



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

**April 2023**

Barbara Blakey  
Editor

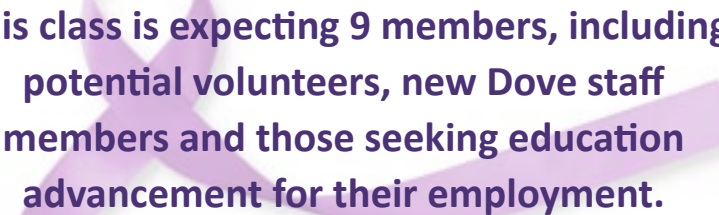
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**Dove, Inc.**

302 S. Union  
Decatur, IL  
62522  
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## *Thanks to our Volunteers!*

Today, the Spring Session of the Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training began.



This class is expecting 9 members, including potential volunteers, new Dove staff members and those seeking education advancement for their employment.


Thanks to all who have made the choice to take this training.

If this is something you are wanting to do, please watch for the schedule of the Fall DVEVT!

As an agency which started an intentional volunteer program, we are pretty excited about volunteers around here!

As we celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Week later in the month, please accept our sincere **thank you** if you are currently serving as a volunteer or if you have ever volunteered in one of Dove's program.

Dove has reinforced its dedication to volunteers by a newly created position of Volunteer Resources Administrator along with its strong RSVP program. All Dove programs have volunteer needs met by dedicated individuals in our communities.



There is always a need for more. If you are considering volunteering, please reach out to: [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org) and we will get your inquiry to the right staff member!

### 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

Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

### Domestic Violence Program

Kelsey Probber, Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Advocate

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Advocate

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Advocate

Andrea Kocher, Piatt County Advocate

### 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

Dustin Depperschmidt, DeWitt County Coordinator



**It's raining, it's pouring! What a cold and rainy time we have been having lately, but in the midst of the gloom, we continue to be blessed!**

**As mentioned last month, new things have been on the horizon and despite sporadic cloudiness we have continuously been showered with rays of sunshine from our volunteers! April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, and I would like to take this time to thank each and every person who has taken the time to give back to the programs and participants of Dove, Inc. Everything from collecting data**

**that assists with securing funding for services, sitting with survivors in times of crisis, answering phone calls, grocery shopping, helping children pick out clothing for school, and everything in between is appreciated. Your support is invaluable! Without your willingness to step into the fold with us, we would not be able to offer the comprehensive, participant-centered services at the degree that we do. We revere and honor your support not only through the month of April, but all year round! Again, thank you for being the sun when the clouds just don't seem to break! We truly appreciate you!**





# Dove, Inc. Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2023  
Passion Community Church  
4225 Camp Warren Lane, Decatur

5:00 to 5:30 p.m. Gather &  
Chat with Dove Staff Members

5:35 p.m. Dinner, catered by The Wagon

## Please RSVP to:

217.428.6616 or [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)  
by noon on Monday, April 17, at noon



## Meeting Highlights:

- Election of Dove's Board of Directors for the 2023-2025 Term
- Report from Darsonya Switzer, Dove CEO
- Program Updates and how you can remain involved with Dove!

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Spring has finally sprung, and summertime is almost upon us.

Studies and experience show that Domestic Violence cases often tend to increase during the summer months. This can be caused by the increased stress of children being home on summer break, lack of activities, increased drug and alcohol use, increase in the cost of childcare, the rising cost of cooling bills, and the hot humid temperatures.

Although the abuse is probably already taking place, these things can cause the abuse to escalate or make it worse.

If you hear screaming, yelling, cries for help, or witness any type of physical abuse please contact your local police department.

If you or someone you know is in need of an emergency order of protection, domestic violence education or counseling, please call one of our 24hr hotlines.

Macon: 217.423.2238

DeWitt: 217.935.6072

Moultrie: 217.728.9334

Piatt: 217.762.9303

Shelby: 217.774.4888

Moultrie County Dove office would like to thank all of those who attended “Desserts with Dove” in March at the First United Methodist Church in Sullivan. If you were unable to attend but would like information about Dove’s programs, ways to volunteer or how to refer people to receive our services, please contact us at [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org) or call us 217.728.9303 or 217.428.6616.

Moultrie County Coalition Against Domestic Violence Committee will be meeting Tuesday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Becky, 217-728-9303.

Becky Comstock  
Moultrie County Advocate

## WISH LIST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER:

CLOROX WIPES  
AEROSOL DISINFECTANT SPRAY  
PAPER TOWEL ROLLS  
BABY WIPES & PULL-UPS  
SIPPY CUPS  
TEETHING RINGS  
AIR FRESHENER SPRAY  
FULL SIZE BATH TOWELS (NEW ONLY)  
BLANKETS- TWIN SIZE (NEW ONLY)  
BEDSHEET SETS- TWIN SIZE (NEW ONLY)  
NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMENS, (NEW ONLY)  
SWEATSUITS- UNISEX, (NEW ONLY)  
GAS GIFT CARDS  
WALMART GIFT CARDS  
ALDI GIFT CARDS FOR SHELTER FOOD  
DISPOSABLE CUPS, PLATES & BOWLS  
DISPOSABLE (PLASTIC) EATING UTENSILS  
SNACKS & JUICE BOXES  
BODY WASH  
VASELINE  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR CARE PRODUCTS  
HAIRBRUSHES  
CONDITIONER  
HAIR GEL AND HAIR SPRAY  
TOOTHPASTE  
MOUTHWASH (ALCOHOL FREE)

# Dove's Children's Clothing Room



**Central Christian Church**  
**650 W. William St., Decatur**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
**1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**free clothing for**  
**infants through teens**





Darsonya Switzer, Dove CEO presented David Horn with the MC CoC Advocate of the Year Award



Thanks to Mary Garrison who coordinated the count for 10 years, pictured here with Charo Covington who took the reigns this year.

At the March  
**Macon County Continuum of Care  
Community Breakfast,**  
the presentation of the 2023 Point-in-Time Survey  
was shared to the community.

110 homeless individuals  
were reported to those in attendance

Please watch for the complete presentation,  
shared by Millikin Students at the breakfast  
which will be available soon on the MC CoC YouTube site.



Panel Discussion following the presentation by Fred Spannaus, Darsonya Switzer and Charo Covington



(L to R) Charo Covington, Homeward Bound Director; Millikin student, Shay Buchanan; Dean of Tabor Business, RJ Poddeschi; and MU students Rolande Umuhzoza, and (not pictured) Maddy Regan

# Dove Financial Assistance

March has been a good month of resource sharing. I was able to attend inter-agency meetings in both Shelby and Piatt Counties, and we have restarted the inter-agency meeting of direct service providers for Macon County (see page 10)! This gathering of direct service providers is vital for us to come together to share what we know and to build those relationships with one another so we can better serve the community!



*(L to R) Barb, Becky, Molly, Dustin  
photo credit: Crystal Reed, News Progress Reporter*

DFA was able to partner with the Energy Assistance Foundation to have an evening of service at the Decatur Public Library. We

had a wonderful turnout for this event! While we couldn't qualify everyone that came, we were able to share the resources for assistance that we knew about. If you weren't able to come to the event, but qualify for Warm Neighbors Cool Friends, please make sure to reach out and apply as the program is continuing.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Desserts with Dove (see photo, left) event in Moultrie County! Making those connections within the community for them to learn more about what services are available in the county will benefit many. While the event only lasted two hours, the affects of it will continue to expand.

As you have probably heard, DFA will be the distributors of covid funding from the City of Decatur. We have until September to utilize up to \$250,000 for qualifying households at a maximum of \$10,000 per household. If you know someone who is a city of

Decatur resident whose income has been affected from covid, please forward them to our website, [doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org). We have a pre-

qualifying checklist on the Dove Financial Assistance page to see if you should move forward with completing an application, which is also linked on the website. Please help share the word of this funding so we can assist as many people as possible!

As always, thank you for your continued support to DFA! We can't do our work without each one of you, whether it's through prayers, referrals, or donations. Your support is vital to the work that we do, and I will always remember that and honor that support.

Molly Tenuto, DFA Program Director

***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](http://doveinc.org)***

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

***Your help supports  
so many in need.***

# Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance

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



For Macon, DeWitt and Piatt Counties:  
217.619.9108 or [DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org)

## Macon County Sites:

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

Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay, Decatur

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

April 4 and May 2, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. ONLY

May 29 – Dove Closed for Memorial Day Observance  
[DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.619.9108

## Shelby County Site:

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

April 6 & 20, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 4 & 18, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

[DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.433.7435

## Moultrie County Site:

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

April 5 & 19, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 3, 17, & 31, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

[DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.433.7435

## Piatt County Site:

First Presbyterian Church, 214 S. Charter, Monticello

April 12 & 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

May 10 & 24, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

[DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.433.7435

## DeWitt County Site:

Dove, 803 W. Leander, Clinton

April 13 & 27, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

May 11 & 25, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

[DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.433.7435

## 30-Day Residential Income Guidelines

### FOR WEATHERIZATION AND BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Note: Families must show proof of income. A family's monthly gross income must fall between the below ranges, based upon family size, to qualify.

FAMILY SIZE	LIHEAP INCOME RANGE	WNCF INCOME RANGE
1	\$0 - \$2,265	\$2,266 - \$4,263
2	\$0 - \$3,052	\$3,053 - \$4,871
3	\$0 - \$3,838	\$3,839 - \$5,479
4	\$0 - \$4,625	\$4,626 - \$6,088
5	\$0 - \$5,412	\$5,413 - \$6,575
6	\$0 - \$6,198	\$6,199 - \$7,063
7	\$0 - \$6,985	\$6,986 - \$7,550
8	\$0 - \$7,324	\$7,325 - \$8,038

- Driver's License or other Photo I.D. and copy of current Ameren Illinois utility bill
- Applicant must reside at the address on the bill and have active service in his or her name
- Income eligibility, see guidelines, above
- Applicant can receive WNCF assistance only once per heating season, which is 9/1 to 5/31 each year and once per cooling season, 6/1 to 8/31
- WNCF matches customer payments (within the last 45 days) up to \$500 during heating season and up to \$200 during cooling season
- Heating grants are based solely on income guide-lines while cooling grants are intended for seniors, disabled or those with medical conditions exacerbated by heat (with a doctor's letter)





# BABES

Beginning Awareness Basic Education  
Studies

**Are you interested in becoming involved  
in the BABES Program?**

**Would you like more information about becoming  
a BABES Volunteer?**

**Contact Barb Blakey [bblakey@doveinc.org](mailto:bblakey@doveinc.org) or**

**Sandy Laesch [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org)**

**217.428.6616**

**Volunteer Training is available to be a part of this  
educational program for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders in area schools.**

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and I cannot express my thankfulness and appreciation enough for BABES Program Volunteers. THANK YOU! Patty Cain, Tami Crouch, Marcia Juriga, Janet Lyman, Kim Stahl, and Debbie Vick. They give of their time and talents selflessly every time they walk into a classroom.

Here is how I sum up BABES volunteers:

V is for their Volunteer commitment to the BABES Program

O is for their Optimism when presenting in the classroom

L is for their Listening and caring about what students share

U is for their Understanding children's needs

N is for the Necessity they are to the students they present to

T is for the Time that they give to BABES

E is for Enthusiasm they bring this program

E is for their positive Engagement with students

R is for being Ready, willing, and able to serve the children in our community!

If you are interested in the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, we could use your help.

BABES (Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies) is an imaginative and interactive prevention program which uses colorful hand puppets to teach positive living skills such as dealing with feelings, peer pressure and decision making, coping with situations they can't control, as well as an introduction of drug and alcohol prevention. The material is age appropriate and presented in a factual, non-judgmental manner. Pairs of trained volunteers present six ½ hour lessons in classes Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Scripts are read, there is no need for memorization. Volunteers can choose when and where they present their BABES lessons. This is a great way to make a difference in your community.

If you think that this might be something that you are interested in, email [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org) or call 217.428.6616 to discuss training.

*Never underestimate your ability to make someone else's life better  
– even if you never know it. – Greg Louganis*

Sandy Laesch, BABES Interim Program Coordinator

**all in:**

**Macon County Nonprofit Inter-Agency Council**

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month ■ NOON to 1:00 p.m.**  
**upcoming dates: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25**

**Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur**  
**Corner of Monroe and William Street, near downtown**  
**Decatur. Please park main lot and come in main entrance**

**For more information,  
please call:**

*Molly Tenuto or Angie Williams*  
*Dove, Inc.*  
*217.428.6616*

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

**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.**

***4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, NOON***

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



**a few pictures from  
our first gathering  
please check out Molly's  
comments on page 8**



At the Tuesday, February 21, 2023 Decatur City Council Meeting, the council approved "Resolution Approving Sub-Recipient Agreement with Dove, Inc. for Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance Utilizing CDBG-CV Funds."

Please watch for updates after receiving the final guidelines necessary.

Up to \$250,000 in funds could be distributed by DFA with a maximum of \$10,000 per approved household. This funding is for Decatur residents.

## CoD and DFA CDBG-CG Funds Assistance

### Covid Pre-Checklist

- Do you live in the city of Decatur?
- Has your income been affected by Covid? *This could include any of the following options:*
  - You missed work because you or someone in your household had Covid
  - You were in quarantine due to Covid and had to miss work
  - Your place of employment closed due to Covid
  - Your daycare or school shut down due to Covid
- Do you meet the Income Requirements? (see website [doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org))

**If the answer was "YES" to all of the above, move on to the next questions.**

- Have you received Covid assistance from the City of Decatur before. This could have been through either Dove, Decatur Township, or Salvation Army?
- Do you or someone in your household have a conflict of interest between the City of Decatur or Dove, Inc.? *This conflict of interest could include:*
  - Being related to an employee, agent, consultant, officer or elected official or appointed official of the City or Dove, Inc., by birth, marriage or adoption and resides within the same household. This would refer specifically to members of the Neighborhood Services Division of the City of Decatur and DFA of Dove, Inc.

***If the answer was "NO" to the above two questions, you can move on with getting an application. Applications are available at [doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org) or a DFA location.***

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## Macon County DFA Locations:

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

Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay, Decatur  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Please check Dove's website for the most up to date schedule.

[doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org)  
DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108



# News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house **22** 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. **3** 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 are **195** total participants currently receiving housing and/or services.

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

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

- Personal hygiene Items
- Dishing washing liquid

*These donated items can be delivered to:  
Dove-Homeward Bound  
788 E. Clay, Decatur, IL 62521  
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

## Move-In Starter Kits

Additionally, please consider donating items for move-in starter kits for individuals and families moving from homelessness to housing. Join the **HOME** 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. - 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 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.

## For Children's Group

Upcoming Events: There is an Easter Event in the works for April 6. More details when they become available.

Please contact

Daciena Simmons, 217.362.7700

## Resident Council Meeting

**Thursday, April 20, 2023,  
Homeward Bound Conference Room  
788 E Clay, Decatur  
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.**

**Please contact your Housing Advocate  
for additional Information**

*Table full, SUV full, baskets full -- regardless what you call it, it was an amazing blessing of items for the Shelter and participants of Dove!*

*Staley Credit Union chose Dove as one of the 3 organizations to support with their February Community Service event. We were so blessed with all these needed -- basic needs for life - for our participants.*



*Thanks to the members of the Cerro Gordo High School FCCLA Family, Career and Community Leaders of America*

*and their Family and Consumer Science Teacher , Ms. Cassie McCleery*

*They stopped by the Shelter the first part of March to present a check to Dove, to use for 'filling in the gaps' and unforeseen needs of the participants in the Shelter.*

*Thanks to the FCCLA members and their CGHS family for supporting Dove in this way!*



If you're feeling weighed down by the constant barrage of negative news in the media, I have some good news for you. There is still plenty of good happening in our community, and I've seen it firsthand.

Over the last three months, I've had the privilege of visiting Churches and non-profit organizations in the area, and I've been blown away by the impact they're making. A couple weeks ago I visited a place that puts together 288 backpacks full of food for kids in their community who wouldn't otherwise have access to food on the weekend.

Yesterday, I visited an organization that serves as a hangout for kids after school

offering free events to help keep kids off the streets and away from drugs by providing a safe, fun alternative place to go.

One of the highlights of my visits was witnessing the Good Samaritan Inn in action. With the help of dedicated volunteers, they were able to feed over 100 people in just 90 minutes! The volunteers didn't just focus on filling stomachs, but they were committed to creating an excellent and uplifting experience for everyone who walked through their doors. They even had live music! What an encouragement and inspiration leaving that day!

At the Mt. Zion Food Pantry, I spoke to people who rely on their services, and it was heartwarming to hear how much it means to them. And the volunteers who run the pantry were clearly passionate about their work and the difference they're making in the community; you could see it in the smile on their faces.

If you're feeling down about the state of the world, I challenge you to get involved in one of these organizations. Volunteer your time and be part of something bigger than yourself. Helping others is one of the most rewarding experiences

you can have, and I promise you'll feel the joy that comes with it.

And if you're not sure where to start, look no further than right here in Dove. There are countless RSVP partners that could use your help, there are also ways to serve right here in our building, I'm here to help you get connected. Let's show the world that there's still plenty of good happening in our community!

Dustin Depperschmidt  
Volunteer Resources Administrator

**To our area Congregations**

**Please help us make sure our contact information is up to date!**

**Please email us with your staff members**

**contact information:  
dove@doveinc.org  
or reply here!**

## Neighborhood Services Program

### Sharing News About The Neighborhoods!

As the month of March brings the color and life of spring, neighborhoods are also awakening, once again. SIA set a goal for their first street cleanup of the year and GANO met for their first neighborhood meeting of the year in March. I also had fun joining in with Torrence Park Neighborhood, knocking on doors promoting their monthly neighborhood meetings while inviting folks in the area to share their needs.

Newer CONO President Kathy Williams was prepared and organized with the evening running smoothly as CONO held a forum for City Council and DPS board candidates. We listened to uncontested Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe share some insights, as well as informative answers to some good questions for the candidates as WAND's Alyssa Patrick did a wonderful job moderating!

Some Dove staff, including myself, got to represent during a community resource event held at EOC as well as attended the Macon County Continuum of Care Annual Breakfast at MU.

My favorite time in March, however, was having the privilege of sitting down with someone I've admired since grade school, Melverta Wilkins, as she shared the humble beginnings of the organization she began, Sista Girls and Friends. The organization was born from her heart as she stepped up to meet the personal need she saw around her and stepped out to go beyond and help the community. With hard work and determination, using her own income in those first years and with the help of friends and family, she glanced back for a moment during our conversation to see the fruits of their labor giving way to a decade of love and dedication to our Decatur youth. With family at the core of what SGAF stands for, they focus on building up the community through youth programs with prevention, intervention, training, collaboration, labor and more. As Melverta continued, she not only shared growth from the early years to now but expected growth for the future as the vision continues to unfold. Take a moment to check out [Sistagirlsandfriends.com](http://Sistagirlsandfriends.com) as they soar to new heights right here in our very own Decatur community.

Looking ahead, April will see our second month into BABES presentations as well as a calendar full of events throughout the city.

LeAnn Ellis, NSP Coordinator

**Coalition Of  
Neighborhood Organizations**

## **CONO Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 18  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month)**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Location: Please confirm location by checking our social or website pages**

# RSVP Volunteer Opportunities

Homeward Bound is currently seeking a volunteer to serve as a front desk receptionist, mostly during lunch hours or special events or trainings. The primary duties of the position include:

- Answering phone calls and directing them to the appropriate departments
- Greeting and assisting incoming visitors
- Filing and pulling closed records as needed
- Accepting postal mail
- Writing receipts for donations
- Assisting staff with various office duties as requested

This position requires a friendly, outgoing personality, excellent customer service skills, and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment. Volunteers should be comfortable working with people from all backgrounds, including individuals experiencing homelessness or other challenging circumstances. This is a great opportunity to gain office experience while making a difference in your community.

The Decatur Macon County Senior Center is looking for volunteers that could help:

- answering phones
- working in the thrift store, sorting donations
- games and crafts leaders

If interested, please reach out to Margaret Miller at 217.872.1800.

Do you have a compassionate heart for others? Decatur Memorial Home Hospice is looking for volunteers to assist our patients. Volunteers play an integral role in the Hospice program, serving as listening ears and helping hands. These caring community members make a real difference in the lives of Hospice patients and their families.

They serve a variety of roles in the Hospice program. While some enjoy visiting patients and families in the home setting, others prefer to assist in the Hospice office. You can decide what type of volunteer work suits you best.

Some of the services our volunteers provide:

- Companionship and a listening ear for Hospice families
- Providing short breaks for caregivers and families
- Writing cards or letters for the patient
- Recording life memories
- Assisting with light housework
- Grocery shopping or running errands
- Grieving with the family and offering emotional support
- Assisting with projects in the Hospice office

If interested, please call Angie at 217.428.6616 or email her at [awilliams@doveinc.org](mailto:awilliams@doveinc.org).

Join the Decatur Area Habitat for Humanity as we host an open Bags Tournament to raise funds to build our 70<sup>th</sup> HOME BUILD! The day will include a round robin Bags Tournament run by Outlaw Baggers, an Auction with items donated from the community, Food Trucks, Cash Bar, and a Live DJ! The event will be held at the VFW Post 99, 3920 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr, Decatur, on April 15, 2023. Check in and registration starts at 11am, BAGS FLY AT 12 Noon! Pre-Register now to hold a spot for your team.

Current volunteer needs at Habitat for Humanity include door greeters, stockers, donation sorters and washers. Please contact Stephanie Stukins

at 217.330.5870 if interested in any of these opportunities!

The Mt. Zion District Library will be having Cozy Paint Time on April 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for anyone ages 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up. This is a follow along painting program completely free to patrons. Most of what we need volunteers for involves bending, lifting, moving around, and standing for a while. It is a lot of setting up before a program and tearing down after a program, not necessarily helping facilitate them. If interested, please reach out to Stephanie Strick at 217.864.3622.

The Macon County Conservation District will be having a Sangamon River Cleanup on Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Wear old clothes and gloves. Bags will be provided, and all help is appreciated. Starting at noon, they will then launch their annual Festival of Spring event. About 100–125 volunteers are needed to assist with various activities including helping with games, assisting with the canoe rodeo, narrating wagon rides, and more. For more information, please contact Jenny Garver at 217.542.5536.

On April 6, there will be a blood drive from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 502 N. Monroe, Clinton. Appointments must be made ahead of time to donate blood. But cookies are needed (nothing with peanuts or peanut butter please!) to pass out to donors after their appointments. We are also seeking a volunteer to assist from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. If you're interested and able to assist on the day of the blood drive, please reach out to Angie.



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## DENNIS TOY DRIVE



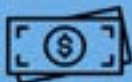
• *Dennis Lab School 4th Grade toy drive for the children at Dove, Inc.*

• **We are accepting donations of new, hard surface, easily disinfected toys**  
Please avoid anything that promotes violence

• **Now-April 21** donations can be dropped off at both Dennis Lab Campuses

AMAZON LIST:

(toys purchased off this list will come to the school)



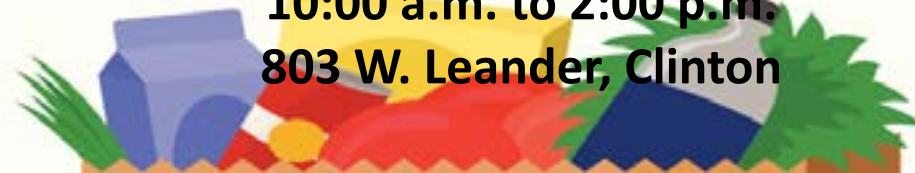
**DONATIONS:**  
Don't have time to shop? You can also donate money and we will do the shopping for you!

## 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 at the door, you will need to show your ID.
- We will bring your food to the door.
- We also have diapers if you have a little one in your household - child must be living in the household.
- We do request that if someone is already at the door receiving food, you stay in your vehicle until it is your turn.
- We are doing all we can to abide by the social distancing guidelines.

# April Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, April 1st**

**Kid Fest**  
Decatur Civic Center  
9a - 2pm

**Monday, April 3rd**  
**Pinwheel Placement**  
Courthouse Lawn  
10 - 11am

**Monday, April 3rd -  
Friday, April 7th**  
Decorate your store front  
ALL DAY - EVERY DAY!

**Wednesday, April 5th**  
**Proclamation & Wreath Lighting**  
Courthouse steps  
Noon

**Friday, April 7th**  
**Wear Blue Day**  
ALL ACROSS TOWN!  
ALL DAY!

**Saturday, April 8th**

**Prevention Resource Give away**  
with Geovonda Peterson  
Decatur Public Library  
Noon - 2pm

**Wednesday, April 19th -  
Friday, April 21st**  
Chalk the Walk  
ALL DAY!

**Wednesday, April 19th -  
Friday, April 21st**  
Chalk the Walk  
ALL DAY!

**Sunday, April 30th**  
**Blue Sunday**  
Decatur House of Prayer  
4 - 6pm

**Macon County Coalition Against Child Abuse -**  
*Working together to make a change.*



To find out how you can get involved,  
call Macon County CASA at 217-428-8424  
or Child 1st Center at 217-422-6294

Join us for our annual  
**TAKE BACK THE NIGHT**  
EDUCATE TO ELIMINATE SEXUAL VIOLENCE



**WHEN:**  
**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 13, 2023**  
**@ 6PM**

**WHERE:**  
**CENTRAL PARK**  
**DECATUR, IL**

Marches to Central Park beginning at 5pm.

**Check with Growing Strong for  
more information**  
**(217) 428-0770**