



# DoveTales

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

**September  
2022**

Barbara Blakey  
Editor

Issue 2022 • 9  
Published Monthly

**Dove, Inc.**

302 S. Union

Decatur, IL

62522

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*Looking Ahead - Please join us!*

## **Domestic Violence Education and Volunteer Training**

Monday through Thursday evenings, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
September 19 through October 5  
See page 9 for more details!

## **Homeless Advisory Council Meeting**

September 8 and November 10, 1:30 p.m.

## **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Coats for Kids**

October 12 - November 30

Watch for collection sites and distribution sites!

## **"NO VISIBLE BRUISES"**

Thursday, October 20

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Guest speaker, Rachel Louise Snyder, author of "NO  
VISIBLE BRUISES"

Plus combined Candlelighting events for all 5 counties  
Part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**

Nationally November 13 - 18

Donor thank you for "Ray Batman Center for Social  
Justice" and awarding the first, of a to be annual  
award, in his honor.

## **Giving Tuesday Giving Tree Lighting**

Tuesday, November 29, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Green Space on Union

## **Christmas Care & Share**

Distribution of toys and food for more  
than 800 families.

See page 7 for volunteer and giving opportunities

### **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  
Christina Butcher, Chief Financial 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

Liz Mackey, Program Director

Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator

Becky Comstock, Moultrie County Coordinator

Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Andrea Kocher, Piatt County Coordinator

### Homeward Bound

Ashley Garner, Interim Program Director

### Neighborhood Services Program

LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

### RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Angie Williams, Program Director

Kathy Walters, Macon County Coordinator

VACANT, DeWitt County Coordinator



## From Darsonya's Desk -

Sometimes life will have you on a clear path and as soon as you get into a good rhythmic stride, listening to your favorite song, enjoying the stroll, out of nowhere the ground crumbles. Now, many of us can probably relate, but have been fortunate enough to overcome. We have family, friends, co-workers, spiritual leaders, and the self-resolve to assist us in regaining our footing. Those support systems lessen the distance of the fall, thereby making it easier to get back up.

However, when it is bountiful, the blessing of a good support system is all too often taken for granted. It is, in that sense, easy to forget that there are those who have come to that drop off on their life's path with no support system at all. That is why I am committed to ensuring Dove, Inc. maintains its dedication to client-centered advocacy! We are often a person's **ONLY** support system. Additionally, we do recognize the importance of our agency's support system. You are our blessing, our support system! The overwhelmingly gracious community support that Dove, Inc. receives is why we can be that blessing to so many. We are grateful for that!

Darsonya Switzer, CEO  
Dove, Inc.

# ***Dove Financial Assistance***

*DFA has been busy this month! On August 1<sup>st</sup> we moved into our new locations and are now seeing clients at the Decatur Public Library on Mondays and at our Homeward Bound office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We were hoping that people wouldn't have any trouble in finding us at our new spots, and I'm happy to report that they did not! In fact, our very first Monday at the library we had people following us in the door first thing in the morning!*

*This past month we have heard about a lot of hardships, with the main one being the higher power bills on top of the fees and expenses that go along with the beginning of a new school year. As of August 30, DFA assisted 79 households in Macon County alone, and this doesn't include our assistance for Warm Neighbors Cool Friends! We have also seen movement in all our rural counties, as people are hearing more about how Dove Financial Assistance can assist within the community.*

*I share all of this for a couple of reasons. The first is that we are providing a huge need to many within our communities. For Macon County, we have been the main source of assistance available as other places were out of funds and were referring people to DFA. The other reason I share this is that we have had such a large increase of the number of people in need that our funds available are shrinking. We don't*

*want to get to the point where we aren't able to assist anyone. If you have it on your heart and are able to donate to DFA, it would be greatly appreciated. If you don't have the ability to donate currently, we understand, as times are tough for many right now. If you can help to share the need with others, that would be great!*

*As always, contributions can be sent to our main office, just make sure to have "DFA" in the memo line. A reminder that whatever county the donation originates from will be the county it stays in and will go right back out into our community!*

*I also want to say Thank You to all that came out and supported DFA at our Monical's fundraiser at the beginning of the month! We just received a check from Monical's in the amount of \$305 and are grateful for any amount to go towards the needs in the community!*

*I will close with sharing what a gentleman that I assisted this past month told me. He said, "You didn't just make my day, you made my year!" The assistance we were able to offer was exactly what he needed to get back on his feet and get on the right path. None of that would have been possible without our generous donors! So please know that your donation, no matter the amount, is helping to make someone's year better!*

**Molly Tenuto, Program Director**

## ***Dove Financial Assistance***

*If you would like to make a donation to this emergency financial assistance program, please use mailing address:*

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

*or on Dove's website  
[doveinc.org](http://doveinc.org)*

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

*Your help supports so many  
families in need.*

## Children's Clothing Room Update:

We are open!!! Dove Children's Clothing Room has a new home, Central Christian Church! For the past month, the Dove Clothing room RSVP volunteers have been working together to pack and organize the move to our new home for Dove's Children's Clothing Room. We have also been working closely with the church volunteers and staff at Central Christian to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Our goal was to open August 15<sup>th</sup>. Wow, must I say what a great group of volunteers and staff. With the organizational skills of our RSVP volunteers and for the love of what they do, we were able to meet our goal. On the first day we served 5 families and received 2 donations.



Kathy Walters  
Children's Clothing Room Coordinator

We would also like to give a big thank you to Rev. Jason Butterick and Prairie Avenue Christian Church for the 18 years it was the home to Dove Children's Clothing Room.

*Thank you  
again to  
everyone  
involved.*



To learn more about  
becoming a  
Dove Member Congregation  
please contact  
Barb Blakey  
at 217.428.6616  
or [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)

Dove's Children's Clothing Room  
Central Christian Church  
650 W. William St. Decatur  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.



# Dove Financial Assistance

Helping with emergency financial assistance  
for families/individuals in need

for all counties: [DFA@doveinc.org](mailto:DFA@doveinc.org) or 217.433.7435  
in-person sites: see below

## 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.

(Please note: September 5 is a holiday for Dove)

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

## Shelby County Site:

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

September 14 & 28, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

## Moultrie County Site:

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

September 7 & 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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

## Piatt County Site:

Watch for a fall start date and location

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

## DeWitt County Site:

803 W. Leander, Clinton

September 13 & 28, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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



## For Macon, DeWitt and Piatt Counties:

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

in person sites same as for DFA funding

## 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 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)

# News from Homeward Bound

Staff have been working to engage and house 23 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. 7 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 832 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. Join the Macon County Continuum of Care in supporting this effort. Donations will be accepted

**HOME** 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.

**Macon County  
Continuum of Care Homeless Advisory  
Council (HAC) Meeting**

**Next meeting is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday,  
September 8, 1:30 p.m.  
Check our social sites or call 217.428.6616 for  
location and additional information.**

## 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.

## Life Skills and Job Club

**Job Club Classes are cancelled till further notice, for further information please contact Daciena, 217.362.7700 ext. 106.**

## Upcoming Events: Children's Group

**Mid-Summer Moon Production of Beauty & the Beast, Decatur Civic Center, September 16, 7:00 p.m., September 17, 2:00 & 7:00 p.m., September 18, 2:00 p.m.**

**September 17, Free Movie in the Park  
ENCANTO,  
8:00 p.m., Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater**

**September 22 & 24, In-person Preschool Story  
Time & Craft , Decatur Public Library**

**September 29, RaD Kids Book group ages 10-14,  
4:00 p.m., Decatur Public Library**



*Would you like to help prepare for our Christmas Care & Share program?*

We need hats and gloves (can be homemade) in all sizes from infant to adult, to pass out in December to children receiving assistance through the program. We also need handsewn stockings. We can send you a pattern through the mail if you are interested.

We need volunteers in December at Christmas Care & Share to help unload trucks, count, and sort toys, books, and games. This opportunity will begin on Friday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m. until the last truck from the Toys for Tots and WAND Toy Drive ends, around 7:00 p.m.

We will also need people to help us with these opportunities on Saturday, December 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and then Monday, December 5 through Saturday, December 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and again Monday, December 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Another volunteer opportunity is to help program participants shop for their children. This includes sitting at a table and helping people pick out gifts for their children for Christmas, or, walking with them around the room with them as they pick out gifts, and assisting them out to their cars. There is a short training for this opportunity for those able to attend – currently scheduled for Friday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Each training will last from a half hour to an hour depending on the size of the group, and you only need to attend one of them.

Christmas Care & Share volunteering and trainings will all take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Court, Decatur. If you're interested in volunteering with Christmas Care & Share please call Maddie or Angie at 217.428.6616, or email [santa@doveinc.org](mailto:santa@doveinc.org).



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of your choice.*

*We hope you choose Dove!*

**just start shopping at  
[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**

## Neighborhood Services Program

### Sharing News About The Neighborhoods!

I am looking forward to representing Dove with Decatur's Jasper Street Corridor Project as part of the task force committee. We have been in touch and waiting to hear back for the date of our first meeting.

August has been busy with neighborhood canvassing, back to school outreach and a summer block party, as well as continuing with monthly meetings and pursuing the re-opening of neighborhood associations.

I enjoyed the opportunity to join other Dove staff in meeting with Devon Joyner at OKO and now look forward to the September 8, Town Hall Meeting. We will be addressing violence issues in the community.

Also, thankful to continue working together with other programs within Dove's agency, as a team, along various avenues within the community.

The September calendar is filling up with more events and meetings. And I look forward to once again working with the BABES Program and Christmas Care & Share!

LeAnn Ellis, Coordinator

Coalition Of  
Neighborhood Organizations

## CONO Meeting

Tuesday, September 20  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month)  
5:30 p.m.

Staley Room, Decatur Public Library  
Downtown Decatur

If we can share information on your  
Neighborhood Group, please email info  
by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month  
to [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)



**Registration for this training begins with a phone interview.  
Please call between now & September 12, NOON • 217.428.6616.**

**Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home, 302 S. Union, Decatur  
Monday through Thursday, September 19 to October 5, 2022  
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

***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 current employment.***

**Fee for this ICADV Certified Training is \$200**



## **Our Certified Trainers**

**Lead Training Facilitator  
Joyce Kirkland**

**Co-Facilitators  
Liz Mackey  
Jamie Houchins**

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## Shelby County ■ Susie Kensil Coordinator

As the summer fades away, the winds of change are upon us. The wildflowers are in bloom along the roadways, the crops in the fields are changing colors and Mother Nature's green coat is beginning to fade. The onset of the beautiful colors of fall can be spotted in some treetops. Although I am a lover of summer, the change from summer to fall has always been exciting to me.... the cool, crisp evenings and mornings and the hint of fog and haze on the horizon. I was always one of the weird kids who looked forward eagerly to the first day of school. The prospect of change and of hope for a great year ahead was intoxicating. As an adult, I still love this time of year. The promise of new beginnings makes it seem like a second New Year's, a chance to complete some of those goals that may have been left behind in the busyness of life. If you, or someone you know, has been affected in some way by domestic violence, this second New Year is an exciting time to initiate change. We are here to guide you and to offer options and domestic violence education to enable you to move past the issues of abuse that can linger and to build a more serene life. We can be reached on our 24-hour crisis line at 217.774.4888 or our business line at 217.774.3121. We also welcome walk-ins at 1200 South Hickory, Shelbyville. Reach out to us and we can start this new season together.

## Macon County ■ Liz Mackey, Program Director

Domestic violence is a public health issue impacting families and communities every day. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. For trans or gender non-conforming folks, this number jumps to 54%.

If Domestic Violence is a public health issue, and I would also argue that it is a Public Health Emergency. The rate of women being harmed, 1 in 4, constitutes nothing short but an immediate emergency. But why isn't it treated that way? Why is it not funded and not talked about in most schools? Why are we not protecting our women as a society? If we live in a country that is right now

debating what women can do or not do to their OWN BODIES, why aren't we talking about the violence that is happening TO our bodies by the hands of their abusers? All the questions will never be answered until the conversation changes, and we start holding those inflicting violence upon these women. Abusers must be held accountable. We must call out Violence to women when we see it or hear about it. We need a brave society that cares about women, not just caring about controlling them. Be kind to each other and be brave out there.



# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

**DeWitt County ■**  
**Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator**

**Happy Autumn Everyone!**

**We here in DeWitt County are going to try something new this year!**

**This year we are collecting any new or gently used and laundered Halloween costumes.**

**Anyone whose youngsters need a new costume this year is welcome to come by during the food pantry hours and pick out as many as needed. We recognize with the prices of everything being high, sometimes the items that are not necessities are not priority.**

**We want all youngsters who want to participate in Fall Events/Trick or Treating to be able to have a costume.**

**If you would like to donate or need costumes and have questions, please call Jennifer at 217.935.6072.**

The Dove Food Pantry in Clinton is in need of volunteers with trucks to drive to Bloomington once a month to help get the food and transport it to the food pantry. We also are in need of volunteers to help unload the trucks and organize and put the food away. Here are the dates for drivers for the remainder of the year:

- October 6
- November 3
- December 8

If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Jennifer Tolladay at 217.935.6619 for times and further details.

*Thank you!*

Items needed for the food pantry:

- Snack sized sandwich baggies
- Cans of Spaghetti O's, spaghetti, and meatballs, beef a roni, and ravioli
- Side dishes

I want to say a HUGE thank you to all the wonderful folks who have donated their fresh veggies for our food pantry. Our recipients love it!!

If you are interested in volunteering at the food pantry, please contact Jennifer at 217.935.6619.



**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.

# NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

## **Moultrie County ■ Becky Comstock, Coordinator**

Domestic Violence can take many forms: psychological and emotional abuse, physical abuse, economic abuse, intimidation and sexual abuse. If you are frightened by your partner's temper, afraid to disagree, have to justify everything you do to avoid someone's anger, are put down by your partner and then told they love you, make you stay away from friends or family because it makes them jealous, are afraid to break off the relationship because the other person threatens to hurt you or themselves, feel intimidated or controlled you might be suffering abuse. Forms of abuse can happen in person, via phone, text, social media, etc. Violence can occur in different types of relationships. Married couples, unmarried couples (including teens), adult and child relationship, child and parent relationship, and between an individual and extended family. If you do not feel safe in your relationship help is available by calling 217.728.9334.

The Moultrie County Coordinator will be speaking at the Moultrie County Inter Agency Meeting Tuesday, September 20, at noon in the Red Apple.

There will be no Thursday Night Group

September 8. Group services will resume Thursday, September 15, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Moultrie County Farm Bureau Building. Dinner is provided, childcare upon request.

Due to various reasons Moultrie County Dove will not be holding a Candlelighting Ceremony this year. We encourage everyone to attend "No Visible Bruises" featuring guest speaker Rachel Louise Snyder on Thursday, October 20, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur.

We ask that everyone please keep Moultrie County CADV Board Member Brenda Kroll in your thoughts and prayers as she recently had a heart attack and underwent open-heart surgery. Brenda has been a committee member and volunteer since 2019. She is a huge blessing to the Moultrie County Coalition Against Domestic Violence committee and the Moultrie County Dove Domestic Violence program and the victims it serves.

Moultrie County Dove office is currently in need of baby wipes, Pull-ups, size 5 diapers, shampoo, conditioner, body wash and baby wash.



**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.**

**New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.**

**If you do not yet have a rewards card, the cards are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.**



***And Thanks to all  
who support Dove in this way!***

# NEWS

## from the Domestic Violence Program



Thanks to Crossing Staff who collected and donated items for use by the clients in our Shelter. Thanks so much for these items and the many ways we work with Crossing for the improved health of many in our community.

### Piatt County ▪ Andrea Kocher, Coordinator

The Piatt County office is offering DV101 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. weekly on Wednesdays.

We are planning to get DFA off the ground in Piatt County in September and will have information about office location and hours coming soon.

#### Domestic Violence Program Shelter Needs

- vinyl gloves (size medium, large, & XL)
- Clorox wipes & aerosol disinfectant spray
- Pull-Ups
- strollers (can be umbrella type)
- new full-size bath towels
- new nightshirts- womens, all sizes
- gas, Walmart and ALDI gift cards
- disposable cups
- snacks and juice boxes
- non-drowsy allergy medications (Zyrtec, Claritin)
- Vaseline
- African-American hair care products
- hair grease
- natural bristle hair brushes
- nylon bristle hair brushes
- Orajel
- school supplies, all grade levels

# RSVP Recognition Luncheon



Special thanks to Macon County RSVP Advisory Council members for their hard work and planning of the appreciation luncheon. This year's luncheon took place August 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and was catered by the Good Samaritan Inn. Thank you to all the Dove, Inc. staff who attended and assisted and to all the volunteers who attended and helped out in any way. We appreciate you and all you do!





# RSVP



## Volunteer Needs -- Macon County

If you would be willing to assist with the mailing of Dove's Annual Report, please contact Angie or Kathy and let us know! We are planning to do this mailing on Friday, September 23, at 9 a.m. until we are finished. Lots of hands are needed to help with this. We will be working out of our downstairs conference room – Dean Simcox – and will provide snacks and drinks for all who attend! This consists of putting labels on each piece of mail. If you are an RSVP member, you can count hours for this, and we certainly appreciate the help!

Decatur Memorial Hospice is looking for volunteers where someone would go in and just sit (and visit) with hospice patients while their caregivers are gone for an hour or two. No set schedule is required! The idea is just to give caregivers a reprieve for a short time. You are not expected to give any form of medical care to the patients. If you're interested, please contact Abbey at 217.876.4696 or email her at [britton.abbey@mhsil.com](mailto:britton.abbey@mhsil.com).

Faith in Action needs friendly visitors, phone callers, shoppers, and people to assist in occasional transportation to appointments for homebound seniors. Those interested can contact Kara at 217.428.0013.

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 self-image and feelings, peer pressure and decision making,



Dove Staff  
at Seniorama

copied with situations they can't control, as well as others. The material is presented in a factual, non-judgmental manner. Pairs of trained volunteers present six ½ hour lessons in classes Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Volunteers can choose when and where they present their BABES lessons. This is a great way to make a difference in your community.

For more information contact Sandy Laesch, BABES Program Coordinator at [slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org) or Barb Blakey, [bblakey@doveinc.org](mailto:bblakey@doveinc.org).

## Volunteer Needs – Dewitt County

Weldon Springs Foundation is having its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the schoolhouse on September 17. Ameren donated mulch and they are hoping to get it spread anytime people have time to pull weeds or spread it. They can also use helpers on the weekends to be in the buildings. For more information, call 217.737. 3081 and talk to Stef Russell.

Little Galilee Christian Camp has a myriad of volunteer opportunities, including maintenance around the camp, light cleaning, and mechanical work. They are also always seeking potential teachers for things such as electric work, photography, and culinary classes. If you have a particular skillset that you're willing to share, they would be happy to have a conversation with you and utilize your talents. If interested, contact Ed at 217.935.3809.

Peace Meals is seeking volunteer drivers to deliver meals to homebound seniors in Clinton and Farmer City. Delivery routes usually take an hour or two to complete and may be the only healthy meal the senior receives that day. If you would like to know more, call or email Jill at: 309.661.5045 or [jill.s.hanson-murray@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:jill.s.hanson-murray@osfhealthcare.org).

The Dove, Inc. Food pantry is seeking volunteers to assist with unloading the truck full of food the first Thursday of each month, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you're able to help, please reach out to Jennifer at 217.935.6619.

# RSVP News!

## Dewitt County Area:

If you know someone who might be interested in working 20 hours a week with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, please have them reach out to Angie Williams.

We are ready to welcome a new staff member the Dewitt office and we are actively seeking out the right person. Must love seniors, have a heart for volunteers, and understand the importance of volunteering.

[awilliams@doveinc.org](mailto:awilliams@doveinc.org) OR 217.428.6616

Dove's RSVP program is teaming up with Operation Enduring Support to help troops! We are helping to collect items for the troops for Christmas. These are some of the requested items that our military service men and women are hoping to receive:

- Beanie Babies
- 2023 calendars
- puzzle game books, playing cards
- Gorilla tape/duct tape
- protein bars/granola bars
- nutritional snacks/popcorn
- Slim Jims & Beef Jerky (no pork products)
- hard candy/gum
- individually wrapped snacks (no chips, too easily crushed)
- hand warmers
- individual packets of instant coffee
- individual powdered drink mix (like Crystal Lite and hot chocolate)
- hanging deodorizers (air fresheners)
- solid deodorant/Gold Bond Powder (1 oz)
- body wash/shampoo combo

- hotel size shampoo, conditioner, lotion
- eye drops and Chapstick
- fun socks
- Q-tips (travel size)
- Band-Aids
- eyeglass wipes
- alcohol free wet wipes
- toothbrushes/toothpaste
- black ballpoint Pens/4X6 notepads
- fine point permanent markers
- 5 blade razors
- small American flags

They are also in need of monetary donations for postage. Mailings are \$20/box. These items should be delivered to Grace United Methodist Church, 901 N Main St., Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Items need to be received by November 17.

# BABES

*Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies*



With schools opening for the fall semester, the BABES Program is busy with recruiting new volunteers, reconnecting with our current volunteers and reaching out to classroom teachers about scheduling presentations for their students.

If you would like to learn more about the program or to become a volunteer, please contact Coordinator, Sandy Laesch:

[slaesch@doveinc.org](mailto:slaesch@doveinc.org)  
or 217.428.6616