DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

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December 2017

Barbara Blakey
Editor

Issue 1712
Published Monthly

Dove, Inc.
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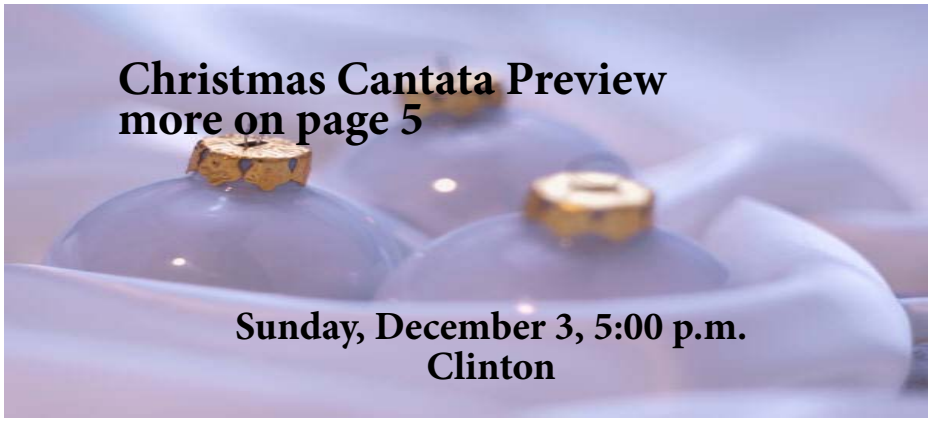
Dove's Mission

Dove is a coalition of religious organizations, volunteers, and advocates that seeks to coordinate efforts to address unmet human needs and social injustices.

Dove works for justice, equality and understanding among all people.

Christmas Basket Drive
more on page 3

will serve more than 150 families
volunteer the week of December 18 - 22
delivery day is December 23
contact Angie Williams,
Coordinator, at
428.6616 or awilliams@doveinc.org



Christmas Cantata Preview
more on page 5

Sunday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.
Clinton

Santa's Workshop
more on page 4

Saturday, December 2
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Many Volunteer Opportunities for this month and in the months to come.
Be sure to check out upcoming trainings and one-time opportunities.

this year | we gave people safe options & new pathways to self-sufficiency | we shared resources, food & clothing | we gave options to serve & to give

Dove, Inc.

Leadership Team

Christine Gregory
Executive Director

Tammy Wilcox
Assistant Director

Barbara Blakey
Director of Volunteers & Community Relations

Teri Ducy
Domestic Violence Program Director

Darsonya Switzer
Homeward Bound Program Director

Program Leadership

BABES •
Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies
Sandy Laesch, Program Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room
Sandra Harmison, Coordinator

DAX • DeWitt County Assistance eXchange
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

DeWitt County Food Pantry
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program
Teri Ducy, Program Director
Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator
Mary Hughes, Moultrie County Coordinator
Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Homeward Bound
Darsonya Switzer, Program Director

MAX • Macon County Assistance eXchange
Rev. Shane Hartman, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Christina Gillaspie, Program Director
Sheryl Whisman, DeWitt County Coordinator

Letter from the Executive Director of Dove, Inc.: Coordinating Efforts to Address Unmet Needs and Social Injustices.

Christine Gregory, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been a goat? A head-butting, territorial, grumpy goat? I know that I have, and it's something that I have to actively work to overcome. How do we avoid those instincts? Matthew 25 instructs us that we should put away those goatish thoughts by giving food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and visiting the prisoner.

This December as we prepare for the celebration of the coming of our Lord, past and again, let us each look for ways to take care of the least of those amongst us. Support Dove, Inc. as we look to the future with volunteer services including Coats for Kids being distributed and Christmas Basket deliveries, service to our community through RSVP, BABES, MAX/DAX, and the Children's Clothing Room, as well as our programs to shelter those touched by domestic violence and house the homeless.

If you or your organization's members would like to learn more about supporting Dove's mission, please reach out to our Volunteer & Community Relations Director, Barb Blakey. Dove, Inc. is only as strong as its member organizations, volunteers and advocates. It is my sincere hope that you will be a part of making our home a community free of human suffering.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Christine Gregory

Well, it's begun.

Family and friends have started asking me what I want for Christmas this year. Each year it gets more difficult for me to come up with tangible gift ideas. The truth is, there isn't much of anything I'm lacking. I'm not saying that to brag, but because it's a realization I've come to over the last few Christmases. A lot of this comes from working at the Christmas Baskets Program here at Dove. I look around a room filled with hats and gloves, toys and gift items that will go to about 350 families – around 1,300 individuals, and it dawns on me every year how lucky I am. How thankful I am. How easily things could change for me and I could be one of those in need of a basket for my family for the season.

Each year I take calls from people who are facing hardship: the recent death of a spouse or provider, a job loss just a couple of months before the holiday season, a family with so many medical expenses that they can't afford Christmas dinner and presents for their children. It's heart-wrenching to listen to, and I can't imagine having to experience it, and yet I'm always aware that it could be me. It could be you, too. It's why every donation and volunteer at the Christmas Baskets Program is so vital.

Each toy donated is one more child that we can provide a gift to on Christmas morning. Each dollar given is one we can use to purchase toys, hats and gloves, and wrapping paper. Each hat and gloves set brought to us can assure that one more person can stay a little warmer this winter. Each volunteer who comes to help during baskets week ascertains that the baskets get packaged and delivered to the families we're serving on time.

I remember as a child how enthusiastic I would get each day closer to Christmas. Everything excited me. The music, the lights, the food, the presents. Seeing the stores all decked out with decorations, and then putting up our own decorations at home and at my grandma's. I still love Christmas, but there's a certain amount of bittersweet heartache that goes along with it now, knowing there are so many people in need and that no matter how many people we help, there are more out there that we will never even know about. I suppose this is all part of being an adult and losing the easy fantasies of youth.

When people ask me what I want this Christmas, the truth is now that things I wish for aren't tangible. There is a song that best sums it up for me, and made popular by Amy Grant titled, "My Grown Up Christmas List." The lyrics to the chorus are as follows:

"No more lives torn apart,
That wars would never start
and time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, oh
This is my grown-up Christmas List."

Items Needed for the Christmas Baskets Drive:

- Items for infants (clothes, toys, diapers, etc.)
- Gift items for teen boys (hoodies, cologne, watches, games, etc.)
- Wrapping paper, tape, gift sacks of ALL sizes (doesn't have to be Christmas-oriented)
- Hats and gloves and scarves

We will need people to deliver baskets on Saturday, December 23, starting at 8:30 a.m. If you are able to deliver to places out of Decatur (Mt. Zion, Moweaqua, Blue Mound, Macon, etc.), please call Angie ASAP and let her know that you're able to do this. Traditionally these clients have had to pick up their own baskets from Decatur, but if you're willing, we'd certainly appreciate it!

Santa's Workshop

Saturday, December 2, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

American Legion
8 East Strain Street, Sullivan

Bake Sale
Silent Auction
Free Crafting Tables for the Children
50/50 drawing
and Treats for purchase

Come out and enjoy this free event while supporting Dove's Domestic Violence Program in Moultrie County.
For more information contact the Dove office at 728-9303.

Supporting the Moultrie County Domestic Violence Program
Sponsored by Moultrie County CADV
www.doveinc.org

Dove, Inc.

Christmas Cantata Preview

Sunday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.

First Christian Church
100 North Jackson Street, Clinton

Featuring area choirs
sharing the sounds
of the season.

This annual event benefits
Dove's Domestic Violence Program
803 W. Leander, Clinton
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Dove, Inc.
www.doveinc.org

Heritage & Holly Historic Home Tour

Sweet Beginnings

a fundraiser for all Dove's programs

Thanks to all who attended the 2017 event! We appreciate the gracious host sites who made the event possible. And thanks to all the volunteers who greeted visitors at the sites and worked behind the scenes. More on this event in an upcoming newsletter.

Thanks to our Sponsors!

WDKR 107.3 Classic Hits ♫ WXFM 99.3 Country

NSU NETWORK SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED

26th Annual Coats for Kids!

Thanks to all who donated!

You can still donate through November 30th!

Watch for a complete wrap-up in an upcoming newsletter!

Participating Clothing Rooms
Where to get a coat!

Dove Clothing Room
Prairie Avenue Christian Church, 2201 E. Prairie, Decatur
Monday - Thursday, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Northeast Community Fund, 825 N. Water Street, Decatur
Monday - Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Antioch Baptist Church, 516 N. Church Street, Decatur
Tuesday, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

New Life Pregnancy Center, 1698 E. Pershing Road, Decatur
Mondays, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Only Maternity Clothing and children's clothing infant to 6

Salvation Army, 229 W. Main, Decatur
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Office closed- Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Reasonable Service Free Clothing Room, 321 E. Leafland, Decatur
2nd & 4th Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Seeking Volunteers for the Annual Point-in-Time Count

We want you! Please consider volunteering for the Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count for Macon County. Each year it is essential to gain an accurate count of our homeless population in Macon County so we can evaluate services necessary to meet the needs of those needing housing, and it takes a team to make that happen! The 2018 PIT count is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018, and there are shifts available between 5:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. - we would love to have you help out!

In order to be able to participate as a volunteer, a training is required (will take about 1-2 hours at the most) to learn about the process and what will be expected on the day of the count. The training is set for Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

If you have any interest, would like to know more, or want to sign up, please contact the PIT Coordinator, Mary Garrison,
email: mgarrison@millikin.edu
cell: 309.532.1803

This is a wonderful volunteer experience and a great way to learn more about homelessness in Macon County - we hope you will consider volunteering!

NEWS
from the Domestic Violence Program

With the holidays upon us, most of us are fortunate to be sitting down to our holiday meals with our beloved family members and/or special friends. Personally, I am so grateful for so many things – my grown sons and their wonderful wives, my three beautiful grandchildren, my 88-year-old Dad who is still able to live in the home I grew up in, drives, and is able to still care for himself, a loving sister and brother, as well as the closeness of my extended family and the many times shared with all of them throughout the year. I am grateful for a job I have that I love – for an agency whose Mission I fully believe in and support on a daily basis. I work with an awesome team of staff who genuinely care about one another, not to mention their own passion for the clients we serve. I am forever grateful for being in the very location I was at on January 17, 2017, when I unfortunately was hit from behind – twice – while stopped at a red light by a drunk driver. God works in His own way – in His perfect timing – because if not for this happening, and following up with a check up through the emergency room a couple days later, I would not have known that I had a cancerous spot on my lung. Again – God carried me through – as He guided the surgeon's hand, my cancer was removed, and I did not have to receive any chemo or radiation!!! I am grateful for all the beautiful friendships I have in my life – ones who have stood beside me in times of sadness and despair, as well as shared in my happiness. I am a member of a loving church family and am so thankful for having the opportunity to freely express my faith. The list is limitless.

For some families, having everyone together under one roof is a joyous celebration. However, for victims of domestic violence and their children, this could be a recipe for disaster. Some family members may have high expectations for how they want the holidays to play out. Many of these families come to us from very broken homes where there is little to no affection shown among each other, with their basic needs not being met – sometimes even for years – and they simply are just trying to survive – one day – or one hour at a time.

Let us all make a pledge around our holiday meal tables to work towards zero tolerance for domestic violence in our homes, our neighborhoods, and in our own church families. Let us all pray for and work toward peace – beginning in our own homes. Stop for a moment before you gather with your family during the holidays, slow down amongst all the busyness and hurriedness, the chaos of the season – and listen – quietly – and reflect and be grateful for all of your blessings – and say an intentional prayer for all those who are not as fortunate, that they too, may find that special sweet peace – that only our Creator can provide.

As Director of Dove's Domestic Violence Program, I want to personally thank you all for your generous ongoing support during this last year. May all of you enjoy every moment of this special season and be richly blessed in all you do. God bless you all. Happy Holidays!

Teri Ducy, Director
Dove Domestic Violence Program

Thanks to the members of Christ Lutheran Church, Clinton, who donated items for the Food Pantry, located in the DeWitt County Office.

NEWS
from the Domestic Violence Program

The Macon County Domestic Violence Program, Tuesday Night Domestic Violence Support Group will continue at 5:30 p.m.

We have coats for winter, so if you or anyone you know is in need of a winter coat, please send them to the DeWitt County Dove office.

DeWitt County's
Ladies of Value and children support groups have moved to Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

If you need counseling and this time or day does not work into your schedule, please contact the office and we will work with you on another time that is more convenient for your schedule.

Moultrie County's
Children's Christmas Party
December 14, 5:30 p.m.

We will have Monical's Pizza, cookies and other treats at the party. Gifts will be provided to all the children and their parents at this event.

As 2017 draws to a close, we look back over the year that was. We at the Dove Domestic Violence program in Shelby County are grateful for the support you have given us throughout this year. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a very blessed and happy holiday season with family and friends.

A BIG THANK YOU to the group from First United Methodist Church for decorating our Shelter for the holidays!

This was a fun event for our clients and their children and they very much enjoyed participating! Our Shelter looks wonderful and so festive.

We appreciate all of you for taking the time out of your own personal Sunday to do this for us!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mary Kay Ellis, Dove's Receptionist, who completed her 40-hour domestic violence training! We are happy to have you as part of our team.

Merry Christmas to all!

Thanks to Girls on the Run, from Baum Elementary School, who made collecting funds for Dove their Fall 2017 Community Impact Project! Thanks to all who supported the Snack Shack and, in turn, supported the programs at Dove!

Children's Clothing Room

Open
Monday - Thursday
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

located inside of
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
2201 E. Prairie, Decatur

Good, used, free clothing!
Sizes from infants to teenagers.

Dove Children's Clothing Room will shut down for Christmas break on December 21, 2017 through January 3, 2018. The last day for the Clothing Room to be open this year is December 20, 2017. If you know of children in need of a coat or clothing, please be sure to share this holiday schedule with them.

The Clothing Room will re-open January 4, 2018.

Volunteer Organizational League

The December Volunteer Organizational League (VOL) meeting is scheduled for December 12th at noon, in the Dean Simcox Conference Center. Our guest, GRIT Consulting, will present opportunities to communicate with volunteers more efficiently and effectively, through social media and other technology. You will walk away with immediate actionable steps to engage with your volunteers.

If you or someone you know works with or manages volunteers, you don't want to miss this free presentation. To learn more call Charlie Gillaspie at 428.6616. Anyone who works with volunteers at their agency/ organization are welcome to attend. Bring your lunch and learn other ways to engage your volunteers.

No RSVP needed - just show up!

Domestic Violence Shelter Needs:

- Prepaid Gasoline Cards
- Gift Cards, Aldi or Walmart
- 9 V- AA & AAA Batteries
- Healthy snacks for children's groups
- Juice boxes/drinks for children's groups
- New Strollers
- Lice Treatments
- Large Hairbrushes
- Dishwasher Detergent Pods
- Nightlights and bulbs
- Journals
- Appointment books/Planners
- Medicine syringes for infants
- Cough Medicine, Adult and Children
- Women's Night Shirts, all sizes
- Liquid Benadyl, Adult and Children's
- Mouthwash (without alcohol)
- Hair conditioner

Please drop any donations to the Shelter at 302 S. Union, Decatur, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

DomesticShelters.org

Another way to donate to the Shelter is from this website. Purchase what you want and it is sent directly to the Shelter.

You can also find this link on the website www.doveinc.org

To learn more about becoming a Dove Member Congregation or to schedule a speaker for your congregation please contact Barb Blakey, Director of Volunteers & Community Relations at 428.6616 or dove@doveinc.org

DeWitt County Food Pantry

803 W. Leander, Clinton

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thank you to Big D's & Save a Lot for their weekly bread donation to our food pantry!!

BABES

Being a BABES Volunteer is a rewarding experience. So if you have a love of children and a desire to make a difference in a child's life, then being a BABES Volunteer is right for you!

The next volunteer training is set for Thursday, January 11, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pre-registration for this training needs to be completed by Thursday, December 28, 2017. If you think that you would like to become involved in the BABES Program and would like more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer, contact me. My email is slaesch@doveinc.org or call 428-6616 ext. 126.

The puppets and BABES Volunteers are taking a much-needed break for the Holidays. I hope they rest up because the BABES Program schedule for 2018 is filling up.

This time of the year fills me with anticipation and joy. Christmastime brings the anticipation of decorating, baking and Christmas music. The joy of having family and friends to celebrate with! Also, the most important part is remembering the Reason for the Season!

BABES Program Updates:

Over the summer I had a chance to meet with the RSVP-BABES program coordinator for Winnebago and Boone Counties (Rockford area). Their program is basically the same, we traded program training and presenting information. In looking over their scripts and listening to their CD, there were some things that I wanted to add and change a bit.

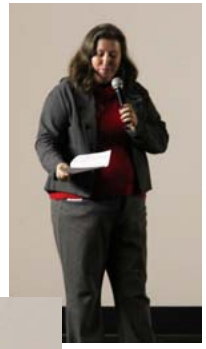
The additions include more songs and rhymes that reinforce the lessons and keep the students engaged.

Thanks to Bea Fisher and Chris Foster again for their input and suggestions to the revised BABES scripting.

What a busy Fall!

- Bea Fisher and Chris Foster started the school year presenting the BABES program at Harris Elementary in the 1st grade classes
- Patty Cain & Linda Natereli were at Sangamon Valley East Elementary 3rd grade classes presenting the Advanced BABES program.
- Pam Rhodes, Kathy Pepper, and Betty Scott presented BABES program to Kindergarteners at Stevenson.
- Sandy Laesch presented BABES program to Parsons 1st graders and Kindergartners at Johns Hill.
- Sandy presented the Advanced BABES program to Baum and Deland-Weldon 3rd graders.
- Sandy also presented the BABES Bridge program to 1st graders at Stevenson, Deland-Weldon, and Mc Gaughey Elementary, and the BE YOUR BEST program to 5th graders at Deland-Weldon.
- A big Thank you goes to Betty Scott for coming out of BABES retirement to help fill in at Stevenson.

2017 National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week



"In Plain Site" Event held at the AVON, showing a documentary and a panel discussion on the issues of homelessness.

Allegiance Concert at First Baptist Church

News from Homeward Bound

Seeking Entrance into the Homeward Bound Program?

Walk-in applications will be taken Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Homeward Bound office, 788 E. Clay, Decatur.

Homeless Advisory Council Continuum of Care (HAC/CoC) Meeting

Thursday, JANUARY 11 • 1:30 p.m.

Please plan on attending! We will continue plans for 2017 Point-in-Time Count. To volunteer see page 7.

SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) Committee Meeting!

The committee will begin meeting again in January, date and time TBD.

Meetings Location:
Homeward Bound office.
788 E. Clay Street, Decatur

Contact:
Darsonya Switzer, 362.7700, for further information

Homeless Referrals:

Please contact the Homeward Bound Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. . if you know of someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. After 4:30 p.m. or on the weekend please call 217.619.5742.

Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for the participants of the program:

- Clean Blankets
- Gloves
- Hats

RSVP
Lead with Experience

As we move into the Winter season, remember to watch for closings at your preferred stations. At any time, if you do not feel safe to travel, please feel free to stay home, just give us a quick call so we can let your station know you are not available for your shift. Now is a great time to get your car checked and stocked for winter travel.

Did you get your VolunteerTales at the end of October/first of November? What did you think? We would love to have your feedback on what you would like to see in future issues of your very own newsletter. We are excited to finally have a newsletter that is just for our fantastic volunteers. If you would like to highlight the station at whick you volunteer, please give Charlie a call at 428.6616, Let's Talk!

We would like to introduce a new member to our RSVP staff, Ms. Deborah Hoffman. Deb (as she prefers) started with RSVP on Monday, November 27. She will be traveling to Decatur a couple days a week for training, but will soon be keeping steady hours at the Clinton office once her training is complete. Be on the lookout for an opportunity to meet Deb and to say hi once the holiday season winds down.

The RSVP Staff would like to wish all our dedicated RSVP volunteers a very Merry Christmas.

Enjoy your time with your loved ones. Thank you again for another great year!

MAX

Macon County Assistance eXchange

located inside of
Decatur First United Methodist Church
201 W. North, Decatur

Open Monday - Thursday
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Helping with emergency financial assistance for families/individuals in need

WARM NEIGHBORS COOL FRIENDS

WNCF is located in the MAX office for MACON and DEWITT Counties. Below are the 2016-2017 Income Guidelines for Weatherization and Bill Payment Assistance. Families must show proof of income. A family's monthly gross income must fall between the ranges below, based upon family size, to qualify.

Family Size	30-Day (Gross) Monthly Income Range Must be between:
1	$1,485 - $2,970
2	$2,003 - $4,005
3	$2,520 - $5,040
4	$3,038 - $6,075
5	$3,555 - $7,110
6	$4,073 - $8,145
7	$4,591 - $9,183
8	$5,111 - $10,223

energy assistance FOUNDATION

Our Thanks To

In November, Dove's Domestic Violence Program was honored to receive a large donation of Shelter supplies from their wish list collected by the Central Illinois Chapter of the LINKS Inc. This generous donation included cleaning supplies, toiletries and hygiene products, baby and children's products, two new strollers, clothing, and more. These baskets and baskets of supplies were donated with love and embody the kind of support from our community that makes this kind of work possible. Thank you LINKS Inc. for being a part of the move to end domestic violence in Decatur and Macon County!

Coziahr Harley-Davidson brought a truckload of donations to support the Dove Program, from their Black Friday Promotion! Thanks to everyone at CHD and all who made a donation! Their donations will support the Coats for Kids Drive, the Christmas Basket Drive, Homeward Bound Clients, and the families staying in the Shelter.