después de la misa español en el Centro Católico de San Pablo para las fechas siguientes: 16 de octubre, 23 octubre, 30 octubre y 6 noviembre. Esperamos charlar sobre la salud financiera, como prevenir la violencia doméstica, temas sobre salud sexual, y servicios para tratar el abuso de sustancias. También ofrecemos programas de educación y apoyo en su casa con sus compañeras. Todos nuestros servicios son gratuitos.

Bienestar ofrece pruebas de VIH gratuitos, confidenciales, y anónimos cada martes de 2 a 4 pm en la oficina de Positive Link, 333 E. Miller Drive. Para más información en español sobre pruebas y servicios de clientes, llame a Kelly o Ely al 812.353.3249.

## LATINO PROJECT

*Continued from page 3*

every three months. All the services are free. As always, HIV testing is confidential and anonymous.

Once again this year, we are offering presentations at St Paul Catholic Center after the Spanish mass on the following dates: October 16, October 23, October 30 and November 6. We hope to discuss financial health, domestic violence prevention, sexual health, and substance abuse services. We also offer in home education and support services for women. All our services are free.

Bienestar offers free, confidential, and anonymous HIV testing in Spanish every Tuesday without an appointment from 2-4pm at the offices of Positive Link at 333 E. Miller Drive. For information in Spanish about our services or to make an appointment, call Kelly or Ely at 812.353.3249.

# Local Business and Lymphoma Organization Join to Build Home for Monroe County Family

*Solution Tree and Team Zachary partner with Habitat for Humanity on home build*



*Photo, above, by Ann Schertz. Volunteers from Solution Tree along with community members celebrate the completion of frame day for the Habitat for Humanity house sponsored by Solution Tree and Team Zachary.*

**BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (August 15, 2011)**—On the surface it may appear that an education publishing company and an organization fighting lymphoma may not have much in common. But this summer, Solution Tree and Team Zachary paired up to support a common cause, affordable housing with Paula Lawson and her family.

Contact: Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County  
Meagan Niese, Development Director  
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E: niese@monroecountyhabitat.org

Lawson is in the Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County homeownership program, and on June 25 construction began on her house with the sponsorship of Solution Tree and Team Zachary. The relationship between the two organizations is rooted in bonds and friendships between the St. John and Jones families. Ann St. John invited Jeffrey C. Jones, Solution Tree president, to partner with them to sponsor Habitat homes five years ago with her company St. John Associates. St. John created Team Zachary in honor of Zachary May, her stepson who lost his battle with

lymphoma in 2008. The organization supports the ongoing research for a cure to lymphoma. This is the third Habitat home Team Zachary and Solution Tree co-sponsored.

"Zachary was a phenomenal young man who served his country, community and family in extraordinary ways. It was an honor to know him, and it is an honor for us at Solution Tree to pay a small tribute to what Zachary stood for as a human being," said Jones.

"Teaming up with the St. Johns and Team Zachary to honor him, support Habitat and build a lasting home for

**See "HOME", page 14**



*Photo by Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. Habitat homeowner Paula Lawson and her daughter work on their home construction.*

# Your Versatile Monroe County Public Library Card

By Margaret Harter, Community Relations Coordinator  
[mharter@mcpl.info](mailto:mharter@mcpl.info) • 349.3057

Do you have a Monroe County Public Library Card? It's free to all county residents. And, it offers many free benefits. But first, let me tell you about the library's latest project to help people in our community find the accurate, reliable information they need for their daily lives.

**It's Your Money** is the library's new financial literacy education project. This grant-funded, two-year project is aimed primarily at ages 15-29 (but everyone can use a good financial workout, can't they, so all are welcome). "Financial literacy" just means learning how to be in control of your money.

The project kicks off at 4 p.m., Friday, October 14, with an overview and refreshments in the Library Atrium. Please stop by. Find out why your library is the best place for free, trustworthy, and unbiased resources for tackling effective money management, including budgets, spending, saving, credit and debt, and more.

## It's Your Money offers:

Public programs in English and Spanish. Fall budgeting programs are scheduled for: 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 18; 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 25 (especially for ages 15-20), and 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 8, at the Main Library on Kirkwood Ave.

A financial literacy Web portal with free, interactive tools. It debuts in October. Visit [money.mcpl.info](http://money.mcpl.info)

Newly added books, audiobooks, and DVDs about managing your money (in English and Spanish)

Outreach and training for staff of local agencies and nonprofits to give them more tools to help their clients make better financial decisions.

Local partners include the United

Way of Monroe County, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Dept., Middle Way House, and others.

It's Your Money is made possible by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation through Smart Investing@your library, a partnership with the American Library Association.

Questions about It's Your Money? Call 349-3228.

The library began offering two new free benefits to MCPL cardholders recently: downloadable music and Bestseller Express collections.

Library cardholders can download music from the library's website with their library card and can keep the songs forever—free and legal. They are not on loan. The library subscribes to Freegal Music Service, an online database of more than 600,000 songs from the Sony Music catalog.

Library cardholders tired of being on waiting lists for popular new titles, both books and DVDs, now have another option: they can get materials into their hands faster through the library's Bestseller Express collections. Titles in these collections cannot be reserved or renewed.

It is easy to spot the Bestseller Express collections with their large black-and-yellow signs. Each item in these collections has a matching label. Titles are available for checkout on a first-come, first-served basis. You will have to read/watch your Express selections fast:

Bestseller collection books have a 7-day loan period, with a limit of one

Express book at a time. Bestseller DVDs have a 3-day loan period, with a limit of one Express DVD at a time. Both the Main Library on Kirkwood and the Ellettsville Branch offer Bestseller Express collections.

There's more that you can do with your library card.

Using the library's public Internet computers, go to "Research Tools" on the library website, [mcpl.info](http://mcpl.info), to link to all kinds of resources and full-text articles. (Some require a library card, others do not.)

For example:

You can search Community Organizations to locate local groups of interest.

You can search GreenFILE, a database of articles about how people affect the environment.

The library subscribes to ConsumerReports.org for unbiased consumer product information.

Indiana's virtual library, Inspire ([inspire.in.gov](http://inspire.in.gov)), has articles for all ages.

You also can use your library card to book a free meeting room for your nonprofit group. The library gallery is available for educational exhibits and art displays. Call 349-3050 to find out more.

We're your library and we want to serve your interests and needs. Stop in and ask us about all that we offer, whether it is homework help for children in Grades K-12, math and reading/writing homework help for teens, adult literacy tutoring in VITAL, ESL conversation groups, parent-and-teacher resources, homebound service, and more. Call 349-3050.

## Special Section: Public Comment

Dear Community,

We would like to introduce you to our new company called The Sweeps LLC. A member owned, bonded insured company. This program was designed especially for women. To help, encourage, and support other women in their struggles.

We as women have made past mistakes in our lives and feel as if we deserve another chance. So that we can look forward to opportunities such as work, educational experience, and even some basic life skills.

We have several women incarcerated who will be released and looking for help. Our goal is to get our company up and going as soon as possible. So that we can pave the road for the other women who need help.

Our requirement is that the woman must be a convicted felon. She also must be clean and sober for at least six months or more. Furthermore she must be working in a recovery program with a desire to better her life.

We welcome women and those who help support and encourage our new Sweeps program. The idea for this company was founded at the Recovery Engagement Center by Sandy Berndth and other women who are in need of help. For more information please contact our email at [btownsweeps@gmail.com](mailto:btownsweeps@gmail.com).

—Joyce L Berry

# The Shalom Community Center

*The mission of the Shalom Community center is “aiding and empowering people experiencing homelessness and poverty.”*

## Anger Transformed Into a Passion for Justice

*By Rev. Forrest Gilmore, Executive Director, Shalom Community Center*

I was angry. It's not how I usually feel at a memorial service. But this was not a normal memorial service. This service was for someone who shouldn't have died.

Frank Crawford was homeless. He was also disabled, significantly ill and addicted to alcohol. He died alone in the middle of the night behind the old Ponderosa back in June.

A few weeks earlier, he had been released from a nursing home. Considered “too healthy” to stay, he was encouraged to find an assisted living facility. But, of course, there wasn’t one for him. So, Frank became homeless... again.

Over many years, Frank had been in and out of nursing homes. He would decline to the edge of death on the streets then get nursed back to health only to be released to the streets once again.

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

Unfortunately, this last time, he wasn’t so lucky.

And I was angry.

Because now he’s dead.

Joanna Macy, a Buddhist scholar, author and a professor of mine back in my seminary days, said, “Anger transformed is a passion for justice.”

I feel angry because I believe Frank’s

death was unjust. And there is perhaps no greater injustice than that which takes a person’s life. I saw how he did well under



Forest Gilmore

supervised care, but could not cope on his own. Frank didn’t need to die.

Some might say Frank got what he deserved. If he didn’t have the will to get sober, then he deserved his fate. But I would hate to live in that kind of world... where everyone was on their own.... where being flawed meant being left behind... where only the fittest survive.

Since as far back as humans can think about such things, we have been chal-

lenged by the question—“Are we each other’s keeper?” The great teachers and prophets of the ages have always stood on the side of yes. And that’s the kind of world I want to live in.

At Shalom, we believe we are defined by our compassion for one another. We envision a community where someone like Frank doesn’t slip through the cracks. If we can take anything of value from Frank’s death, we must remember that what we do—all of us—matters... and that, at least for now, the services we have in our community are not enough.

At Shalom, with your help, we hope to fill that gap. Our Board and I are exploring the many needs of our community and the means to provide for those needs, including emergency shelter, addiction support, employment services and permanent supportive housing. Permanent supportive housing is an example of a program that would have saved Frank’s life.

With your support, we hope to bring these plans to fruition. You can contact or offer your support to Shalom online at [www.shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org), by mail at Shalom Community Center, P.O. Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402 or by phone at (812) 334-5734.

May the lessons learned from Frank’s death stir our passion for justice so that such an unjust loss never happens again.

her employer. New Hope helped her secure short-term day care at Salvation Army, so that she could go back to work. While living at New Hope she leased an apartment. New Hope contacted the Perry Township Trustee, who provided Amy with her first month’s rent and covered an unpaid utility bill. Amy’s parents’ church paid the security deposit.

The apartment Amy rented was not as clean as advertised by the landlord. So, New Hope provided her with cleaning materi-

als and equipment and gave her advice on dealing with fleas. A New Hope staff member went over to help her clean. New Hope helped her get some furniture from St. Vincent de Paul, her friends supplied other items needed to furnish the apartment, and bedding was supplied by New Hope.

Three weeks after arriving at New Hope, Amy was living independently with her son. We hope to be able to tell more stories like Amy’s in the future.



Rob Deckard & Amy Boyce were homeless for almost two years. Rob now has a job and Amy has disability benefits and together they live in their own home.

“If Shalom wasn’t here, we probably would have starved. We wouldn’t have been able to get access to the resources you provide.” - Amy Boyce

Rob & Amy met on the streets. Both homeless and with no place to go, they met each other at a local overnight shelter and fell in love.

Rob & Amy had both made mistakes in their lives, but they wanted to turn things around. Amy was trying to get her disability benefits restored (she suffers from seizures and bipolar disorder) and Rob was searching for work.

“[Our lives] are 150% better than what they were. We’ve got a roof over our heads!!” - Amy Boyce

Through support from Shalom, Rob & Amy were able to eat, shower, do their laundry and get their mail. Our legal clinic and regular visits from Social Security helped Amy restore benefits for her disability. Through our employment program and case workers, Rob was able to find a job. And together, they were able to move into their own home.

As Rob said, “Shalom rocks! Shalom rules! You guys are good for the people, I’m telling you, good for society, not only for the homeless, but for everybody.”

### NEW HOPE

*Continued from page 4*

for residency at New Hope: she was from Monroe County, she had a minor child, and she was experiencing homelessness.

Amy came back to Bloomington and through her own initiative and the efforts of the New Hope staff members, she was soon back on her feet. She reapplied for her former job, and was gladly accepted back by

# Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

## Songs and Poems from the Shalom Writers' Circle

### Your Successful Life You're Living

A Song by Danny Griffin

Your successful life you're living,  
Still it seems in vain  
All the parties you've been givin'  
All of the clichés  
Well, it's takin' all you're getting'  
Just to keep you entertained  
One day you are happy,  
But the next day you complain,  
  
Because I was the same way  
I had so many chances but I threw them all away.  
My mind was in a prison  
I could not be free  
Then I heard of Jesus  
How he would make a way  
From these hopeless lonely feelings  
That they would go away  
I really needed someone.  
I had no one but me.

I was broken down  
My painful past caught up with me  
I thought that I knew Jesus  
Because I learned in Sunday school  
But I did not really know him  
Just about those Golden Rules.  
How he came to be our savior  
And he died upon the tree  
For my sins, my past forgotten  
That Jesus would set me free.

Well, he had just what I wanted,  
And I cried Jesus please.  
I cried Jesus save me,  
Jesus hear my plea,  
Well, I felt that burden lifted,  
As my eyes were filled with tears,  
And a peace I'd never felt before  
Came over me  
Like someone was beside me  
Kneeling there with me:  
The warmth, yes, the love, I felt peace.  
He was kneeling there with me.

I know now that he loves me  
Because the pain has gone away  
And he lives now in my heart  
And he'll never go away.  
No he won't forsake or leave me.  
He's in my heart to stay.  
Jesus, he's what I needed.  
He's in my heart today.

### Rainbow Waterfalls

A Song by Billy Young

Silent subtleties, rooted deep in heart  
Mystery, oh memory, enclosing to impart  
Museums of mind, the rooms entwine  
Revealing never all  
Gliding down the stones of time  
Into rainbow waterfalls.  
  
Hidden glances to blue dream  
yesterdays  
Memory, oh mystery, frames in silent play.  
They idle free, pay no fee,  
So ethereal in their call  
Flowing through the song in you  
Into rainbow waterfalls.  
Flowing strong, they too belong  
To rainbow waterfalls

### Morning Glory

A Song by Kent Johnson

I want to be where your love shines  
To feel your heart beat next to mine  
To wake to your body in the morning air  
Our souls filled with love to share  
Deep in your heart, you know I really care...

Take me There.

I love the little wild one,  
She lights my heart afire  
I have this strange sensation:  
Complete desire...  
No other Lady will compare.  
Take me There.

Love's been a long time in coming  
It'll be a long time gone  
And yet with every heartbeat  
My soul sings your song.  
Your love is beautiful and rare.  
Take me There.

The Shalom Writers' Circle meets every Thursday from 1:30-2:30 at the Shalom Center. Come and join us! For more information, contact Shannon Gayk at [sgayk@indiana.edu](mailto:sgayk@indiana.edu)

### My Nickel-Plated Friend

A Poem by Rick May

I.  
I was walkin' where  
The sun refused to shine,  
With my pockets bare  
And lost loves left behind,  
There was nothin' in  
This world for me to do  
So, my nickel-plated friend,  
I turn to you.  
  
II.  
They all said that somehow  
This would be the way  
Where I'd finally meet my match

With nothing left to say,  
Loneliness if one thing  
Known by more than few,  
So, my nickel-plated friend,  
I turn to you.

III.  
Was there really just no answer?  
Did her face show naught but shame?  
Should I just return to nowhere town  
Where no one knows my name?  
Dried up tears have ceased their fallin'  
I've thought of nothin' new,  
So, my nickel plated friend,  
I turn to you.

### Would like rehab

But may go to prison.  
If I do get out  
I will live one day at a time.  
How do I be a better father?  
By stop coming to jail.  
But when will I go home?  
When I am done with my sentence.

Steve Rhodes

### Keep'n a Grasp

How to be a better father  
For starters, stay out of jail.  
Be God like, and refuse to fail.  
My presence in this life is needed like wind in a sail.  
Make time to call and be sure to write.  
But never let go  
Like a string of a kite.

Joseph T. Mayhew

### Rehab

Will I get prison or rehab?  
That question hit me like a hard right jab.  
So much regret and so little of choices  
I shoulda stopped and listen to the voices.  
God's will is my answer today  
That is the price that you'll have to pay.  
Learn your lesson and stay free  
And run a muck like a free bumble bee.

Aaron Sissman

### I feel good today like my

Name was like James Brown.  
I hope you feel good too.

JB

**VOICES SELDOM HEARD** provides writing from individuals in our community who wish to express themselves. The writings in this issue are from the **Women Writing for (a) Change** program in the Bloomington jail, the **Crafting Bridges** program in the Bloomington jail, men in the Addicts In Recovery program in the Bloomington jail, and writings from the **Shalom Writer's Circle** that takes place in the Shalom Community Center.

# Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

## Today

Today I feel gratefully  
hopefull,  
Confused as to why, I feel  
So good-n-relaxed.  
Everyday is the same in so  
Many ways.  
Sometimes I even feel  
Relieved to be over  
The struggles the outside  
World has to offer me  
Content to be where I  
Need to be.

Timmy Raidon

## Recovery, when is it over?

There is no time limit  
Or no set date.  
Just one of those things  
That rely on fate.  
30 day, 60 days, 90 days when  
It will only be over in the end.  
Walter Raines

## Crafting Bridges

Crafting Bridges is a Retired  
and Senior Volunteer Program  
(RSVP) in partnership with New  
Leaf-New Life

Crafting Bridges is an effort to  
bridge the gap between inmates  
and their children and to offer  
incarcerated individuals an  
opportunity to utilize their  
time in jail for positive change.  
Volunteers engage the inmates  
in conversation as the inmates  
make a variety of gifts for their  
children. Some inmates draw  
colorful pictures of their child's  
favorite cartoon character, sports  
team, or flowers and rainbows.

These are poems written for  
Safety-Net by inmates in the  
Monroe County jail who take part  
in the Crafting Bridges program.

## Poems By Dominique Irby

### What You Are to Me

Me and you in this world,  
Good times, bad times, thick and thin.  
Only my brother is my closest friend,  
Morris Lamont Hanson I would give you  
My life, and you would do the same,  
Only God can feel our pain,  
We make it through this, we make it through that  
Only to see that this world is white and black,  
No color nor sunlight,  
Just crimes that we have to fight,  
But together we are the Lord's Shepherd!

My poems is like cocaine,  
I sniff them through my nose and they go straight  
To my brain  
Then release out my mouth like the smoke from the  
Maryjane  
Then I shoot it up like some heroin through the vein  
Let it sit in my mouth like an acid strip then  
I tweak off every single word of this.  
Treat them like Crystal Meth and cherish it  
Dip it in embalming fluid and let it stick to you  
While you smoke it.  
I have realized in my own poet.  
My words is like an addiction, just take them  
And roll it!

*Women Writing for a Change also operates a program at the Monroe County Correctional Center in affiliation with New Leaf/New Life. It consists of a group of women volunteers who facilitate a writing circle for the female inmates. These poems were written by Dominique Irby who is part of that program.*

**Women Writing for (a) Change of Bloomington** is part of a national network of affiliate writing schools who share a mission to provide opportunities for individuals to craft more conscious lives through the art of writing and the practices of community.

To find out more, see [www.womenwritingbloomington.com/](http://www.womenwritingbloomington.com/).

## Summer 2011

The fire burns  
The walls talk  
The ground settles  
But the sky walks  
My ears is open but all I can hear is trees shaking  
Stems loosen and they they're breaking  
The thunder roars  
The lightening falls  
I look up to see what the tornado has yet to draw  
The clouds turn dark grey  
The world black and grey, but it's what we made it.  
You read this poem, it's what my soul's containing!

## They say the world's going to end.

They say the world's going to end.  
If God set this day why make us wait?  
If this is what he wanted why didn't he help me become  
A full independent woman?  
I didn't get to reach any of my goals. I barely got  
Through one and that's the education I once held.  
Didn't grow up with both parents only had one  
That's just until was 10 then I became the only one.  
They say the world's going to end.  
Does that mean I won't get to say goodbye to all my family and friends?  
What about the ones that helped me to the end or even to begin?  
I guess everybody's treated like a slave in the end.  
That's why Karma's my friend.  
What goes around comes around and that's the world  
Coming to an end!

You become who you hang with  
Everyone needs support sometimes  
Vision was blurred alcohol not  
anymore  
.....

Faith in God Heart in family.  
Proud to be who I am  
Proud to be who I am  
The truth will set you free  
I know that love conquers all  
I'm musically inclined and  
spiritually balanced  
I slipped I fell I stood  
.....

School was a struggle couldn't  
concentrate  
Bullied who was weird to me  
Drugs and alcohol became an  
obsession  
.....

Bullying is a full time job  
Alcohol brought a demon of strength  
Drugs was the bullying of self  
.....  
I wish I was young again  
People have struggles everyday all  
day  
Love your life run your life

.....  
Made mistakes still staying positive  
Back injury prescription pills  
derailed life  
.....

I am smart made stupid choices  
Paying my dues making life better  
.....  
Big city first small town now  
Eight kids lots of child support  
Lived fast and got slowed down

**A few six word sentences**

# Interfaith Winter Shelter

## A low-barrier winter homeless shelter in Bloomington IN

### Mission.

Our mission is to provide a winter shelter for homeless individuals in Monroe County from November through March, from 9 pm to 7 am, seven days a week. Our purpose is to offer a warm and safe place to sleep for homeless men and women who are in danger of hypothermia during the coldest months of the year.

### Operating hours.

All sites will open no later than 9 p.m. Doors will be locked at 10 p.m. Guests are encouraged to arrive before 10 p.m. All sites shall close at 7 a.m. Quiet time and dimming of lights begins no later than 10:30 p.m.

### Volunteering.

The Shelter is currently recruiting volunteers and accepting donations for its third winter season. We welcome your participation as volunteer, donor, or community partner in a collaborative effort

that is strengthened by the whole community's involvement.

### New volunteers.

We ask that you attend one of our training sessions listed next. This training will introduce you to the mission, philosophy and goals of IWS. You will learn about its history, a variety of ways to serve, different shift duties, and how to sign up to volunteer. You will then attend a site specific training when you have chosen where and when you will volunteer.

### October 9, 2-4 p.m. at First Christian Church

### October 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at First United Church

### October 30, 2-4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church

### Site specific volunteer training.

Everyone who wants to volunteer for a night shift will attend a site specific training at the location they choose. This will familiarize you with check-in procedures, where to find things, how to set up cots or mats, snack routines and bathroom facilities. You will also meet the On Site Director, the Volunteer Coordinator and the On-Site-Supervisor. Please contact the site where you plan to volunteer to find out when the site-specific training will take place.

### 2011-2012 Shelter Sites

#### Sunday Night:

First United Methodist Church (FUMC)  
hosted by this church (219 E. 4th St.)

#### Monday Night:

First United Church (FUC)  
hosted by this church (2420 E. 3rd St.)

#### Tuesday Night:

First United Church (FUC)  
hosted by Beth Shalom and St. Thomas Lutheran Church

#### Wednesday Night:

Trinity Episcopal Church  
hosted by Trinity (111 S. Grant St.)

#### Thursday Night:

First Christian Church (FCC) (205 E. Kirkwood Ave.)  
hosted by St. Paul Catholic Center

#### Friday Night:

First Christian Church (FCC)  
hosted by First Christian Church

#### Saturday Night:

First United Church  
hosted by Unitarian Universalist, First Presbyterian

## The following was written by Circle Leader Pam Powers

*with contributions from her three Allies; Julie Thomas, Joan White, and David White.*

### Pam

What motivated me to become a Leader?

To be completely honest, I joined Circles to get the weekly stipends. Then Linda (Circles coach at the time) mentioned that I would become a leader, it terrified me because I considered myself a follower. Once the stipends had ended, I felt that Circles became a part of my life. I developed friendships along the way in the Circles community and with my allies, which becomes stronger all of the time.

Circles has changed my views

I realize that there are so many people that are affected by poverty that I could ever imagine. Also, there are people who care (Allies) in our community.

How Circles has changed my life  
I personally have seen all of the Circle leaders grow within themselves. For myself, with the advice of my Ally David and the Circles barrier reduction fund, my life has changed drastically by allowing me to obtain my drivers license after 12 years, if it weren't for that I would still be taking the city bus for transportation, as I did for many years.

### Julie

Working as a volunteer at Middle Way House for a number of years, I became more aware of the problem of poverty in our community. Women escaping domestic violence have a difficult time securing employment and in many cases, childcare. And there are many others in

our community who live in poverty as well. I wanted to do something to help.

The Circles program is so unique because it's personal, one-on-one communication. It's very real. You don't write a check to an organization and imagine it's helping someone and you aren't dropping food off at the pantry, wondering which family it will help feed. Working with one family, getting to know the family personally, spending time socially, highlights the importance of "the details". There are multiple factors which contribute to poverty and there are different obstacles that each individual or family faces as they work to emerge from it. Sadly, poverty is common—but it doesn't mean that experience of poverty is the same for everyone.

Circle leaders gain confidence (and take ownership of the process) through their roles as leaders. I've witnessed some incredible transformations including improved self-confidence. And of course, allies benefit from the experience as well!

### Joan

The idea of intentional friendships appealed to my intuitive sense of how to make the world a better place to live'. In general, I support racial and cultural diversity and integrate these beliefs as much as I can into my own life. There are cultural differences between the poor and middle-class that I really was not aware of in the sense of understanding it intellectually until I joined Circles,

**See "CIRCLES", page 12**

# Circles® Volunteer Opportunities

Circles® is an intentional way for people to build relationships across class and race lines to end poverty in their communities. Circles® is a high impact strategy that will:

- Change the mind-set of the community so it wants to end poverty
- Change goals, policies, and approaches to end poverty
- Empower people in poverty to help solve community problems while transitioning out of poverty themselves

A Circle is a supportive, intentional, reciprocal, befriending relationship made up of one Circle Leader who is living in poverty and two to five Circles Allies who usually are from middle class. A Circle typically meets once or twice a month to build friendships and to work on the Circle Leader's dreams, plans, and goals.

A Circle Leader is an individual or family with a low-income who is interested in meeting her/his household needs on a consistent basis and becoming self-sufficient. The Circle Leader is responsible for her or his Circle; convening, leading, and giving and receiving support. She or he will work with the Allies to complete her/his plan that was developed in the Getting Ahead group and with the Circles Coach. Getting Ahead prepares Circle Leaders to take a leadership role in the Circle and to use their knowledge and skills as problem solvers to work on poverty issues in the community as well.

Circle Allies are community members who want to be in a supportive, intentional, befriending relationship with an individual or family working to get out of poverty. Circle Allies work with the Circle Leader to figure out how to accomplish her or his plan. Within the guidelines set by the Community Guiding Coalition, Circle Allies do what makes sense and what brings joy to the relationship. Circle Allies are trained in Bridges out of Poverty as a way to work with Circle Leaders in supporting their plans to get out of poverty.

Circles® provides support, making the sort of personal and community connections that are important to success.

## Circles® needs your help!

### **"How can I join the Circles® Community?"**

### **Become an Ally!**

As an Ally, you will provide friendship, acting as a sort of extended family member to a person or family living in poverty. You and your Circle will work together to accomplish specific goals set by the Circle Leader in order to increase his or her resources. As you walk alongside your Circle Leader, you will provide valuable knowledge and insight relating to a variety of life circumstances, whether it is financial or educational input, or social connections. We ask that you commit to your Circle for 18 months. You will also learn to see poverty in a different light, dispelling stereotypes about people who live in poverty.

After you are matched with a Circle, you will:

- Once a month, meet with your Circle
- Twice a month, attend the Thursday evening community dinner and meeting
- Contact your Circle Leader and their other allies as needed throughout the month
- Every Thursday we gather for our Circles® community dinner and meeting—volunteers make this possible!

### **Be a Youth Volunteer!**

Every Thursday evening, we meet for a community meal and meeting. Children are welcome to these meetings and after dinner they attend their own programming while their parents meet. Children of all ages participate in educational and character building activities. We are always looking for responsible, fun, and friendly volunteers to assist with the Youth Community.

### **Be a Food Volunteer!**

Our food volunteers provide a delicious meal for the entire Circles® community each week. We are looking for fun and enthusiastic volunteers to help plan, shop, prepare, serve, and clean! Dinner is

from 6:00–6:30 and food volunteers are generally needed between 4:30 and 8:00, although this may vary depending on preparation and clean-up time. Feel free to volunteer as often as you like, but there is no week-to-week obligation. This is a great opportunity for a group!

### **Be a Transportation Volunteer!**

Lack of transportation is often a barrier for people who live in poverty. If you have a good driving record, valid driver's license and insurance, you can help! You will use your own vehicle to transport Circles® families to and from community meetings. We can provide and install car seats if needed.

Weekly Circles® community meetings are held on Thursday evenings, 6:00–8:30 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, at East 3rd St. and E. 46 Bypass, behind Starbucks. Volunteers are always invited to enjoy the free dinner.

Interested? Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (812) 339-3447, ext. 283 or [circlevolunteer@insccap.org](mailto:circlevolunteer@insccap.org). For general inquiries contact Linda Patton (ext. 206) or Carrie Felton (ext. 263)

The Monroe County Circles® Initiative is part of the South Central Community Action Program. [www.insccap.org](http://www.insccap.org)

## Why is the Monroe County Circles® Initiative so important?

In Monroe County...

- National poverty rate in 2009 spiked to 14.3%—the largest jump since we started keeping records
- 20.7% of people in poverty are children under the age of 18
- Of people over age 25 who are in poverty, 29.6% are employed
- 60.2% have worked part-time or for at least part of the year in the last 12 months
- 67.6% have less than a high school degree or GED
- For 2009 Monroe County has the highest poverty rate in Indiana 21.9%

# Walk Confronts Local Hunger, Global Starvation

Two crises are addressed in one event on October 16: the increasing demand for emergency food in Monroe County and the persistence of starvation deaths in countries like Somalia. The annual CROP Hunger Walk benefits 5 local hunger-fighting agencies as it directs assistance to trouble spots around the world, where 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes every day.

### CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 16  
1:30 p.m. gather; 2 p.m. walk  
Kirkwood at Lincoln Streets

Starting from Kirkwood and Lincoln Streets in downtown Bloomington at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, the Hunger Walk is hosted by food agencies and loops through the B-Line Trail extension. Most of the walkers come in groups from local churches, schools, and scout or youth groups. Before and during the walk interactive stations invite adults and children to think about and talk about the decisions refugees and other hungry people have to make. "We walk because they walk" sums up the format of this fund-raising action in which participants experience a trek somewhat shorter than most mothers make to bring home food and water in developing countries.

The local beneficiaries of the Bloomington/Monroe County CROP Hunger Walk are: Community Kitchen, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Monroe County United Ministries, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and the Shalom Center. Overseas, the annual walk has met needs for food, water and development through non-governmental organizations in over 80 countries. Last year, 132 walkers raised \$15,807 through the over 1,000 sponsors. To explore how you can help through your organization or church or by sponsoring a walker call CROP Walk Coordinator, Roger Heimer at 333-5664.

# South Central Community Action Program

By Blakely Clements, Director of Communications and Development, SCCAP  
South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP)  
1500 W. 15th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404  
812-339-3447, ext. 262 • [www.insccap.org](http://www.insccap.org)

The South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) is a nonprofit organization based in Bloomington that has served low-income people for 46 years. Our mission is to provide opportunities for low-income citizens to move toward personal and economic independence.

SCCAP administers the Circles Initiative and Head Start programs in Monroe County, and also operates the Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Individual Development Account and Section 8 programs in Monroe, Morgan, Owen and Brown counties.

In 2010, it served more than 6,000 families, composed of more than 15,000 individuals.

**Energy Assistance:** Income eligible households receive assistance with the high cost of winter heating. Also, emergency assistance is available to households in danger of disconnection from gas or electric service, or who can't obtain fuel delivery during cold weather without help. In addition, the Summer Cool Program provides assistance with electric bills to keep families cool. Air conditioners may also be obtained for those with certified medical reasons.

In 2010, it served 5,670 households composed of 13,562 people.

**Head Start:** The Head Start program serves children aged three through five and their families. Many services are provided to these children from low-income families, including health and nutrition, special needs services, family

services parent involvement, social services and transportation. In 2010, Head Start operated 17 classrooms around Monroe County with a daily enrollment of 269 children.

**Early Head Start:** The Head Start program serves children aged 0 through three and their families. Many services are provided to these children from low-income families, including health and nutrition, special needs services, family services parent involvement, social services and transportation. 2010 was the first year for Early Head Start.

**Weatherization:** The Weatherization Program reduces energy consumption in low-income households and insures that each client has a safe operating heat source. Each client receives a furnace inspection and an energy audit. SCCAP uses private contractors to install insulation and to seal the house. Homeowners and renters are eligible.

In 2010, SCCAP weatherized the homes of 288 households that housed 592 people.

**Circles® Initiative:** The Circles® Initiative builds friendships across race and class lines and aids vulnerable families in achieving self-sufficiency. Low-income participants attend an 18-week training, "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World," to increase their educational, financial, social and spiritual resources. These participants, called Circles Leaders, are then matched with trained "Circle Allies" who offer continued support.

Weekly meetings help grow community, identify and address barriers to self-sufficiency and give back by offering information to the community about poverty in Monroe County.

This program had 30 participating low-income households in Monroe County in 2010 and providing training to more than 1,200 people in four counties. It also had 220 volunteers who donated 2,850 hours of their time.

**Section 8 Housing:** Section 8 Housing Vouchers assist low-income households with safe, and affordable housing. This program allows households to find their own rental units within HUD's guidelines. The household's rent is subsidized based on their income.

This program served 352 families in four counties in 2010.

**Individual Development Accounts:** The Individual Development Account Program assists qualifying individuals to accumulate savings and develop personal financial skills. The savings are deposited in a bank account that receives matching funds from state and federal sources. These funds are then monitored by SCCAP and the participant and can be used for purchase or rehabilitation of an existing home, for post-secondary educational costs for the participant or a dependent, or for the purchase, startup, or expansion of a small business.

**Affordable Rental Housing:** SCCAP has three rental units in the city of

Bloomington and several units in Brown and Owen counties. These units are rented to families who are at, or below, 50% of the area median income guidelines and are more affordable to families because rents are below the market rate.

**Family Development/Self-Sufficiency:** This program helps families with multiple problems to become economically self-sufficient. Barriers often encountered are: lack of education, employment/training, vocational training, work experience, transportation, childcare, and life skills counseling.

Case managers work with the family to establish priorities and goals necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and form a step-by-step case management plan. Case managers work intensely with participants, providing life skills counseling, support, advocacy, decision-making and money management skills and reinforcement of positive self-esteem. Local agencies work cooperatively to insure that the participant receives appropriate services.

**Monroe County:** 812-339-3447

Head Start: 812-334-8350

Early Head Start: 812-935-5562

**Brown County:** 812-988-6636

**Morgan County:** 765-342-0688

**Owen County:** 812-829-2279

Please visit our website to learn more about each service offered by SCCAP: [www.insccap.org](http://www.insccap.org)

## CIRCLES

Continued from page 10

even though I had lived as a 'poor' single mother in Bloomington for 15 years or so. Being raised in the middle class, I was not aware of the 'hidden rules' that govern the poor, middle-class, and wealthy.

In the end, all that we value in this life comes down to relationships and joining the Circles anti-poverty initiative has afforded me the opportunity to enlarge my circle of friends (I used to think I didn't need any more) and connections in general. In closing, I can only speak for myself reliably that belonging to this group of people has changed my way of thinking about the issues of poverty and

class that persist in plaguing mankind in general and Bloomington in particular.

## David

I became an Ally when I learned that Circles was a unique program in our community that connected individuals and families (Circle Leaders) with little financial and other resources to others in

our community (Circle Allies) with much greater resources. It is this connection that provides advice and friendship that provides a positive impact on the Circle Leaders and their families. It has increased my understanding of the issues involved. I have seen numerous Circle Leaders express themselves more openly and play a leadership role in the Circles program.

# Volunteer Needs

## Vision Outreach Training

Bosma Enterprises is a statewide not-for-profit organization offering comprehensive training and support services to Indiana residents who experience a loss of vision which makes it difficult for them to live and work independently. Bosma Enterprises trains volunteers throughout the state to spread the message that help is available at no cost for all Hoosiers over 18 years of age. Volunteers engage in outreach activities at ophthalmologists' offices and senior living facilities, staff information booths, and speak at service clubs and disability events. Bosma Enterprises conducts free two-day workshops to train volunteers, which are conducted in Indianapolis. The next session is Nov. 2-3.

Training topics include: overview of programs; how to prepare for an outreach event; blind etiquette; sighted guide training; and presentation skills. Volunteers accepted into the program receive free meals, free lodging for one night and mileage reimbursement if they have traveled more than 50 miles. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Lise Pace at (317) 704-8196, 1-866-602-6762 (toll-free) or [volunteer@bosma.org](mailto:volunteer@bosma.org). ([www.bosma.org](http://www.bosma.org))

## Roofing or Carpentry

Middle Way House, which strives to end violence of all forms, needs someone with experience in patching a roof and also someone with experience in small carpentry work. If you have these skills, they would greatly appreciate any assistance you could provide! Minimum age is 18. Please contact Debra Morrow at (812) 337-4510 or [volunteer@middlewayhouse.org](mailto:volunteer@middlewayhouse.org). ([www.middlewayhouse.org](http://www.middlewayhouse.org))

## Homework Help Coaches

Edgewood Junior High School in Ellettsville is searching for caring adults to spend a minimum of one class period per week with a student struggling with academics or who has a high absentee rate. Responsibilities include assisting with homework, helping the student get organized and encouraging him/her to become more engaged in school. An informal orientation will be provided. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Kathleen Weller at (812) 272-6483 or [katkins@bluemarble.net](mailto:katkins@bluemarble.net). ([www.ejhs.rbbcs.org](http://www.ejhs.rbbcs.org))

## Caring Companions

Would you like to bring some cheer and help to others as a Caring Companion? This RSVP program

has a long waiting list and they are looking for volunteers to make friendly, neighborly visits to lonely seniors who may be disabled. The services they offer include light housekeeping, pet walking, running errands, grocery shopping, sharing interests and hobbies, simple conversation or telephone reassurance. If you would like to help a senior keep some independence and remain at home longer, join them! Matches are made carefully and monthly support/training meetings for volunteers are provided. Teens and adults welcome. Please contact Cecelia Trueblood at (812) 876-3383 ext. 554 or [ctrueblood@area10agency.org](mailto:ctrueblood@area10agency.org). ([www.area10agency.org/rsvp](http://www.area10agency.org/rsvp))

**Get Involved!** "This is your world. Shape it or someone else will." ~ Gary Lew

## Mentor At-Risk Youth

The Salvation Army is offering a free tutoring program for at-risk youth in Kindergarten through 12th grade every Wed. from 4-5:15 p.m. Volunteers will focus on homework assignments and skill-building activities to improve academic performance and increase confidence and self respect. A small time commitment is all it takes to shape a local child's future! Volunteers must be at least high school age. Please contact Courtney Grau at (812) 336-4310 ext.12 or [Courtney\\_Grau@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Courtney_Grau@usc.salvationarmy.org). ([www.bloomington.salvationarmyindiana.org](http://www.bloomington.salvationarmyindiana.org))

## Deliver Meals

Bloomington Meals on Wheels needs your help delivering meals once a month. All meals are delivered over the noon hour within the city. They currently have spouses, co-workers, siblings and friends who use this time to get together while helping others. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must have their own transportation, a valid driver's license and a registered vehicle that meets the state minimum insurance standards. Please contact Kathy Romy at (812) 353-2248 or [mow@bloomingtonhospital.org](mailto:mow@bloomingtonhospital.org).

## Group to Assemble Charts

Volunteers In Medicine of Monroe County needs 8-10 people to assemble patient charts. They set it up in assembly line fashion, with each person putting stickers on tabs or assembling the final chart with dividers. They use 20-30 new charts each week and can typically assemble about 200 charts in two

to three hours. Adult and teen volunteers are most welcome. Please contact Shelley Sallee at (812) 333-4033 or [ssallee@vimonroecounty.org](mailto:ssallee@vimonroecounty.org). ([www.vimonroecounty.org](http://www.vimonroecounty.org))

## Kitchen Volunteers

Why not put your kitchen skills to work helping with meal preparation, serving and clean up for the Shalom Community Center's breakfast and lunch meals served Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.? Be a part of a team or go on your own—you'll always find friends in the kitchen at Shalom! A minimum commitment of two hours per week is requested. Please contact Pam Kinnaman at (812) 334-5734 or [volunteer@shalomcommunitycenter.org](mailto:volunteer@shalomcommunitycenter.org). ([www.shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org))

## Step Team Coordinators

Stepping or step-dancing is a form of percussive dance in which the participant's entire body is used as an instrument to produce complex rhythms and sounds through a mixture of footsteps, spoken word, and hand claps. Cry of the Children's Step Team is looking for one or more coordinators who would be interested in creating step routines for this youth troupe of elementary, middle and high school dancers. The participants are also encouraged to create their own routines. All of this instruction culminates with community performances at Tri-North Middle School, Bloomington North High School, and the Juneteenth celebration, among others. All ages

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

are welcome! Volunteer forms are available by contacting Dellsie Boddie at (812) 361-4059 or [cryofthechildren@gmail.com](mailto:cryofthechildren@gmail.com).

## Mobile Meal Drivers

Mobile Meal Delivery Drivers for the Area 10 Agency on Aging ensure that homebound seniors receive hot, nutritious lunches five days a week. These seniors rely on volunteers to get their basic needs met. Most likely, you will be the only person they see all day, and the meal you deliver may be the only one they eat all day. You must have access

**See "VOLUNTEER NEEDS", page 14**

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

*Continued from page 13*

to your own transportation. Ideally, you will be able to deliver once a week over several months to ensure a feeling of stability for the seniors. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Laura Kray at (812) 876-3383 or lkray@area10agency.org. ([www.area10agency.org](http://www.area10agency.org))

### Family Shelter Site Supervisors

New Hope Family Shelter seeks volunteers to serve weekly as Site Supervisors for two or four-hour shifts. Volunteers may choose any shift at this 24/7 facility. Site Supervisors will interact with families in residence, helping adults locate resources and helping children choose activities, and will answer the phone. Must be reliable, responsible and pass a background check; tobacco, alcohol, and narcotics are not allowed. Please contact Jim Riley at (812) 340-3052 or [jim@nhfsinc.org](mailto:jim@nhfsinc.org) to find out when their next training will be. ([www.newhopefamilyshelter.org](http://www.newhopefamilyshelter.org))

### Circles Initiative Meal Team

Dinner is served each Thurs. to about 50 Circles Initiative participants and help is needed with meal planning, preparation, serving and cleanup. Cooks must be available from about 4:30-7:30 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged to assemble a team of five to seven friends or to volunteer as an individual. Some people enjoy cooking a dish at home and bringing it to serve, while others prefer to cook in the kitchen at St. Marks Methodist Church. Your volunteer experience will contain lots of interaction with fun, friendly people. Though return visits are welcome, there is no week-to-week obligation. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact Linda Patton, South Central Community Action Program, at (812) 339-3447 ext. 206 or [lindap@inccap.org](mailto:lindap@inccap.org). ([www.inccap.org/pages/circles](http://www.inccap.org/pages/circles))

# Special Section: Therapeutic Jail And Re-entry Programs

## Summary of New Leaf-New Life Jail Programs

*The following is excerpted from a previous article in Safety-Net written by Tania Karnofsky, Program Director, New-Leaf-New Life*

New Leaf/New Life is a non-profit organization that has introduced a variety of educational, therapeutic, and recreational programs to inmates in the Monroe County Jail. Some of the programs are in partnership with other organizations.

### Addicts in Recovery (AIR) Community

Participation in this program is limited to men who have volunteered and expressed a desire to overcome addictions and make a positive change in their lives. Participants in this program attend daily groups focusing on substance abuse, anger management, life skills, and community building. RSVP volunteers come in every month and bring activities and art projects that are sent to children and family members. New Leaf-New Life

volunteers provide other enrichment programs including play reading, art, meditation, and discussion groups on a variety of topics.

### Other Programs

On Saturday mornings there is a creative writing group for men. Twice a month volunteers from Women Writing for (a) Change hold a writing circle for women. Every week volunteers from St. Mark's Church come in and run Bingo games in the blocks on a rotating basis.

### GED/Education/Employability Classes

Those who pass the GED exam earn a credential equivalent to a high school diploma. In January 2011 New Leaf-New Life replaced the Monroe County School Corporation in partnering with the Monroe County Jail to the GED/educational program

in the jail. Inmates (both men and women) who participate in this program are offered the opportunity to improve their basic skills, prepare for the GED exam, and take a pre-test to determine readiness to take the GED exam.

### Transition Programs

New Leaf/New Life also runs a Transition Program. The Transition Program focuses on practical things that can be done to raise the likelihood that inmates will make a smooth transition when released back into the community. Some of what the Transition Program supplies include birth certificates, Amethyst House applications, reading glasses. The Transition Program also facilitates people making contact with their employers, family members, landlords, etc. on a case by case basis.

## HOME

*Continued from page 5*

the Paula and her family is just the right thing to do!"

The partnership is especially meaningful for Lawson. "I'm looking forward to the stability for my kids," she said. To qualify for a Habitat home, each family must have the ability to pay a non-profit mortgage, and invest at least 250 hours of "sweat equity" or volunteer hours. Lawson looks forward to completing her hours

constructing her home alongside volunteers. She said, "When Habitat builds a house, we can say 'I helped build my house,' how many people can say that?"

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County creates affordable housing by building in partnership with families in need of adequate homes. The Lawson home was dedicated on September 17 in a community celebration and program with the sponsors.

### About Solution Tree

Solution Tree is a Bloomington-based educational publishing and services company. Solution Tree produces a wide array of titles and delivers institutes, summits, workshops and on-site professional development featuring leading educational experts from around the world. Solution Tree helps K-12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children can succeed. For more information, visit [www.solution-tree.com](http://www.solution-tree.com).

**See "HOME", page 15**

## About Team Zachary

On May 4th, 2008, 26-year-old, Iraqi veteran Zachary May died of lymphoma. His final wish was that his death would encourage others to fight this disease. His family and friends continue Zachary's brave battle. Learn more about Zachary and how you can help achieve his wish at [www.teamzachary.com](http://www.teamzachary.com).

## About Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County is a nonprofit housing ministry dedicated to building decent, affordable housing in partnership with those in need in Monroe County, Ind. Since 1988, this affiliate has built more than 100 homes in partnership with local families. For more information, visit [www.monroecountyhabitat.org](http://www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

## About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. For more information, or to donate or volunteer, visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).

# Directory of agencies and services

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

**Unless otherwise noted all services and agencies are located in Bloomington.**

## Addiction Counseling

### Amethyst House

**Address:** 645 N. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-3570

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

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

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

### Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.

**Address:** 645 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-1691

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

### Alcoholics Anonymous

**Address:** Hours and locations vary.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8191

**Web:** [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org)

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

## Adult Education

### MCCSC Adult Education

**Address:** Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

**Phone:** (812) 330-7731

**Web:** [www.adult.mccsc.edu](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu)

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

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

## AIDS/HIV Services

### Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

**Address:** 333 E. Miller Dr.

**Phone:** (812) 353-9150

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

**About:** About: HIV testing and extensive care coordination for those living with HIV/AIDS. Serve as a community resource regarding HIV/AIDS education

and awareness. Also offer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing.

## Clothing, furniture, housewares

### Backstreet Missions Thrift Store

**Address:** 1911 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 333-3341

### Monroe County United Ministries

**Address:** 827 W. 14 Ct.

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Rebecca Gordan ([812] 353-9150; [mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** Provides a subsidized Child-Care Program for low-income families in Monroe County, which includes a year-round program for children two to six years old, and a summer camp subsidized child-care for children ages six to ten, when school is out of session. All care-givers in the families either work full time or attend school part-time and work part-time. There is also an Emergency Services Program that assists families who are experiencing a short-term crisis. The Emergency Services Program includes a food pantry, a clothing program, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

### My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

**Address:** 404 W. 2nd St.

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

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

**About:** Provides low-income women with free interview and workplace apparel,

**See "DIRECTORY", page 16**

## DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 15*

helping them overcome hurdles they face to independence and family self-sufficiency. Also sells used, affordable clothes to the public.

### Salvation Army

**Address:** 111 N. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-4310

**Volunteer Contact:** Monica Clemons ([812] 336-4310 x10; monica\_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org)

**About:** Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, furniture, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, summer child care, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, child care connection, nursing home visitation, gas vouchers, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store. All services are without charge with the exception of Child Care Connection and thrift store.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Address:** 4607 West State Road 46

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

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

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

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

## Disabilities assistance programs

### Abilities Unlimited

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

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

**Web:** [www.abilitiesunlimited.net](http://www.abilitiesunlimited.net)

**Volunteer Contact:** Lynne Argent ([812]332-1620; au@abilitiesunlimited.net)

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

### Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1732

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

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

### Options

**Address:** 200 E. Winslow Rd.

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

**Web:** [www.optionsfbl.com](http://www.optionsfbl.com)

**Volunteer Contact:** Karen Scherer, (kscherer@optionsfbl.com)

**About:** For over 26 years, Options has provided customer-oriented, community-integrated services to people of all ages with disabilities. Options offers customize services in community living, employment and continuing education. Other services include health care coordination, behavior supports and respite. Options services are available in seven South-Central Indiana counties. Options' mission is to partner with people with disabilities and their communities to bring about self-directed and fulfilled lives.

### People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

**Address:** 680 W. That Rd.

**Phone:** (812) 336-2798

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

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

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

### Stone Belt

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

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

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

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

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

## Employment resources and job counseling

### WorkOne

**Address:** 450 Landmark Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 331-6000

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

### Options

*See disabilities assistance programs.*

### Stone Belt

*See disabilities assistance programs.*

### Job Links

**About:** An Area 10 Agency on Aging RSVP program that helps people evaluate job needs, inventory skills, review available jobs, develop a resume, prepare for an interview, and link with potential employers. Services are free, confidential, and non-discriminatory for job-seekers of all ages. Job Links counselors are available at Shalom Center (334-5728), Salvation Army (336-4310), and Area 10 Agency on Aging (876-3383).

## Family Services

### El Centro Comunal Latino

**Address:** 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11

**Phone:** (812) 355-7513

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

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

### Head Start Program

**Address:** 1520 W. 15th St.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8350

**Web:** [www.headstart.bloomington.in.us/](http://www.headstart.bloomington.in.us/)

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

### IN Dept. of Child Services

**Address:** 1717 W. 3rd St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-6351

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

**See "DIRECTORY", page 17**

## DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 16*

### Division of Family Resources

**Address:** 1787 W. 3rd St.  
**Phone:** 1-(800)-403-0864

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

### Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

**Address:** 827 W. 14th Court  
**Phone:** (812) 339-3429

**Web:** [www.mcum.org](http://www.mcum.org)  
**Hours:** 6:30am-5:30pm

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

### WIC Program

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive  
**Phone:** (812) 353-3221

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

### Food stamps

**Division of Family Resources**  
*See family services.*

### Health care

#### Futures Family Health Clinic

**Address:** 338 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 349-7343

**About:** provides family planning health services for adolescents, men, and women. Services are provided on a sliding fee schedule based on income. Services offered include annual exam and Pap smear, pregnancy testing, STD and HIV 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](http://www.bloomingtonhospital.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Melanie Miller ([812]353-9818; [mmiller@bloomhealth.org](mailto:mmiller@bloomhealth.org))

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

#### Hoosier Healthwise for Children

**Address:** 401 Morton St., Suite 260 (City Hall)  
**Phone:** (812) 349-3851  
**Web:** [www.hoosierhealthwise.net](http://www.hoosierhealthwise.net)

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

#### Monroe County Public Health Clinic

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive  
**Phone:** (812) 353-3244  
**About:** Services provided include screenings for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, elevated blood sugar, anemia, elevated lead, tuberculosis, head lice and pregnancy; health and wellness assessments; communicable disease education. Call for appointment.

#### Planned Parenthood

**Address:** 421 S. College Ave.  
**Phone:** (812) 336-0219  
**Web:** [www.ppin.org](http://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](http://www.vistacare.com)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Cathi Counterman ([812] 340-3467; [cathi.counterman@vistacare.com](mailto: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](http://www.vimmonroecounty.org)

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

#### Backstreet Missions

**Address:** 215 Westplex Ave.

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

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

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

#### Martha's House

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St. (office) 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)  
**Phone:** (812) 335-6841 (812) 332-1444 (office)

**Volunteer Contact:** Bobbie Summers

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

### Housing (Family Shelter)

#### New Hope Family Shelter

**Phone:** (812) 334-9840  
**E-mail:** [newhope@nhfsinc.org](mailto: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:** 573 & 577 Graham Place near Bloomington High School

**Phone:** (812) 339-4456

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

*See "DIRECTORY", page 18*

## DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 17*

### Housing (Pregnant women)

#### Hannah House Maternity Home

**Address:** 808 N. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 334-2662

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

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

### Housing (Rental)

#### Bloomington Housing Authority

**Address:** 1007 N. Summit St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3491

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

#### Housing and Neighborhood Development

**Address:** 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

**Phone:** (812) 349-3420

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.gov/hand](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/hand)

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

#### South Central Community Action Program, Inc.

**Address:** 1500 W. 15th St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3447

**Web:** <http://www.sccap.monroe.in.us/>

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

**About:** State and federal anti-poverty programs for low income individuals and

families. Weatherization Assistance, Energy Assistance, Owner Occupied Rehabilitation, Section 8 rent subsidy program.

### Housing (homeless youth)

#### Stepping Stones

**Address:** PO Box 1366

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

**Web:** [www.steppingstones-inc.org](http://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](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net)

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

### Legal and court-related services

#### Community Justice & Mediation Center

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

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

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Need of Services (CHINS); Consumer (collections and repossessions); Education (including expulsion and access to special education services and Vocational Rehabilitation); Access to Justice (e.g. denial of a court-appointed attorney in certain civil cases).

#### Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

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

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

**Web:** [www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp](http://www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp)

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

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

#### Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

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

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

**Web:** [www.co.monroe.in.us](http://www.co.monroe.in.us)

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

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

### Meals and pantries (no cost)

#### Meals

#### Area 10 Agency on Aging

**Address:** 630 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

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

**Web:** [www.area10agency.org](http://www.area10agency.org)

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

**Congregate Meals** — We offer congregate meals at 11 am at the following locations: Spencer Senior Center, Fairview United Methodist Church—Bloomington, Cambridge Square Apts.—Bloomington,

Unionville Senior Center, and Maple Shores Apts.—Ellettsville. Seniors must be over 60, and a \$2 donation is requested.

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

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

#### Backstreet Missions (Gino's Cafeteria)

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

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

#### Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

**Address:** 714 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 323-4982

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~meals](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~meals)

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

#### Bloomington Catholic Worker

**Address:** 573 & 577 Graham Place near Bloomington High School

**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.

## DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 18*

### Community Kitchen

**Address:** 1515 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-0999

**Web:** [www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)

**Volunteer Contact:** Annie Brookshire ([812] 332-0999; [volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com))

**Monday-Saturday:** Dinner: 4-6 p.m.  
**About:** Provides hot meals in a sit-down area as well as cold carry-out boxed meals. Also provides meals for afterschool programs at Boys and Girls Club, The Rise, Girls, Inc., Monroe County Community Corrections JAMS Program, Teen Learning Center, and Rhino's Youth Center.

### Community Kitchen Express

**Address:** 1100 W. 11th St.

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

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

### First Christian Church

**Address:** Corner of Kirkwood Ave. and Washington St.

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

### Harvest House Soup Kitchen

**Address:** 1107 S. Fairview Dr.

**Phone:** (812) 339-4462

**Sunday:** Lunch: 2-4 p.m.

### Shalom Community Center

**Address:** 620 South Walnut Street

**Phone:** (812) 334-5728

**Web:** [www.shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Pam Kinnaman ([812] 334-5734; [pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org](mailto:pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org))

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

**About:** A daytime resource center for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. The facility is open all day and functions as a Day Shelter for guests, where they can use restroom facilities, make phone calls, and do their laundry. Guests

can go there to see case workers, employment counselors, connect with visiting agencies, seek assistance through the Family Homelessness Prevention Project, store belongings, receive mail, use restroom facilities, and take a hot shower.

### Pantries/Groceries

#### Area 10 Agency on Aging

*See meals and pantries — meals*

#### Hoosier Hills Food Bank

**Address:** 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive

**Phone:** (812) 334-8374

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Kai Westerfield (334-8374; [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto: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](http://www.mcum.org)

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

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

#### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

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

**Phone:** (812) 355-6843

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

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

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

#### Salvation Army

**Address:** 111 N. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-4310

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

**About:** Need ID. Depending upon income and resources, can offer one week's sup-

ply of groceries. Will not provide again for at least 30 days.

#### First United Methodist Church

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

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

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

#### Township Trustees Food Pantries—

##### Bloomington

**Address:** 2111 W. Vernal Pike

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

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

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

#### Township Trustees Food Pantries—

##### Perry

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

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

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

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

### Medicaid

#### Division of Family Resources

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

### Older citizen programs

#### Area 10 Agency on Aging

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

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

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~area10](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~area10)

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

Program for those 55 and older seeking employment, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in Ellettsville, and also manages the Rural Transit bus service.

### Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

#### Planned Parenthood

*See health care.*

#### WIC Program

*See family services.*

### Rent, utility, bill assistance

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

### Youth programs

#### Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Address:** 418 S. Walnut St.

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

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

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

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

**See "DIRECTORY", page 20**

## DIRECTORY

*Continued from page 19*

### Bloomington Boys and Girls Club

**Address:** 311 S. Lincoln St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-5311

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Lily Kleinlein ([812] 334-2828 x232; [lklein@bigsindian.org](mailto:lklein@bigsindian.org))

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

### Girls Inc.

**Address:** 1108 W. 8th St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-7313

**Web:** [www.girlsinc-monroe.org](http://www.girlsinc-monroe.org)

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Libby Gwynn ([812] 334-8349; [libby@harmonyschool.org](mailto: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](http://www.rhinosyouthcenter.org)

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

**About:** Provides entertainment as well as other programs for the youth of our community in an alcohol, tobacco, and drug free environment. In addition to music and

shows, provides programs in partnership with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department through the week after school. Several creative and practical classes and workshops, as well as mentoring, tutoring, counseling, and more, are available.

### Youth Services Bureau

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

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

**Web:** [www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://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](http://www.CatholicCharitiesBtown.org)

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

#### Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

**Address:** 213 E. Kirkwood Avenue

**Phone:** (812) 331-4069

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Tess Hannah (339-8710; [midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.mcpl.info)

**About:** Offers books, magazines, audio-visual materials, Internet computers, and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile (with over 25 stops weekly), and the Outreach Van. Library cards are available at no charge to all county residents. The VITAL literacy program offers one-on-one confidential tutoring to adult learners and ESL classes. During the school year the Main Library offers homework help to elementary students and math homework help to teens. During tax season volunteers offer tax help. The library also offers public meeting rooms to nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community may produce a program through CATS for the Public Access Channel

#### Monroe County Wrap-Around

**Address:** 645 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 337-2225

**About:** Monroe County Wrap-Around is a multi-agency committee that provides needed services to families with children. For example, a case is brought to a particular agency, then a representative from that agency can present the case to Wrap-Around and all participating Wrap-Around agencies can play a role in coordinating

help to the family in the most effective way. The planning process is done with the families "in the driver's seat". Each family identifies a "team" that works with them, and the team develops a plan based upon the strengths and needs of the specific family. Representatives from families also serve on committees that examine the policies and goals of Wrap-Around. This summer, the Lost Child Fund, which operates within Wrap-Around, is accepting funds to send children of working single parents to camp.

#### New Leaf-New Life, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 7071

**Phone:** (812) 349-2890

**Web:** [www.newleaf-newlife.org](http://www.newleaf-newlife.org)

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