



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

December 2021

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Editor

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*Thanks to all who attended our  
Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting Event  
on November 30.*

*Please check out pictures and announcements from our event in this newsletter!  
Seen here are a few of the participating Dove staff and  
a few former staff who are now dedicated supporters!!*

*And please, drive by our Giving Trees on the Green Space at 302 S. Union, Decatur.*

## *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.*

## Leadership Team

Tamara Wilcox, Executive Director  
Barbara Blakey, Director of Volunteers & Community Relations  
Teri Ducey, Domestic Violence Program Director  
Liz Mackey, Interim Program Director  
Darsonya Switzer, Homeward Bound Program Director

## Program Leadership

BABES Program, Sandy Laesch, Interim Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room, Vacant

Dove Food Pantry, Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Dove Financial Assistance, VACANT

Domestic Violence Program

Teri Ducey, Program Director

Liz Mackey, Interim Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Vacant, Piatt County Coordinator

Homeward Bound, Darsonya Switzer, Program Director

Neighborhood Services Program, LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

SCP • Senior Companion Program

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Christina Gillaspie, RSVP & SCP Program Director

Angie Williams, Interim RSVP & SCP Program Director

Kim McCormick, RSVP, DeWitt County Coordinator

Kathy Walters, Senior Companion Coordinator



*At our Giving Tuesday Event, Tammy Wilcox, Executive Director for Dove, announced a memorial dedication for the late Ray Batman, Dove's first Executive Director. You will hear more about this in the months to come and with an invitation to join us this spring to celebrate the life and leadership of Ray.*

*We miss you so much, Ray.*







Vuyi Allbritton was honored as the 2021 Macon County Continuum of Care, Advocate of the Year.

She was recognized at the MC CoC Governing Board Meeting mid-November and was presented with an award at Dove's Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting Event on November 30.

She truly exemplifies the spirit of giving back to her community.



Darsonya Switzer, Homeward Bound Program Director and Macon County Continuum of Care Chair, shared a few words and updates on the work of the Continuum.



Memorial Courtyard Dedication for Nancy Rude Oasis







*Family and friends took advantage of the last day of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Coats for Kids Drive to give the program a boost. Board President, Mandi Podeschi (above), shares a few coats and (R) Carol and Larry Brown (AKA Tammy's folks) share a few coats. Staff members Joyce Kirkland, Aimee Findlay and LeAnn Ellis look on. KUDOS to those three staff members (and Angie Williams) who took on the outside jobs for our Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting Event.*





# 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Coats for Kids!



sponsored by:



Thanks to the participating cleaners for making  
each coat clean and ready to be worn and for  
serving as a drop off site:

Peerless Cleaners  
Pride Cleaners and Launderers  
Waite's Dry Cleaners and Launderers

Thanks to the organizations who opened up  
their doors for serving as a drop off site:

Decatur Family YMCA  
Decatur Public Library  
HSHS St. Mary's  
Kroger  
Brettwood Plaza & Airport Plaza  
Land of Lincoln Credit Union  
Longcreek Township  
Richland Community College  
St. Teresa High School  
WAND Station

*Coats are still being cleaned for distribution.  
Watch for updates on our social media and next month's newsletter.*

Thanks to these agencies  
that work year round  
helping out families in need  
and serve as a place to get a coat!

## Where to find a coat!

Dove Clothing Room  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church  
2201 E. Prairie, Decatur  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Northeast Community Fund  
825 N. Water Street, Decatur  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.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.  
Maternity clothing and children's clothing,  
infant to size 6

Reasonable Service Free Clothing Room  
321 E. Leafland, Decatur  
Saturdays, NOON to 1:00 p.m.

God's Shelter of Love Agency  
(only through December 8)  
929 N. Union - west from Good Samaritan Inn  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A huge thank you to our RSVP Volunteers  
who keep the coats moving and making  
the whole thing work!

Nick Lauer  
Jerry and Charlotte Aldridge  
Bruce Frey  
Tim Laesch



One of the things we're doing this year at Christmas Care & Share is serving some of our senior citizens in skilled nursing facilities by delivering them

Christmas gifts and goodies! We're excited to be serving some of those in Fair Havens Senior Living, Heritage in Mt. Zion, and Decatur Rehab.

Some of their lists of wants are as follows (asterisks indicate multiple seniors have this listed):

#### Food gifts:

Chocolate of any kind\*  
Tapioca pudding  
Pepsi\* & Diet Pepsi\*  
Coke\* & Diet Coke\*

#### Non-food gifts (new items only please):

Female nightgown – small  
Fuzzy socks\*  
Women's shower gel\*  
Men's shower gel\*  
Coloring books and colored pencils\*  
Word search and cross word puzzle books\*  
Men's hats  
St. Louis Cardinals stuff\*  
Size 48/30 men's jeans  
Chicken knick-knacks

Cat statues  
Car and sports magazines\*  
Religious CD's  
Disney stuff  
Men's new 3XL shirts and sweatpants  
Size 10 men's shoes  
Men's XL shirts\* and pants  
Comic books  
Men's pants - medium\*  
Men's shirts - medium  
Women's shirts – medium and large\*  
Women's pants – small medium\* and large\*  
Small purse  
Women's sweatshirts – XL\*  
Women's XXL shirts  
Women's XXL pants

If you're interested in learning more, or want to help by donating requested items for senior citizens, please reach out to either Kathy Walters or Angie Williams at Dove. You can email them at [kwalters@doveinc.org](mailto:kwalters@doveinc.org) or [awilliams@doveinc.org](mailto:awilliams@doveinc.org), or speak to them by phone at 217.428.6616. You may also drop the items off at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Court, between Friday December 3 and Wednesday December 8 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. except on Sunday, December 5 - we will not be working on Sundays.

Let's make this an amazing Christmas for these folks and show them that we haven't forgotten about them.

## 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.**
- **Carissa and/or Jennifer 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.**

# B A B E S



Volunteers and staff members are busy with presentations through mid-December and plans are in the works for the Spring Semester. Thanks to all our volunteers!

- Volunteers started presenting BABES advanced programming to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Sangamon Valley and at American Dreamer STEM Academy Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders
- Presentations started for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Our Lady of Lourdes
- BE YOUR BEST programming will be presented to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Our Lady of Lourdes
- Presentations continue at Our Lady of Lourdes to Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders

## Children's Clothing Room



located inside  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church  
2201 East Prairie Avenue, Decatur

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

Guidelines posted on website and posted at church.

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



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## *DeWitt County*

*Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator*

### CADV Volunteers Needed:

We are still in need of people in the community who would like to donate their time to be on Dove's Committee Against Domestic Violence. We meet 1 hour a month and host an occasional fundraiser. If you would like to assist victims of domestic violence and have an hour a month to volunteer your time, please contact Jennifer Tolladay at 217.935.6619.

Dove in Clinton is still offering DV101 for individuals in Dewitt County. These classes are held on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Jennifer or Carissa, 217.935.6619.

Dove has winter coats in all sizes!! We are giving them out on Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Teresa's Designer Handbags, available at Sandy's Hidden Treasure on the Square, is going to donate 10% of the sale of handbags to Dove, from now to Christmas Eve.

## *Moultrie County*

*Rebecca Comstock, Coordinator*

The Moultrie County Dove Domestic Violence Program is here to assist with Orders of Protection, comprehensive services, and support throughout the Holiday Season. December office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Our office will be closed December 23 & 24 for the Christmas Holiday and December 29 & 30 for the New Year Holiday. Emergency services can still be received by calling our 24hr hotline at 217.728.9334.

At Dove we understand that domestic violence does not stop during the holidays. One of the hardest times for victims of domestic violence to leave is during the holidays. Victims and survivors may experience additional stressors and unique challenges over the holidays. The abuse and violence normally experienced by victims usually intensify due to the financial stress and alcohol consumption that often accompany the holiday season. Dove believes everyone deserves a life free from abuse no

matter the day or the season. We provide a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, accompaniment to court to file Orders of Protection, domestic violence education and counseling, parenting education, teen dating education, group counseling and referrals to outside resources.

Group services are being offered Thursday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the Moultrie County Farm Bureau Building and Dove Office. Dinner is provided. Come join us as we learn about healthy relationships and making healthy choices for ourselves and our children. Gain life skills to help you with all areas of your life. For more information call the Dove office, 217.728.9303.

Moultrie County Dove office will be holding their annual client Christmas party Thursday December 16, 1102 W. Jackson in Sullivan, 6:00 p.m. in the Moultrie County Farm Bureau building. We wish you a very safe and happy holiday season and blessed New Year.



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## *Macon County Liz Mackey, Interim Program Director*

The holidays are often a time of joy and community, but for people in abusive relationships, the holidays can be stressful and dangerous. Spending time with family and friends, dealing with financial stress and traveling can make safety planning for the holidays a challenge. Family and friends of survivors may also struggle to find ways to help or be supportive.

Many survivors feel isolated in their unhealthy or abusive relationships. Reaching out to family and friends can be an important step in healing. It can help to discuss safe times and ways to communicate. You might consider if there are times during the day when the survivor is typically away from their abusive partner. Or it might be safer for them to email or text rather than call. (It's best to make sure the abusive partner does not have access to the survivor's email account or phone before using these methods to communicate). Plan to keep checking in during the holidays. You can also create a code word, which allows the survivor to let someone know they need help without tipping off their partner. Be sure to agree on what action the code word calls for: does it mean you will call them, come over, contact the police, etc.?

It may feel instinctual for family or friends to say an abusive partner is not welcome at a holiday function. You have the right to say who is or isn't welcome in your home, but emotional support and safety planning can help both you and the survivor to move forward. Keep in mind you can talk or chat with a hotline advocate to figure out what will work best for you. Dove hotline, 217.423.2238.

The holiday season is stressful for many people but getting through the holidays while experiencing abuse can feel overwhelming. Taking time for your health and wellness can make a big difference in how you feel. Seeing someone you care about being hurt is also stressful. Remind yourself that you can't make decisions for someone else, but you can ask a survivor what they need and offer help. We do our best helping when we are taking care of ourselves, so try to make your own plans to get rest, get good nutrition, talk to supportive friends, and do things you enjoy.

*Stay Safe and Make Good Choices*

## **Domestic Violence Shelter Program Needs** (from our high need list)

**DISPOSABLE 3 PLY FACE MASKS FOR CLIENTS & WASHABLE FACE MASKS**  
**VINYL GLOVES (SIZE MEDIUM, LARGE, AND XL)**  
**CLOROX WIPES & AEROSOL DISINFECTANT SPRAY**  
**PAPER TOWEL ROLLS**  
**BABY WIPES, DISPOSABLE DIAPERS – SIZES 3, 4, 5, 6 & PULL-UPS**  
**NEW BATH TOWELS**  
**NEW NIGHTSHIRTS- WOMENS, ALL SIZES**  
**NEW SWEATSUITS- UNISEX, ALL SIZES**  
**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR CARE PRODUCTS, HAIR GREASE**  
**HAIRBRUSHES – NATURAL & NYLON BRISTLES**  
**CONDITIONER**  
**BODY WASH**  
**DEODORANT (WOMEN'S)**  
**DISPOSABLE CUPS, PLATES & EATING UTENSILS**

Dove offers its gratitude and best wishes to Annette Lane, Domestic Violence Parenting Specialist, who will retire on December 31, 2021, after 11 years at the agency. Annette started at Dove as the Homeward Bound Homeless Housing Intake Manager in 2002, moved to Homeward Bound Client Services Coordinator in 2004, then to Homeward Bound Case Manager from 2008-2009. She took a little break from Dove, then came back in 2017 as the DV Daytime Shelter Specialist. She has been in her current position as DV Parenting Specialist since 2018, where she has provided individual parenting support, client advocacy, and nutrition education, while growing the Healthy Families Parenting Class into a thriving group that is loved by clients. Annette is respected and appreciated by her colleagues for her wisdom, cool head in stressful situations, professionalism, and sense of humor. Annette has seen it all and provided great services to Dove's clients and community!

We wish you well, Annette, as you begin a new adventure in retirement!

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program



*At the Giving Tuesday, Giving Tree Lighting event on November 30, one of the special activities was a reception for Teri Ducey, Domestic Violence Program Director, in recognition of her upcoming retirement at the end of the year. What she didn't know was that the lovely courtyard garden was to be dedicated to her, in honor of her many years of service and tireless advocacy to the clients in the program. She is hard to surprise, but we did it!*





# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

I got hired and started working at Dove in the fall of 2004.

I graduated college in 2003, and shortly after that began one of the most difficult times in my life. I've always, since I was a kid, suffered from bouts of anxiety. Back then it usually manifested itself as unexplained stomach aches. Post-college, though, things really took a turn. I started getting severe panic attacks: the kind where you're shaky and nauseated and break into a cold sweat and you cannot talk and seemingly the only solution is to crawl into bed and hide beneath your covers.

The timespan between graduation and hiring on at Dove was a nightmare for me. There were days I couldn't make myself leave my house. I couldn't meet friends for lunches or dinners, couldn't set foot in stores of any kind. For a while the only place I could go without having a panic attack was my therapist's office. It's there I got my diagnosis: agoraphobia with panic attacks. I started taking medication for anxiety, having realized if things didn't turn around soon, I was going to be in real trouble. I had a great aunt who also had agoraphobia who did not leave her house for forty years for any reason except family funerals. God rest her soul; I did not want that to be me.

Even with medication, I struggled. How I even got through my interview at Dove in July of 2004 for the DV (Domestic Violence) Administrative Specialist position was simply the grace of God Himself. I started working in early August that year, and I almost didn't make it through my first day. I had multiple

panic attacks, threw up three times, and went to bed almost as soon as I got home that afternoon.

My daily routine at work was to get there, try to avoid talking to anyone by hiding in my office (which worked for a long time, because I mostly dealt with paperwork and files), eat lunch at my desk, and then go home. Longtime staff at Dove probably remember those days when I rarely said two words to anyone, not because I was unfriendly, but because I was an anxious mess.

There were still days I struggled immensely, especially if there was anything extra going on, like a staff meeting. Any kind of event that forced me out of my office and around groups of people was something I absolutely dreaded. Fortunately for me, my supervisor, Teri, was as understanding and patient with me as it is even possible to be with someone who was essentially always terrified for no discernible reason.

Teri has always been such a supportive supervisor, one who really worked to understand what I was going through, and who encouraged me innumerable times over the years. There were so many challenges along the way; once I learned the ins and outs of my job, I had to begin training others on the paperwork-related parts of being a staff or volunteer at Dove, which meant I had to talk to groups of people twice a year for each of our trainings. I had come a long way by then, but public speaking was still one of my major trouble points; even talking in weekly case management meetings with the rest of the domestic violence staff was a struggle for me until a few years ago.

Again, Teri encouraged me and assured me that I could handle this new challenge. She encouraged me to find ways to do my part of training that made me more at ease. This required me to utilize my skills of creativity, which made it a little less frightening.

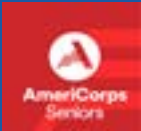
I have come a long way, anxiety-wise. That is not to say that I don't still struggle some days (and I still hate public speaking). But between having a supportive supervisor who is also someone I consider a dear friend, supportive coworkers, family, and yes, anti-anxiety medication, I'm miles away from where I used to be.

By now I'm sure everyone knows that Teri is retiring at the end of December, a well-earned feat after 31 years of service at Dove, Inc. I am so proud and so happy for her. I'm also selfishly sad for myself because this means I can't just pop by her office to ask her advice or tell her what I'm worried about whenever random anxiety is threatening to overwhelm me. I wanted to write this to thank her personally and publicly for all she has done, both for Dove, and for me.

Teri, thank you for always listening to me. Thank you for being patient and compassionate and understanding during times when even my own mom and dad were frustrated at the heights of my anxiety. Thank you for having such a hand in changing my life for the better. You are going to be so, so missed.

Stay strong and journey on.

Angie Williams



# News from RSVP!



## Dr. Suess Book Drive

Our focus for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service every year is education. This year we are hearing that our younger children are struggling with reading. As remote learning left our children with virtual instruction, which was very different and new to children and parents alike. Additionally, families had limited access to materials like books because of library access limitations due to COVID. This year RSVP and SCP MLK Day of service includes a Dr. Suess book drive for children in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>. While shopping for loved ones this holiday season we would be grateful if you can pick up one or two Dr Suess books to donate to children as part of our day of service. For questions, please call Kimberly at 217.935.2241 or Kathy at 217.428.6616. Books are accepted at our office now to January 12, 2022.

Macon County books will be donated to the American Dreamers STEM Academy while DeWitt County donations will go to Douglas Elementary.



Our sincere thanks and best wishes to Charlie Gillaspie as she leaves Dove and RSVP for new opportunities on December 17. Charlie began with Dove in 2012 with the Homeward Bound Program and was promoted to the RSVP Director where she has spent most of her tenure.

Charlie's leadership lead to the addition of the Senior Companion Program and kudos to keeping a volunteer program in great shape as we all navigate the effects of COVID.

Charlie loved working with the Volunteers and always admired their dedication and service to the many they served.

Thanks Charlie!

## Staffing updates:

Kim McCormick has returned to the DeWitt County RSVP Coordinator's position in December, a part time position. You can reach her at 217.935.2241 or [kmccormick@doveinc.org](mailto:kmccormick@doveinc.org)

Angie Williams began with Dove in 2004 and has served in the Community Services Program and currently serves with the Domestic Violence Program and Coordinator of the Christmas Care and Share Program. Angie has been promoted to the RSVP / SCP Program Director and will begin her duties in January.

Watch for more information and updates in the January DoveTales.



# 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. Four 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 702 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:

- Diapers (all sizes) and Baby Wipes
- Personal Hygiene Items

**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.

**HOME** 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, IL 62521  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

The Homeward Bound Children's Specialist is planning The Polar Express for the group, Saturday, December 18, 3:00 p.m.

## Coordinated Entry

Dove-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.



# Senior Companion Program

Calling on friendly faces!

Tis' the season to join the Dove Senior Companion Program (SCP) and help make a senior's day merry and bright. Plus, earn a non-taxable stipend to use through the holidays, if qualified.

The Dove Senior Companion Program (SCP) is seeking volunteers 55 years of age or better to share their friendship with homebound adults. Companions might do friendly phone calls, help make a grocery list, read, or reminisce together over a cup of cheer.

Call Kathy Walters, SCP Coordinator, at 217.428.6616 if you would like to learn more about becoming a Senior Companion Volunteer.

Looking to learn more about our Senior Companion Program or Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

Kathy Walters, SCP Coordinator, would love to come share with your group about National Service with AmeriCorps Seniors.

Call to schedule a speaker for your group today.  
217.428.6616



**AmeriCorps**  
Seniors

*Your gift will ensure  
that services can  
continue.*

*Please give  
generously.*

*Dove, Inc.  
302 S. Union Street  
Decatur, IL 62522*

*or donate online at  
[doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org)*



# Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance  
for families/individuals in need

**Macon County Site:**  
**Northeast Community Fund**  
839 N. MLK, Jr. Drive, Decatur

**Hours:**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**  
**217.619.9108 or DFA@doveinc.org**

**DeWitt, Shelby, Moultrie and Piatt Counties:**  
**By appointment, can be reached at**  
**DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108**



## **Macon County:**

**Northeast Community Fund**  
**839 N. MLK, Jr. Dr., Decatur**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

## **DeWitt and Piatt Counties:**

**By appointment, can be reached at**  
**DFA@doveinc.org or 217.619.9108**

## **Bill Payment Assistance Guidelines**

# Dove Financial Assistance

**If you'd like to make a donation to this  
emergency financial program,  
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  
on the website comment box.**

Must show proof of  
30 Day (GROSS) Income  
Must be Between

Family Size	200%	350%
1	\$2,127	\$3,722
2	\$2,873	\$5,028
3	\$3,620	\$6,336
4	\$4,367	\$7,642
5	\$5,113	\$8,948
6	\$5,860	\$10,256
7	\$6,607	\$11,562
8	\$7,353	\$12,868

- 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 in the box
- Applicant can receive WNCF assistance only once per heating season, which is 10/1 to 5/31 each year and once per cooling season, 6/1 to 9/30
- WNCF matches customer payments (within the last 45 days) up to \$350 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)



# RSVP Volunteer Opportunities

Christmas Care & Share Volunteers are needed now through December 13, 2021 (except Sundays) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for sorting and counting donations.

The distribution days this year are scheduled for December 14, 15, 16, and 17 and volunteers are needed at tables to help clients with selections.

Call Angie Williams, Christmas Care & Share coordinator at 217.428.6616 to select times and dates you can help.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Court, is our generous host for Christmas Care and Share.

Appropriate measures are being taken to ensure all volunteers, staff, and clients stay safe and healthy including PPE, disinfecting, and social distancing.

RSVP has partnered with AARP and the Vespasian Warner Library to offer free tax preparation in DeWitt County. This would be the 6<sup>th</sup> year to offer these services, but we need your help to continue!

Tax preparers and greeters are necessary to complete returns. Volunteer training will be in January 2022. Call Kimberly at 217.935.2241 to get started.

Volunteers do not have to be enrolled in RSVP to help keep this vital program in Clinton.

## Pieces of Love Ministry



This long time ministry which sends hand made afghans to the clients at Dove and many other agencies, has a new location to meet.

First Presbyterian Church  
204 W. Prairie, Decatur

They meet the second Wednesday of every other month, starting in January (12<sup>th</sup>) between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

For more information about the program, please contact Wyllene Griffy, 217.422.8417 or Nancy Waltermeyer, 217.428.1902



## Neighborhood Services Program

### Sharing News from the Neighborhood Activities!

In November, I heard from a few neighborhood residents in need of assistance due to Covid-19 issues, as well as other issues. I was able to encourage and direct to resources to meet families needs.

I have met with a few different individuals from agencies to support one another in our efforts toward community; also, I am looking forward to future scheduled meetings with other agencies.

Dove staff members continue to attend CONO monthly meetings, which have been informational and encouraging to see the neighborhoods come together and sharing with one another with direction and purpose.

The city council meetings offer insight into our community, as staff hear from city residents, the council and mayor and the city manager among others, also.

I am very grateful to Sandy Laesch for her patient instruction with me concerning the BABES Program. We are now presenting BABES to a total of 5 classrooms at OLOL School, as well as Sandy and others presenting elsewhere.

*LeAnn Ellis, Neighborhood Services Coordinator*



*You shop.*

*Amazon gives.*

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