



DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

September
2023

Barbara Blakey
Editor

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Dove, Inc.

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62522

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What the Constitution Means to Me

by Heidi Schreck

The September 14th
Box Office
will be donated to
Dove's
Domestic Violence Program.

Please join us!

"This month, Richland Theatre will be presenting *What the Constitution Means to Me* by Heidi Schreck, September 14, 15, and 16 at 7:00 p.m. and September 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Shilling Salons. This modern comedy follows Heidi's relationship with the Constitution as she recollects her teenage years traveling the country giving speeches about the US Constitution at American Legion Hall contests to earn money for college. The play explores how rights were won and lost. It covers topics from Dred Scott, to birth control, to Roe v. Wade, to Dirty Dancing. Filled with history and heart, Heidi shares her own family's struggles and triumphs. Where does the responsibility for democracy lie? Constitution is the beginning of a dialog between groups who may not always agree, but who are all bound by the same document.

Tickets are \$10 for Regular Admission, \$7 for Students, Seniors and Alumni. This play is as funny as it is educational, but the content is not appropriate for children. Thursday's 7:00 p.m. performance box office will be donated to DOVE. Tickets will be on sale at the door. If you have any questions or would like a content warning list, email theatre@richland.edu"

Michelle Stephens
Professor of Theatre and Communication
Richland Community College

Dove's Mission

Dove is an organization that engages religious institutions, volunteers, and advocates seeking to coordinate efforts to address unmet needs and social injustices. These needs are met through coordinated programs focusing on domestic violence, homelessness, education, volunteer and community empowerment, and individual emergency need fulfillment. Dove works for justice, equality, and understanding among all people.

Executive Staff

Darsonya Switzer, Chief Executive Officer
Barbara Blakey, Chief Communications Officer

Program Leadership

BABES Program
Sandy Laesch, Interim Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room
Kathy Walters, Coordinator

Dove Financial Assistance
Molly Tenuto, Program Director

Dove Food Pantry
Ashlyn Burrus, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program
Joyce Kirkland, Program Director
Ashlyn Burrus, DeWitt County Coordinator
Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator
Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Homeward Bound
Charo Covington, Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program
LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Angie Williams, Program Director
Kathy Walters, Macon County Coordinator
Silvia Comfort, DeWitt County Coordinator



Darsonya Switzer
Chief Executive Officer

dswitzer@doveinc.org

I recently heard someone say that making positive changes in your life comes with pouring into the positives that bring you joy. Overflowing your cup with positives washes away the negative. Of course, this is not a new concept, but can be easier said than done for many. This concept is a great way for someone who has a good support system to prioritize their blessings in life. However, this practice is likely to create an air of stress and anxiety for someone who feels as though they don't even have a "cup" to pour into.

I am grateful for a consistently replenished "cup". My blessings are abundant, and they afford me the opportunity to pour into others, which brings me even greater joy! Being of service to others is my calling. Is it yours? If so, I challenge you to share your own cups of positivity. Take a moment to help someone who struggles to see their positives. The joy that it brings you will keep both your cup and heart perpetually FULL!

*Seeking new challenges or a new career pathway?
Please check out current job openings on our [website](#)*

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Moultrie County **Becky Comstock, Coordinator**

Moultrie County Dove has been extremely busy assisting victims of domestic violence with emergency orders of protection, safety planning and advocacy. Advocacy helps reduce isolation, helps the survivor see their own power, and helps build strength and support. There are many barriers that keep victims of domestic violence in abusive relationships, we believe everyone deserves a life free from abuse. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please call the 24hr hotline at 217.728.9334.

Our Coalition Against Domestic Violence Committee have monthly meeting. We have been busy preparing for our 23rd Annual Candlelighting Ceremony that will be held Thursday, October 19, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Sullivan. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact Becky for more information, 217.728.9303.

Group services are still being offered through the month of September on Thursday Nights from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Moultrie County Farm Bureau Building. During the month of October there will be no Thursday night group. In Lieu of group we will be attending Candlelighting Ceremonies. Regular Thursday night group will resume Thursday, November 2, at 5:00 p.m.

DeWitt County **Ashlyn Burrus, Coordinator**

I am now getting settled in at DeWitt County's office full time. I completed my first EOP with a participant. I've also got out in the community and have introduced myself to several churches in Clinton.

I'm excited to be in DeWitt County now and looking forward to my journey at Dove!

Watch for more on the open house in October!

Shelby County **Susie Kensil, Coordinator**

Thank you to Carol Kessler for her generous donation of gas cards to our program in Shelby County. Your continuing support of our program is greatly appreciated.

Please join us Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak Street, Shelbyville for our Annual Candlelighting Ceremony.

After not having a local service last year, we are excited to be back. It will be an evening of remembering victims of domestic violence and honoring those in our community who help in the fight against abuse. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony. We hope you will be able to join us for this meaningful evening.

*See page 5 for information
on the Candlelighting Ceremonies.*

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program



Congratulations to Macon County Health Department and MRI Bright Start's Home Visitors who completed the 40-Hour Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training at Dove in July,

We wish them well as they apply their knowledge to their work with families.

See page 6 for information on our Fall Training!

Macon County Joyce Kirkland, Program Director

With the arrival of Autumn, Dove Domestic Violence Program shifts focus to the start of school and to October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As students head back to school, Dove's education staff members also return to the classroom. They are contacting local middle schools and high schools now to schedule first semester teen dating violence education presentations. Our educators talk with teens about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, setting healthy boundaries, self-esteem, and making well-informed relationship choices. If you are interested in learning more about Dove's teen dating violence presentations or scheduling a classroom presentation, call Danielle Cunningham, Education and Awareness Supervisor, 217.428.6616. Dove's education staff is also available to speak with community groups and agencies about Dove programs and services.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Dove Domestic Violence Program is planning candlelighting services to mourn those who died due to domestic violence, honor survivors, and recognize the community heroes who work to provide safety and healing for those affected by domestic violence. We hope that you can join us.

NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

2023 Candlelighting Ceremonies

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

Shelby County

Thursday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.

First Assembly of God Church, 108 South Oak Street, Shelbyville

Macon County

Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.

Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur

Moultrie County

Thursday, October 19, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First Christian Church, Sullivan

DeWitt County

Wednesday, October 25, noon to 2:00 p.m.

803 W. Leander, Clinton

Desserts with Dove Open House
and at 1:30 the traditional Candlelighting Ceremony

These meaningful ceremonies are held in October as part of
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

More Opportunities from

Homeward Bound

Macon County Continuum of Care

Homeless Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting
2nd Thursday, September 14, 1:30 p.m.
at EOC in the Senior Center
on the 2nd floor



The Resident Council meeting is an opportunity for residents to freely discuss topics to improve the quality of life within their development.

Please join us:

- Let your voice be heard
- We want to discuss your concerns and suggestions within your community
- Come share your ideas of improvements for your community, surroundings and housing needs
- Ensure your views are acknowledged and addressed
- Let's talk safety

Date: Thursday, September 28

Location: Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay

Time: 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Dove's Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training

Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.
Please call between September 13 and October 25 at noon •
217.428.6616



Dove, Inc.

217.428.6616
doveinc.org

Our facilitators:

Joyce Kirkland
Program Director

Jamie L. Houchins
Victim Advocate

SITE: Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur

TIME: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

TRAINING DATES: November 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, and 16

This training is for individuals who meet the criteria to volunteer at any of Dove's Domestic Violence Programs or who are seeking educational advancement for their employment.

Fee for this ICADV Certified Training is \$200

How can you lend a hand?

- Answering our hotlines
- Covering the Shelter
- Reporting / data collection
- Assisting with orders of protection
- Assisting with/facilitating support groups and more



Jim Johnson

At the August 1st National Night Out Event, the City of Decatur, alongside the Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations, had the privilege to posthumously honor two outstanding community volunteers: Francie Johnson and Helen Jeanne Mears.

Francie was a member of Fansfield Neighborhood Association where she served in every capacity. She was on the Executive Committee of CONO, a member of the City's Human Relations Commission, a repeat co-chair of National Night Out, a Dove Staff Member with the Community Services Program, and certainly a one-of-a-kind volunteer. Accepting her award was her husband, Jim.

Along with Francie, Jeanne Mears was also honored and her family members joined the event from Florida and Virginia. Ms. Mears was a strong advocate and volunteer. As a member of Park City, she was determined to make her community a place of choice. She was on the steering committee of National Night Out, and served on the Executive Committee of CONO.

Both women passed away in 2022, but their commitment to our neighborhoods and City of Decatur residents will continue to be remembered as we have renamed the Neighborhood Ambassador Award to the "Johnson-Mears Community Service Award." Their impact will not be soon forgotten!

Photos from the 2023 National Night Event, August 1, 2023





***Are you able to volunteer in the BABES Program
for the fall 2023 semester?***

***Then contact us for more on the program to see if it
would be a good fit for you!***

***Contact Barb Blakey bblakey@doveinc.org or
Sandy Laesch slaesch@doveinc.org***

217.428.6616

I want to thank the volunteers that have committed to helping the BABES Program this fall - Patty Cain, Tami Crouch, Marcia Juriga, Janet Lyman, Kim Stahl, and Debbie Vick.

The BABES volunteers are already busy in the schools this fall.

Volunteers are presenting the BABES Primary Program to 1st grade students at Baum Elementary. LeAnn Ellis and I are presenting the BABES Program to Kindergarteners at Our Lady of Lourdes and 1st grade students at Argenta-Oreana, the Advanced BABES Program to 2nd grade students at Parsons Elementary, Johns Hill 3rd grades, also 3rd and 4th grade students at Our Lady of Lourdes.

If you are interested in becoming involved and would like more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer, contact Barb or me to get you started!

*Sandy Laesch
BABES Interim Program Coordinator*

Children's Clothing Room



**Central Christian Church
650 W. William St., Decatur**

**Mondays & Wednesdays
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Free clothing, yes really free,
for infants through teens**

Dove Food Pantry



Thursdays

**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
803 W. Leander, Clinton**

- This is a free service to anyone in DeWitt County.
- You can utilize the pantry once a month.
- When you arrive, you will need to show your ID.
- We also have diapers if you have a little one in your household - child must be living in the household.

Dove Financial Assistance

***Donation are needed
to keep this
emergency financial assistance
program thriving,
and supporting
families in need!***

***Please use mailing address:
302 S. Union, Decatur, IL 62522
or on Dove's website
doveinc.org***

***Please put DFA on
check memo line
or in the comment box.***

The “Cooling Season” for Warm Neighbors Cool Friends officially began on September 1. This means that if your income qualifies you can apply for assistance from the program, and payments from the past 45 days will be matched up to \$500. People can apply one time between September 1 and May 31 for this matched assistance. Frequently I will hear from people that they don’t want to apply for Warm Neighbors Cool Friends because they don’t want to take the assistance away from someone else. But I want to assure you that there is funding for this program, which is provided by the Energy Assistance Foundation. Please apply and please share this information with others! If you have questions on the program, please reach out and I would be happy to talk more about it with you or your group.

Our Monical’s Fundraiser for Macon County in July brought in a donation of just under \$225. Again, thank you to those that were able to participate in the fundraiser.

We have been very busy with assisting applicants, which means we are experiencing financial strain. August and September are typically harder months for families financially as there are so many costs related to getting your children back to school. Yes, there are several wonderful events that assist with backpacks

and some school supplies, but that doesn’t cover registration fees or some of the higher technology that might be needed for older kids, such as the expensive graphing calculators sometimes needed. If you can donate to Dove Financial Assistance, please know it will be well utilized!

At the end of August, I started a new adventure and am part of the class of 2023 for the Decatur Leadership Institute, DLI! This is a fourteen-week course sponsored by the Decatur Regional Chamber of Commerce in which I will get to learn more about the community and get a “behind the scenes” look. The first session took us to the Culinary Arts Institute at Richland Community College. Here, we got to hear more about the culinary program at Richland and then we were broken up into teams where we had to cook two dishes with the ingredients we were given, very much like the Food Network TV show Chopped! I am looking forward to all the different things I will get to learn about our community by being a part of DLI! I will continue to share my adventures of what I learn and get to do as part of this program.

Molly Tenuto
DFA Program Director

Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance

for families/individuals in need
for in-person sites: see below

Macon County Sites:

Macon County Sites Closed September 4 through 8

Decatur Public Library, 120 N. Franklin, Decatur
Mondays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

All other times will be by appointment only.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108

Shelby County Site:

Salvation Army Building, 133 E. Main St., Shelbyville

September 7 & 21, 10:00 a.m. to noon

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Moultrie County Site:

First United Methodist Church, 216 W. Jefferson St., Sullivan

September 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

Piatt County Site:

First Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, Monticello

September 12 & 27, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435

DeWitt County Site:

Dove, 803 W. Leander, Clinton

September 14 & 28, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

DFA@doveinc.org or 217.433.7435



2023/24 Warm Neighbors Cool Friends Income Requirements &
Energy Bill Payment Assistance Guidelines

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO APPLY:

- Driver's license or other Photo ID
- Copy of current Ameren Illinois energy bill
- Proof of income



PROGRAM RULES:

- Applicant(s) must reside at address on bill and have active service in their name
- Applicant can only receive assistance ONCE per heating season (September 1 – May 31) and ONCE in the cooling season (June 1 – August 30)
- Account balance must be lower than \$1,500
- WNCF pledges up to \$500 during heating season matching customer payments within the last 45 days
- Cooling season maximums are \$200 and are intended for seniors, disabled, or those with medical conditions exacerbated by heat (with a doctor's letter)
- 30 Day (GROSS) Income Range by Family Size

Family Size	WNCF Income Range
1	\$2,431 - \$4,513
2	\$3,288 - \$5,158
3	\$4,144 - \$5,804
4	\$5,001 - \$6,446
5	\$5,858 - \$6,963
6	\$6,714 - \$7,479
7	\$7,571 - \$7,996
8	\$7,776 - \$8,513

PROGRAM DISTRIBUTOR FOR MACON, DEWITT, AND PIATT COUNTIES:

- Dove, Inc. will assist with applications. Contact 217.619.9108 for questions. Documents can be emailed to DFA@doveinc.org
- Please visit www.doveinc.org for a list of our walk-in hour and locations

You can support Dove by participating with the Kroger Community Rewards Program!

To use the Kroger Community Rewards Program, simply visit <http://www.kroger.com>

Once logged into your Kroger account you can search for DOVE INC either by name or DK772 and then click *enroll*.



all in:

Macon County Inter-Agency Council

Please join us at the **all in** gathering!

4th Tuesday of the month ■ NOON to 1:00 p.m.
Upcoming Dates: September 26, October 24, November 28
(please note, there will be no meeting in December 2023)

Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur
Corner of Monroe and William Street, near downtown Decatur.
Please park in main lot, come in main entrance and proceed to lower level fellowship hall

Join us for networking and sharing information:

- program coordinators
- direct service providers
- information sharers

The pandemic brought many changes to our local nonprofit landscape. We are excited to have the chance to meet monthly again, to get to network and learn more about services of our Macon County Community.

4th Tuesday of each month, NOON
(no meeting in December 2023)

- We will keep the gathering to an hour.
- Feel free to bring your lunch.
- No membership fees.

**For more information,
please call:**

Molly Tenuto or Angie Williams
Dove, Inc.
217.428.6616

or email
mtenuto@doveinc.org
awilliams@doveinc.org

News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house **18** individuals who have been literally homeless (in a shelter, on the streets or somewhere unfit for human occupancy, such as an abandoned building) for 90-days or more.

2 of those individuals meet the chronically homeless criteria, which means they have a diagnosable disability AND have been homeless for at least 1 year or have been homeless 4 times in the past 3 years, totaling 365 days.

There is a total of **186** participants currently receiving housing and/or services.

The need for 1-bedroom units for single individuals is still dire!

Move-In Starter Kits

Please consider donating items for move-in starter kits for individuals and families moving from homelessness to housing. Join the Macon County Continuum of Care in supporting this effort. Donations will be accepted at Northeast Community Fund (NECF) and distributed in "starter kits" to agencies serving those moving into housing.

- cleaning supplies
- paper products
- bath towels
- kitchen towels
- sheets/blankets/pillows
- plates/glasses/silverware
- kitchen utensils
- pots/pans

These donated items can be delivered to:

Northeast Community Fund
839 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., Decatur
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Coordinated Entry

Homeward Bound, on behalf of the Macon County CoC, continues to provide services and have staff available 24 hours a day to assist those in need of housing solutions. Please share the contact numbers with anyone you know who is experiencing housing instability issues, 217.362.7700 or 217.619.5742.

Dove- Homeward Bound is collecting the following items for participants:

- Dish washing liquid
- Laundry detergent
- Toothpaste
- Hygiene items for males and females

These donated items can be delivered to:

*Dove-Homeward Bound
788 E. Clay, Decatur, IL 62521
Monday - Friday*



As many already know, National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August every year and this year it appears to have been a huge success in Decatur! Having never experienced NNO before, all I can say is it was so fun, with a sea of faces everywhere. At the debriefing two weeks later, we were told there were more than 600, potentially 650, in attendance. It was awesome to see the Decatur Police Department show up in a big way, including a giant cartoon-like officer dancing and making friends. The Decatur City Staff did an excellent job of keeping the night replenished and moving with all their hard work. It was great to see the Macon Co. Sheriff's Dept. and many, many other amazing volunteers!! All did a fantastic job of serving and promoting peace for our community. Now we rest for a bit then hopefully begin planning next year's fun festival for peace, #NationalNightOut.

At this time of year, we also of course have children returning to school and with that comes Sandy Laesch working hard to schedule and prepare for what sounds like another full year of Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies, better known as BABES for children K-3rd grades. We are so thankful for all the volunteers who care to participate in this program as well as for a great leader whose heart is to share these

important messages from our puppet friends to area kiddos. Each season, and now beyond into the off seasons, I hear from students whose lives have changed for the better as a result of BABES. This and the messages shared make me so thankful to be a part of a program clearly important to our community children and, in essence, their families.

There are a variety of different kinds of neighborhoods in the Decatur Area and many with different focus, wants and needs. I'm learning more and more that there are neighborhoods who meet for the purpose of friendship and keeping in the know, but don't necessarily have a monthly meeting or a bank account or any thoughts of currently wanting this sort of neighborhood group. To these we are just as grateful as for those who do, because in the end isn't it all about connection and knowing our neighbors, crossing the yard and saying "how are you today?" Relationships develop and care about what is relevantly happening in a neighbor's life and being a support when needed. We have a couple in our neighborhood who openly invite the immediate neighborhood into their yard and home at least twice a year and say "hey, how are things and let's be neighbors." Their approach is impacting, and it speaks to the heart. It's a fellowship of knowing and

being known and seeing those neighbors who attended along the way then becomes different. You've had conversations, you've connected at some level other than a wave and a smile, which of course can go a long way, also. I would love to hear from you about your type of neighborhood and/or if you are interested in starting a neighborhood group of any sort in your area, please reach out and let's get connected.

LeAnn Ellis
NSP Coordinator

Coalition Of Neighborhood Organizations

CONO Meeting

Tuesday, September 19

(3rd Tuesday of the Month)

5:30 p.m.

Location: Civic Center, Downtown Decatur
meeting space to right from main entrance

RSVP News!

August was an exciting month in the world of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program!

We hired a DeWitt County Coordinator that many are already familiar with: Silvia Comfort. Silvia did this position for 14 years until she moved out of the area. She's now returned to us to lead the way in DeWitt, and we are thrilled to have her back! She has a wealth of information and knowledge in RSVP and the county in general.



We also had our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on August 24 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Molly Tenuto, Dove's Financial Assistance Program Director, acted as our MC. We started off by playing *The Price is Right*, which was a blast! Dove staff helped volunteers with getting food and drinks and then we played a couple of rounds of Bingo and did our drawing for door prizes.

If you're interested in helping plan events like our luncheon, call us! We would love to have a conversation about how that works! Big kudos go out to Macon

County Advisory Council for all their hard work in making things happen.

Thanks to all who have donated to our 9/11 Day of Service and backpack assembly projects. We'll be putting all of that together Thursday, September 7, starting at 8:30 a.m. in our downstairs conference room if anyone would like to assist! We will brew coffee and have donuts or pastries available for those who come to help. We'll be distributing the care packages to law enforcement the following week and dropping off the filled backpacks to American Dreamer STEM Academy, as well.

We will be assisting with Dove's Annual Report mailing on Friday, September 15, from 8:30 a.m. until we're finished. If any volunteers would like to help with this, we'd love to have you! Again, we'll provide coffee, water, and some snacks for you for your help!

In other exciting news, myself, Kathy Walters, and Silvia Comfort, will all be attending the Illinois RSVP Directors Conference in Bloomington in early November. Kathy and I attended last year and learned a lot and were able to network with the other directors and program coordinators from all over the state. We are all very much looking forward to this year's conference, as well!



We had several new volunteer station partnerships develop in August as well. We now have signed memorandums of understanding with Blessingdale's, God's Shelter of Love, Elara Caring Hospice, and a new partnership pending with Macon County Health Department for the Reducing Social Isolation program, which helps homebound seniors utilize technology to reduce their feelings of loneliness and isolation, which are often very detrimental to their health and lives.

RSVP Volunteering Opportunities

In DeWitt County:

The **DeWitt County Museum** is looking for volunteers to assist with the Apple 'n Pork Festival, September 23 and 24. The festival is from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. We could use volunteers to help work at a food booth or work inside the mansion during tours. Nineteenth Century Costumes are provided on loan. Those interested can call the museum at 217.935.6066 or email Joey Long at chmoore.homestead@gmail.com

In Macon County:

Faith in Action urgently needs volunteers to provide transportation for seniors who need medical appointments including chemotherapy, doctor appointments, and even groceries. The need has skyrocketed due to Memorial Medical's recent cuts, which included their transportation program. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Marina Nuefeld at 217.428.3458 extension 230.

Elara Caring Hospice Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to hospice patients and respite to caregivers, be a supportive presence at the bedside of patients in their final days or hours, helping record patient memories and stories for

the patient's family to have as a keepsake, support Veteran patients and Veteran's events, and more, including administrative tasks in their offices. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Christian Rundblad at 312.597.1717 or by email at crundblad@elara.com.

Macon County Conservation District has several volunteer needs coming up:

1. Native Garden & Bush Honeysuckle Workdays

Staff and volunteers will be working on the native garden in front of the Nature Center and honeysuckle removal near the Nature Center on Wednesday, September 20, 8:00 a.m. This opportunity is for ages 13 and up. RSVP to Ethan Snively, ESnively@MaconCountyConservation.org or 217.853.3465, the day before each workday to ensure that we have enough supplies available.

2. Archeology & Artifacts

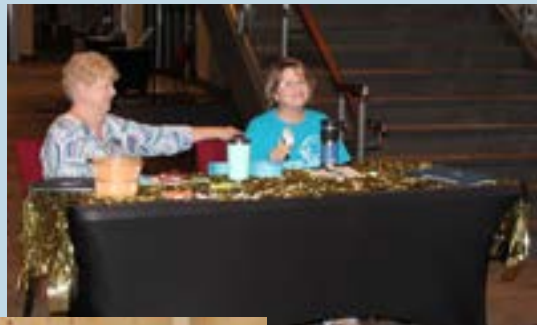
We are looking for volunteers to help screen through dirt for artifacts from the 2018 excavation under the farmhouse. This opportunity is for ages 13 and up. For more information or to sign up contact Brent Wielt, BWielt@MaconCountyConservation.org direct phone line: 217 542 5525.

3. Woodshop Volunteers

We are looking to add a few more volunteers to the Homestead Prairie Farm crew interpreting history at the woodshop. This is a fun way to teach others about how woodworking and non electric tools fit into daily life during the 1860s. Training and opportunities to observe will be provided. For more information or to sign up contact Brent Wielt. BWielt@MaconCountyConservation.org direct phone line: 217.542.5525

4. Prairie Pedal

The Prairie Pedal bicycling event raises funds for the Macon County Conservation Foundation. All proceeds support natural areas and wildlife diversity in Macon County. During this event to be held on Sunday, September 24, cyclists ride 20, 40, or 62 mile routes. Volunteers can choose from time commitments of 2 to 5 hours. Volunteer stations include rest stops with a staff member along the bike routes (Lincoln Trail Homestead & Willow Branch I), photography, and food service (set up & serving/cleaning). For more information or to sign up, contact Jenny Garver by September 18, JGarver@MaconCountyConservation.org direct phone line: 217.542.5536.



A few more pictures from the August 24 RSVP Luncheon!





This year has flown by and it's hard to believe that Christmas Care & Share 2023 is right around the corner! We're kicking into high gear getting ready!

Public Signups for Families!

Last year we opened sign ups for toy assistance up by internet/email, but it wasn't as successful or problem free as we had hoped it would be. So, this year we are going to be doing TEN public signups for toy assistance (without food baskets).

If you know someone who may need assistance with Christmas gifts for their kids this year, please let them know the following information:

They must have guardianship of their kids and the kids be living in their household. Parents/guardians will need to bring some sort of photo ID (doesn't have to be a driver's license), as well as proof the kids are in the home. This could be a letter from an agency/school verifying the names of the children in the household, could be a court document stating

the person has guardianship (this is most likely in the case of foster parents), could be medical cards for the children, social security cards, a recent hospital or doctor's bill with the children's names on it, or a printout/screenshot of the Student Demographic/Profile report from the school. Children must be between the ages of 0 and 17.

If they have already received a referral from their child's school, an agency they're working with, signed up at Northeast Community Fund or Salvation Army, they do not need to sign up again. In order to assist as many as we can, we will only assist each family one time. Here are the sign up dates and Decatur locations:

Saturday, September 23 ♥ 9:00 a.m. to noon
Macon County Health Department, 1221 E. Condit

Thursday, October 5 ♥ 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 19 ♥ 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 26 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 2 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Decatur Public Library, Children's Auditorium, 130 N. Franklin

Tuesday, October 10 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 9 ♥ 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
SIU School of Medicine, 102 W. Kenwood

Wednesday, October 18 ♥ 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Decatur Boys and Girls Club, 859 N. Jasper

Wednesday, November 15 ♥ 9:00 a.m. to noon
Familia Dental, 141 E. Pershing

Thursday, November 16 ♥ 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Empowerment Opportunity Center, 360 E. Marietta

Do you want to Help?

Please think about different ways you could be involved with this ever growing program.

- ♥ If you would like to be on the planning committee, we have three more meetings before we start the physical work at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in December.
- ♥ You could donate items such as hats, gloves, and scarves. You could donate money or toys to any of the Toys for Tots bins, drop them off at Dove, or take a name off the Salvation Army Angel tree (we all work together so anywhere you donate is fine).
- ♥ You could donate food to Northeast Community Fund to be given out at Christmas.
- ♥ You could make stockings.
- ♥ You could come and volunteer in December.
- ♥ AND/OR you could help provide snacks or even lunch to staff and volunteers during the week of toy distribution (December 11 through 15).
- ♥ You could adopt a family for Christmas.

Ways to help are limited only by your imagination!

Please reach out to

Angie

217.428.6616

awilliams@doveinc.org

WISH LIST FOR SHELTER

CLEANING SUPPLIES:

- LATEX-FREE VINYL GLOVES (SIZE LARGE AND XL)
- CLOROX WIPES
- AEROSOL DISINFECTANT SPRAY
- PAPER TOWEL ROLLS

FOR BABY / TODDLER:

- TEETHING RINGS
- STROLLERS (CAN BE UMBRELLA TYPE)
- PACK AND PLAY
- SIZE 4 & 5 DIAPERS

BATHROOMS:

- AIR FRESHENER SPRAY
- FULL SIZE BATH TOWELS (NEW ONLY)

BEDROOMS- NEW ITEMS ONLY:

- BEDSHEET SETS- TWIN SIZE
- PILLOWS
- NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMENS, ALL SIZES
- SWEATSUITS- UNISEX, ALL SIZES
- WHITE NOISE MACHINES

GENERAL:

- GAS GIFT CARDS
- WALMART GIFT CARDS
- ALDI GIFT CARDS FOR SHELTER FOOD

KITCHEN:

- DISH SOAP
- DISPOSABLE CUPS
- DISPOSABLE (PLASTIC) EATING UTENSILS
- DISPOSABLE PLATES & BOWLS (PAPER)

MEDICINE ROOM

ADULT:

- ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT OR CREAM
- ALEVE OR NAPROXEN
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC)
- NON-DROWSY ALLERGY MEDS (ZYRTEC/CLARITIN/ETC)
- HYDROCORTISONE CREAM
- MELATONIN TABLETS
- PREGNANCY TESTS
- LICE TREATMENT KITS
- MONISTAT
- VAGISIL
- IRON PILLS

BABY / TODDLER / CHILD:

- ADVIL/MOTRIN (OR IBUPROFEN) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- BENADRYL (OR GENERIC) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- LIQUID STOMACH MEDICINE FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- GENERIC NASAL DECONGESTANT FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN

- TYLENOL (OR GENERIC ACETAMINAPHEN) FOR INFANTS AND/OR CHILDREN
- ORAJEL
- PEDIATRIC MEDICINE DROPPERS AND/OR SYRINGES (NEW, UNUSED)
- NOSE / EAR SYRINGES

TOILETRIES

HYGEINE ITEMS:

- BODY WASH
- VASELINE
- HANDHELD PERSONAL MIRRORS
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HAIR CARE PRODUCTS (SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER/ETC)
- HAIR GREASE
- HAIRBRUSHES – NATURAL BRISTLES
- HAIRBRUSHES- NYLON BRISTLES
- CONDITIONER
- HAIR GEL AND HAIR SPRAY
- NAIL POLISH REMOVER
- NAIL CLIPPERS
- TOOTHPASTE
- DENTURE ADHESIVE (POLIGRIP OR OTHER)
- DENTURE CLEANER
- MOUTHWASH (ALCOHOL FREE)