



Safety~Net

September 2006
Vol. 2, Issue 4

Focus: Jail, Reducing Recidivism, Re-entry Programs

ABOUT SAFETY~NET

Safety~Net is a quarterly publication about our community's social service/non-profit agencies, brought to you by the Shalom Center in collaboration with the social service/non-profit agencies, and financially sponsored by the City of Bloomington. Safety~Net is a community newspaper, and if you have suggestions about what might be the focus of topics for future issues, please email these suggestions to the editor at www.shalomcommunitycenter.org.

Earlier issues of Safety~Net can be accessed at

www.shalomcommunitycenter.org.

THIS ISSUE

Focus

The Monroe County jail was originally designed for 124 beds, but over the years it has become overcrowded. The population of inmates currently averages around 250, and has exceeded 300. At the time of this writing, the jail population is about 270. According to Sheriff Steve Sharp and jail commander Colonel Bill Wilson, when the entire justice system is included in the calculations (jail operation, courts, prosecution, public defender, etc.) the cost per inmate is a little over \$100 a day.

Furthermore, approximately 70% of the inmates are repeat offenders, and will be re-arrested within three years of their release. The articles in the first section of this issue describe the rehabilitative and re-entry programs that are currently taking place to address these problems. On September 21 there will be a public forum at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Monroe County Public Library that will focus on these issues. The keynote speaker will be Judge John F. Surbeck, Jr, Allen Superior Court, who will speak about the re-entry court in Fort Wayne, Indiana that he was instrumental in starting. Read Judge Surbeck's article on p. 6.

Agency Reports

As with all issues of Safety~Net, the second section of this issue summarizes reports from the social service/non-profit agencies in our community, including an Agency Guide, and a Calendar of upcoming events. There is also a special section, called Thanks From Us, which contains comments from individuals who have been helped by the many agencies.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Safety~Net will be published in December, and its focus will be Health Care Revisited.

Shirt Design Contest

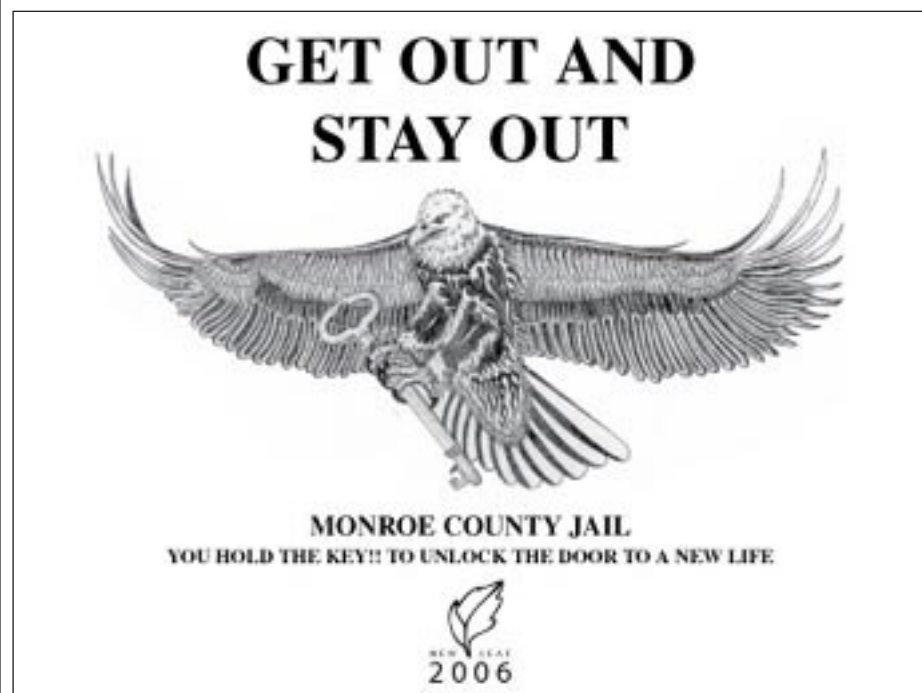


Photo submitted

The artwork for this shirt was drawn by Brett Kemper while an inmate at the Monroe County Jail. For more information turn to "Help raise Funds for New Leaf" on p.7.

This issue

FOCUS ARTICLES

Drug Court	2
Probation System	2
Correctional Center Transformation	3
History of Jail Improvement	3
Transition Program	4
Jail Diversion Program	5
Community Model Program	4
Delancey Street Program	6
ReEntry Court	6
New Leaf-New Life Programs	7
VORP	8
Play-reading at Jail	8
Crisis Intervention Team	9

AGENCY REPORTS

Shalom Community Center	9
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	10
Big Brothers Big Sisters	11
Wonderlab	12
Harmony School	12
United Way	13
Middle Way House	13
Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Ctr.	14
Youth Services Bureau	14

ADDITIONAL CONTENT

Inmate Poetry	5
Why I Volunteer at Shalom	14
Thanks From Us	11

CALENDAR

AGENCY REFERENCE GUIDE	13, 16
------------------------	--------

A Word from the Mayor

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

The problem

Among our community's top economic development issues is the spiral and cycle of recidivism. Recidivism is an individual and community failure. It is the responsibility of the individual to address the problem. It's the responsibility of the community to ensure that the individual involved isn't fighting an un-winnable battle.

Recidivism is a clear example of why the jail is not just a so-called "County issue." More than half of the inmates in the jail are city residents and the jail itself is situated at the center of our city. Sev-

enty percent of released inmates will wind up back in jail or prison within three years.

The effect on youth

Children of inmates are seven times more likely to get involved with the criminal justice system and get incarcerated than other children whose parents are not in jail. The explosive growth of people, especially women, in prison and jail is creating a generation of angry kids growing up with uncertain prospects. And if we build more and larger jails and prisons, they too simply will be filled.

See "Mayor," page two

The Changing Role of Incarceration

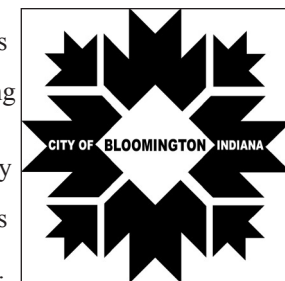
By Colonel Bill Wilson, Jail Commander

The Monroe County Correctional Center (Jail) is a pivotal institution that touches the lives of thousands of individuals each year. Some people in jail stay for a short period of time, and then are replaced by more people of the same kind. A key difference between jails and prisons is that jails handle non-convicted individuals and become the intake center for the criminal justice system. In addition, jails often serve as a place of last resort for individuals who belong in public health, welfare, and social service programs.

While jails are constitutionally required to provide exercise, access to the courts and health care delivery systems, the lack of other programs has long been a criticism of jails. For the past several years the Monroe County Correctional Center has provided a variety of programs including GED and Adult Basic Education, drug and alcohol and a variety of religious programs that have served a valuable need in

the facility.

On any given day, the majority of inmates held in the Monroe County Correctional Center are repeat offenders. In the past, lack of community and volunteer involvement resulted in the release of unprepared inmates. Recently the Monroe County Correctional Center and New Leaf-New Life have initiated a number of volunteer based programs to assist offenders during their period of incarceration and additionally provide transitioning services from the jail to the community.



See "Wilson," page two

This publication is made possible by the financial support of the City of Bloomington.

Drug Courts Reduce Recidivism

By Kenneth G. Todd, Judge, Monroe Circuit Court

One of the most pressing issues facing the criminal justice system in the 21st century is the over-crowding of prisons and jails. It is a complex issue that defies meaningful discussion in the space allocated to this article. However, the direct correlation of alcohol and drug abuse to criminal conduct cannot be denied. According to a three-year national study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, alcohol and drug abuse is a direct cause or contributing factor in about 80% of all crimes

In the 1980s, the criminal courts and jails of Dade County, Florida, were being swamped by a tide of cocaine trafficking and related crimes. The Florida Supreme Court directed Judge Herbert Klein to research potential solutions. Over the course of the next year, he worked with other criminal justice officials, substance abuse professionals, and community leaders to design an intervention with addicted offenders which was more effective than incarceration. Ultimately, they proposed a non-adversarial, community partnership concept now known as the "drug court,"

or, in Monroe County, as the "drug treatment court."

Drug courts target non-violent offenders whose involvement with the criminal justice system is primarily due to their addiction to drugs and/or alcohol. Offenders eligible for the drug are identified as soon as possible after arrest.

Typically, participants are referred to intensive outpatient treatment, which requires at least three counseling and education sessions weekly, and are also required to attend at least three twelve-step meetings weekly. Additionally, participants are subject to a curfew, required to report daily to provide breath and urine samples to detect use of substances, and required to attend weekly hearings to review compliance with the requirements of the program.

At the weekly hearings, which are conducted on a more personal and informal level than other court proceedings, behavior is reinforced through a system of consequences for program violations and rewards for compliance with program rules.

See "Todd," page three

Mayor

Continued from page one

Some work has begun

We should applaud the efforts of the sheriff, other county units, and the many local agencies already involved in developing a concerted, coordinated effort to break the cycle. By breaking the cycle of recidivism, we can build long term value for the community — increasing the safety of our citizens while controlling, and in the long term, reducing the costs of corrections.

A City-County re-entry task force

I am working with County Commissioners President Joyce Poling to create a City-County Re-entry Task Force.

The group's aim will be to break the recidivism cycle in our community by planning for the re-entry of released jail inmates into the general population.

I see the Task Force consisting of city and county council members, members of various affected social service agencies, as well as the courts, the sheriff, the jail, the police and others.

The task force will develop a strategic plan for a comprehensive re-entry program -- building on the significant resources already in place in the community with incremental resources coming largely in the form of state, federal and

foundation grants.

New opportunities

The business world is a key component of the program. Businesses need to be involved and be willing to hire and train qualified people who are released from jail.

We need to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce as well as the school system and Ivy Tech to identify and establish training programs in job specific skill areas.

I fully support the goals and plans of New Leaf - New Life, Inc., a new Bloomington organization that has taken on the task of accomplishing these goals through its new Transition Program designed to help newly released inmates find employment.

Breaking the bonds of poverty

Whether it is children living in poverty or juveniles or adults in the revolving doors of the justice system, a real danger is a class of citizens that never break the bonds of poverty.

A loss of an entire group of people's energies is a moral failure as well as a drain on limited resources and a waste of skilled workforce.

We can and will do better. That's our community's way.

Probation System: Key Player in Re-Entry Planning

By Linda Brady, Chief Probation Officer, Monroe Circuit Court Probation Department

<http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/facility/pd5/general.htm>

<http://www.co.monroe.in.us/probation/index.htm>

The mission of the Monroe County Probation Department is to promote a safer community by intervening in the lives of offenders, holding them accountable, and serving as a catalyst for positive change.

Monroe County Probation

Probation is the most common form of criminal sentence in the U.S. More offenders are sentenced to probation than to prisons and jails combined. Probationers include adult offenders whom courts place on community supervision generally in lieu of jail or prison. Probation includes court-mandated stipulations and prohibitions on certain activities. Probation often includes other conditions such as substance abuse treatment, payment of victim restitution, completing educational requirements, and obtaining/maintaining employment.

According to Indiana law, "Probation

officers shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing court and are directly responsible to and subject to the orders of the court." The Monroe County Probation Department is a division of the Monroe Circuit Court. The Adult Division is located in The Justice Building, downtown Bloomington. The Juvenile Division, Drug Court and Community Corrections Program are located in a satellite office at 405 W. 7th Street.

Probation is often confused with parole. Parolees include those adults released from prison to community supervision. Indiana parole services are provided by the Department of Correction. There are eight parole districts in the state with each district office being responsible for the monitoring of offenders transferred from prison to the parole system. Monroe County is in Parole District 5 located in Columbus. There is no Monroe County parole office, therefore District 5 parole officers often meet with parolees at the Monroe County Correctional Center.

See "Brady," page three

Wilson

Continued from page one

New volunteer based programs include: assisting

inmates in "navigating" issues surrounding their release, developing more supportive families while incarcerated, improved literacy rates, substance abuse programs, "bingo" night, theater and personal inventory. Because idle inmates are more likely to cause trouble than other inmates, some level of activity is vital to running a safe and humane jail. These new programs will compliment existing programs; further reduce tension, anxiety and boredom among the inmate population and continue to address the multiple needs of offenders.

Providing programs and services that

address the multiple needs of inmates has resulted in correctional staff dealing with fewer inmate behavioral management issues. The inactivity and boredom for inmates associated with incarceration has been reduced and, as a result, the relationship between inmate and staff member has improved.

The ultimate challenge faced by our community is to understand how to effectively manage an inmate population during and after incarceration so our community will be safe. It's evident that effective programs and transitional services must be utilized to provide offenders the required educational and emotional tools needed for proper jail management and successful reintegration into the community.

About Safety-Net

David White
Editor-in-Chief

Pam Kinnaman
Photographer/Assistant Editor

Evan Wade
Page Designer/Assistant Editor

Safety-Net is a quarterly publication about our community's social service/non-profit agencies brought to you by the Shalom Community Center in collaboration with the social service/non-profit agencies, and financially supported by the City of Bloomington. Please transmit comments and suggestions to the Safety-Net editor at shalom@bloomington.in.us and place Safety-Net comments on the subject line.

Correctional Center Transformation and Re-entry Project; Community Involvement

By Vid Beldavs, Administrative Director, Correctional Center Transformation and Re-Entry Project

www.newleaf-cej.org

Long term goals

Create the opportunity for offenders to re-enter the life and work of the community more capable than when they were first arrested. This involves rehabilitative and educational programs within the jail, as well as providing support to inmates as they transition out of the jail. It is also necessary to change the culture in the

community outside, particularly employers, to look more objectively at the capabilities of released inmates and not continue to punish people after release through denial of the opportunity for employment. These are the goals of Citizens for Effective Justice and New Leaf-New Life, Inc.

Citizens for Effective Justice (C.E.J.)
Citizens for Effective Justice (CEJ),

an unincorporated advocacy organization open to the public, came into existence as a result of the death of James Borden, Sr. in the Monroe County Correctional Center on November 6, 2003. Early members included Marc Haggerty, Roberta McCloskey (†), Ray Jordan, Hal Taylor, Jim Hart, Mike Andrews, Vid Beldavs, Tania Karnofsky, Lib Buck, Wain Martin, and others. C.E.J. meets every Saturday from 1:30 to-3 p.m. in the Conference Room

at Trinity Church on 111 S. Grant Street to discuss issues and development relating to improvement of the criminal justice system. C.E.J. has organized community wide forums on issues relating to improving the criminal justice system. Forums have led to action. A forum on Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) led to the formation of the CIT Task Force chaired by Charlotte Zietlow.

See "Beldavs," page four

Jail improvement: 30 years of community involvement

By Lib Buck, member of Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

In the mid-seventies a young retarded male was raped by an inmate in the Monroe County Jail. The Bloomington Quakers invited the sheriff to a forum on jail issues. The sheriff, Bill Brown, suggested we might visit in the jail on a regular schedule. Haines Turner and I formed the core of a group which became ecumenical and diverse known as "Religious Visitors". Mildred McKinsey joined us to teach people to make clay bird whistles. Jean Farmer taught origami and we played games. Our goal was to let the prisoners know citizens on the outside had not forgotten them.

When a new sheriff was elected, he per-

ceived us as a nuisance. We extended our efforts to include the formation of a group called "Citizens for Jail Improvement". Elsa Harik became president of a larger group that raised the awareness of the community on jail issues. At this time we tried to change the state law that allowed the sheriff to keep money not spent on food. We were looking at ways to lessen the numbers held for minor offenses. We lobbied for more people being released on their own recognizance. When the county had its budget hearings we requested funds to hire a social worker.

See "Buck," page four



Photo submitted
Lib Buck.

Brady

Continued from page two

Role of Probation in Re-Entry Planning

Re-entry is not a program, it is a process. Joan Petersilia, a well known professor of criminology, writes that prisoner reentry "includes all activities and programming conducted

to prepare ex-convicts to return safely to the community and to live as law abiding citizens."

The Indiana Probation Standards require Probation Officers to develop a Probation Plan with objectives based on the individual's needs and special conditions. Probation Officers have both the authority and the opportunity to assist probationers in achieving constructive change.

Indiana law permits a court to sentence offenders to a "split sentence," which means that the offender is sentenced to prison or jail for a period of time, but upon release the offender is supervised by probation, not parole. Therefore, Probation Plans must also include re-entry planning.

The reasons for the increasing use of probation are clear: probation can be provided at more than five times less cost than jail and nearly 19 times less cost than state prison.

Todd

Continued from page two

Participants are also referred to appropriate

agencies providing vocational, educational, family, medical and other support services as their circumstances may require.

Participation in the Monroe County Drug Treatment Court is voluntary. If offenders choose to participate, they enter a plea to one or more of the felony charges which have been filed against them and agree to continue sentencing for two years. If they successfully complete the program, the prosecuting attorney dis-

misses the charges to which they have pleaded guilty. If, despite the assistance of a team of people dedicated to their success, participation is terminated, participants are subject to sentencing with no agreement concerning the sentence to be imposed.

This process of quick intervention, intensive treatment and monitoring, and positive and negative reinforcement, combined with a non-adversarial community based team approach has proven to be very effective in a number of different ways.

It has been estimated that about 50% of incarcerated, addicted offenders are

At the end of the year 2004, in the U.S. over 4.9 million adults were under Federal, State, or local probation or parole jurisdiction; approximately 4,151,100 on probation and 765,400 on parole. Among offenders on probation, 50% had been convicted for committing a misdemeanor, 49% for a felony, and 1% for other infractions. Monroe County's probation statistics reflect national trends; since the year 2002, 50% or more of our adult probation caseload has been comprised of felony offenders.

Probation Officers are ideally placed to provide re-entry planning and other re-entry services. Probation Officers are required by law to cooperate with public and private agencies and other persons concerned with the treatment or welfare of persons on probation, and assist probationers in obtaining services from those agencies and persons. In order to fulfill this duty, Probation Officers must develop networks and foster close relationships with local treatment providers, employment agencies, and other sources.

Successful re-entry planning must be active rather than passive, with the goal of fostering compliance with probation conditions rather than waiting for a violation. Our success will be measured by how many offenders succeed in refraining from further crime, compensate their victims, and become productive members of society.

charged with new criminal offenses within one year of release from prison and about 70% re-offend within three years after release. A 2004 study of the Monroe County Drug Treatment Court by Labrentz and Associates determined that the 67.2% of all participants graduating from the program had a recidivist rate of 7.7%, compared to a 38.5% recidivist rate for a control group of similar, non-participating offenders.

The program has resulted in a 64% reduction in post-conviction jail days, compared to the control group. And the program is far more cost-effective as participants are personally responsible for the

cost of their substance abuse treatment, drug and alcohol screens, and other fees.

Other cost-benefits, more difficult to measure, include drug-free babies, restoration of stable family units, more stable and rewarding employment, and reductions in public assistance for housing, food, and medical care.

While time and space do not permit more detailed discussion of the principles and practical operations of the court, the Drug Treatment Court has been empirically proven to be a cost-effective means of reducing the jail population and restoring dysfunctional lives.

Transitioning out of jail: Transition Program

By, Shari Ring, MSW Intern, New-Leaf, New-Life Inc.

219-1349
www.newleaf-cej.org

In December, 2005, with cooperation from Monroe County Corrections Center (MCCC) Commander Bill Wilson, Workforce Development at Work One, and New-Leaf, New Life, Inc. began providing needed services to inmates at the MCCC via the Transition Program.

The long-term goal of the Transition Program is to lower recidivism by assisting inmates in making a successful transition back into the community. "Transition Navigators," who are trained volunteers from the community, meet with inmates during their incarceration to assess their needs and to support them upon release into the community.

Through mentoring from a Transition Navigator, inmates are better prepared upon release from jail to seek employment and to find housing, healthcare, substance abuse treatment, and other services that will help them to begin a new way of life. Often, a stumbling block to obtaining needed services is lack of official identification, which can take weeks to obtain due to the need for copies of birth certificates and social security cards, which many inmates do not have. A Transition Navigator can begin the process of obtaining the documents needed to apply for an official state identification card, and can also procure applications



Photo submitted

Inmate being helped by Transition Program volunteer, Charles Pope.

for schooling, healthcare, employment, and housing. Most importantly, the Transition Navigator is available for continued mentoring and assistance once the inmate is released from jail.

Finding employment is a priority and often a challenge for people coming out of jail. WorkOne's willingness to pro-

vide a designated space for the Transition Program in the WorkOne office is a mainstay of the program's success outside of jail. Former inmates now have access to employment resources and specialists through WorkOne and the Transition Program.

The Transition Program has also received support from Ivy Tech, which is allowing their admissions test to be administered at the jail. Indiana University professor Bill Head has Criminal Justice students volunteering as Navigators as part of their class work. Agencies such as Shalom and CBH have also been

working in cooperation with the Transition Program.

New Leaf-New Life, Inc. is a non-profit organization and welcomes donations of volunteer time as well as financial donations.

Our most recent fund raising endeavor has been the sale of donated textbooks on Amazon.

If you would like to donate textbooks we would be happy to pick them up.

Those wishing to make financial donations may contact: Vid Beldavs, Vice President, New leaf-New Life, Inc., P.O. Box 7071, Bloomington, IN, 47407-7071.

Beldavs

Continued from page three

Another forum on Life Effectiveness Training (LET) led to the organization of an LET program in the jail. On January 28, 2006 C.E.J organized a community forum on re-entry that featured Morgan Moss, Co-Director of the Center

for Therapeutic Justice, with a panel comprised of Judge Kenneth Todd, Mark Stoops, County Council and Andy Ruff, City Council. The January 28 Forum was attended by 82 participants including several judges as well as key officials from City and County government and led to the idea of implementing therapeutic justice following the Community Model as developed by Morgan Moss and Penny Patton (see the article by Morgan Moss and Penny Patton on p. 5) as well as a City-County Task Force on Re-entry.

New Leaf-New Life, Inc.

New Leaf - New Life, Inc. was formed in April, 2005 to implement specific programs suggested by C.E.J. These programs are now referred to as the Correctional Center Transformation and Re-Entry programs. In December 2005 New Leaf - New Life, Inc. joined with the Monroe County Corrections Center (Monroe County Jail) and Work One to launch the Transition Program to help released inmates to more effectively navigate the many sources of help available in the community. New Leaf - New Life, Inc. was awarded a start-up grant from the Sparkplug Foundation to launch the Transition Program with Tania Karnofsky serving as Director - Transition Program.

Grant to fund Corrections Center Transformation and Re-Entry Project programs

On February 24, 2006 a grant proposal was developed by New Leaf-New Life in collaboration with the Center for Therapeutic Justice on behalf of the Monroe County Corrections Center. The grant funds the Community Model program described by Morgan Moss and Penny Patton on p. 5 and the Transition Program, described by Shari Ring on p. 4. The proposal was submitted by Sheriff Steve Sharp to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI). On June 23, 2006 ICJI notified Commander Bill Wilson and Vid Beldavs of New Leaf - New Life of the grant award for \$171,520 to implement the Corrections Center Transformation and Re-Entry Project. The grant runs from July 1 2006 to June 30th 2007. It is expected that successful results will enable the program to be expanded to two other jails in Indiana in year two.

Buck

Continued from page three

Our efforts launched a Victim

Offender Rec-

onciliation Program (VORP) which floundered due to our not being able to support it financially. In 1990 Citizens for Jail Improvement merged with a Juvenile Justice Task Force and with the help of Mac Fleming we once again sought grants for VORP. In 1995 we incorporated as a 501.C organization called "Citizens for Community Justice". This group applied and received a grant to reinstate VORP. We rented an office and hired a director.

Before the election we interviewed all the candidates for sheriff and sponsored a public forum for the candidates for sheriff and prosecutor. We also studied jail systems in other states notably Minnesota and

Vermont, searching for ideas to better our system. During these years we provided volunteers to man the library, a social worker, recreational leaders, and people who did surveys of the jail population. In 1997 the Presbyterian Synod gave us \$750 to do needs assessments of jail inmates and we began paying fees for indigent inmates to take GED exams.

In 2003 the Community Conflict Resolution Program merged with Citizens for Community Justice and the focus of the board leaned heavily towards mediation. Those concerned primarily with jail issues became active in an advocacy group called Citizens for Effective Justice. Now the jail's primary concern is therapeutic justice and many of our dreams have come true.

Jail Diversion Program Offers Help to Inmates

By Sarah Hahn, Family Support Specialist, Family Service Association/Mental Health Alliance

skhahn@bloomington.in.us
812-339-1551, ext. 17

Men and women living with a mental illness often become involved in the legal system as a result of circumstances related to their illness. In many cases, these arrests are minor, non-violent offenses that occur when the individual temporarily goes off of their medication, or experiences an increase in their symptoms due to life stressors.

The Family Service Association / Mental Health Alliance of Monroe County (FSA/MHA) offers post-booking jail diversion services in the Monroe County Correctional Center through the Jail Diversion

Program. This program has been in place since 2004, under the leadership of Dr. Don Weller, Ph.D. The goal of this program is to speed up the transition of non-violent, incarcerated persons with a mental illness or developmental disability into an appropriate treatment setting, in place of serving an extended incarceration.

Inmates are directed to Dr. Weller by health care staff and guards in the jail, prosecutors, and public defenders. Weller assesses whether or not the individual is appropriate for diversion services, and those who are meet with him on a weekly basis for consultation and case planning. The program aims to increase communica-

tion between the defense attorneys, prosecutors and courts, in order to create a treatment plan for diversion inmates that serves as an alternative to prosecution, or as a condition of reducing the charges.

In July 2006, the range of services was expanded thanks to funding from the Jack Hopkins Social Services grant program. Sarah Hahn is the newest member of the Jail Diversion Program staff in the role of a Jail Diversion Community Coordinator. Hahn will work with diverted inmates as they transition out of jail, and back into the community. This transitional time can be very difficult for individuals, as it is not uncommon to leave jail with little plan in place as to how one will secure

housing, transportation or employment. Hahn works in conjunction with community organizations to get diverted inmates linked up with the services they need, in order to facilitate a smooth transition.

In addition to filling this critical gap in services for the mentally ill, the Jail Diversion Program also provides a financial incentive to the community. In the initial 15 months of these services, 84 incarcerated individuals were served, saving the correctional system an estimated \$180,000. This number does not include the man hours saved in expediting coordination of services and minimizing the number of pretrial conferences.

Jail Becoming “Cornerstone of Community Security”

By Penny Patton and Morgan Moss, Center for Therapeutic Justice

Center for Therapeutic Justice
757-561-8907
centerforjustice@aol.com

Forty years ago a far-seeing Karl Menninger, M.D. observed, “No jail in the country—so far as I know,—has been dignified and elevated to being the cornerstone of community security and justice... (and) why shouldn't it be?” Seeing no reason why it shouldn't be, Monroe County Correctional Center (MCCC) and Monroe County citizens and policy makers have taken an important step to increase public safety, reduce costs, and address the revolving-door recidivism of offenders.

As of this summer the Center for Therapeutic Justice's Community Model (CM)

addictive behaviors, in-jail program, supported by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, New Leaf-New Life, and a grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, has become a part of that cornerstone effort ---a win-win situation --- for everyone in the county is affected by the role of the jail.

How can people leave jail better not bitter? What can be done to make “time served” not “time wasted?” Wasted time is a direct result of forced idleness and typical destructive jail mentality that leaves people worst off than they came in; setting them up to “re-infect” the community with anti-social behavior and dis-ease. It has been well documented that a traditional jail culture is difficult for staff to control and is based on the worst “codes of ethics”

designed for an upside down society. Recognizing the environment itself as the key to change inside a jail, at a January Criminal Justice forum organized by Citizens for Effective Justice in Bloomington, the Center for Therapeutic Justice (CFTJ) asked “What kind of jail culture do you want to reign?” Sheriff Steve Sharp and Jail Commander, Colonel Bill Wilson, understand the need of having a positive culture and have made strides to improve the jail environment for the offenders and the staff. The nationally recognized Community Model program furthers their efforts.

The new jail program challenges a separately housed community of volunteer inmates to come forth with what's best within them rather than calling forth

what's worst. It is a matter of asking them to restore their dignity and respect and work together for the common good. Nearly all of them will be returning to our community as our neighbors, so we have a lot at stake.

The Community Model:

*Improves the quality of work-life for jail staff without the staff giving up any control;

*Affirms that the participants have critical expertise, learn behavior and attitude from the community they live in, and that they are the only ones who can change themselves;

See “Jail,” page six

Inmate Poetry

Help save us

By Whitney Thompson, inmate at Monroe County Jail

*I sit in this room with nothing but time to think,
and it's so sad to know that in an ocean I'd sink,
sink in this shallow puddle of deceit and lies.*

*It's not my eyes anymore it's my heart that cries,
“save me save us” I pray to the almighty above.*

“I'll give my life” push come to shove.

You've got to help us I'm crying out you see,

*I just want to be happy “devil leave me be”,
leave me alone trouble and drugs.*

When I want to be strong it's your hand that shoves.

Shoves me below to the lowest of all.

*But never again cause the Lord I will call,
the devil has taken everything away.*

Come save us all God you lead the way.

Locked in

By Eli Fernando Vasquez, inmate at Monroe County Jail

*Have you ever been lost,
not coming or going, just there?*

All that's seen in your eyes is a blank stare.

Visions appear, a land of people having fun,

I drift toward a dark blue as if sky,

Nothing can stop me, it's breathtaking, compelling.

Heart pounding, I speed back into reality.

A Flash!

Chains clinking on concrete floor,

walking down a long hall.

Consider hearing men yelling and banging on big steel doors.

One opens, a voice says this is yours,

I enter the black cold room,

with four ways to turn but nowhere to go.

I'm trapped in for trying the system. LOST!

Delancey Street Ex-Convict Rehab Program

By John Gaus, member of Citizens for Effective Justice, and inner-city pastor who first experienced Delancey Street in 1997

Delancey Street Foundation is described as a residential treatment center for ex-addicts, alcoholics, convicts, and prostitutes. But it prefers to consider itself as a recycling center, where those whom the system has defined, and who, indeed have defined themselves as society's garbage, can live, work, and learn together to return to society as productive citizens. It is a self-help center in the truest sense of the word. As the exact opposite of the American Prison system, which costs taxpayers about \$40,000 a year to keep each prisoner alive, Delancey Street costs taxpayers nothing! It is supported by its own revenue, with the residents serving as the staff. With no staff of experts, either professional psychologists or professional ex-drug addicts, its "therapy" also depends upon its residents.

All too often, people involved in reform of one or another variety, define themselves by their GOALS, rather than by their PROCESSES. In its processes, Delancey Street has less in common with

funded, staffed treatment programs, than it does with large families or small old-fashioned neighborhoods, where members are dependent on one another as they grow to develop an identity and an independence which allows them to enter the world-at-large alone, while still maintaining a sense of continuity with the family and the old neighborhood. The Foundation takes its name from the street in New York's Lower East Side where, at the turn of the 20th century, Delancey Street came to symbolize the self-reliance of Old World immigrants who worked and earned their way into the mainstream of American Life. It is incredible what people can do when you give them structure, support, and lots of love. Delancey street stresses traditional values: the work ethic, the importance of self-reliance, and the dignity of earning one's own way in the world, and helping others as a central means to feeling good about one's self.

See "Delancey," page seven

Jail

Continued from page five

*Regards the concept of recovery as reducing or

removing any block that hinders a person's realization of their full potential and ability to contribute to society;

*Creates a natural and harmonious link to the free-world community;

*Is based on a social learning/recovery model/whole system approach tailored to the jail setting;

*Offers a sense of empowerment and ownership which garners enthusiasm and pride;

*Operates under the mandate to take a good, hard, and honest look at yourself;

*Considers power and control, threats, intimidation, domination, shame, and humiliation as ineffective behavior-attitude modification strategies;

*Assists offenders to help one another choose mature decisions, behave responsibly, make contributions, and live civilly together with self-governance, mutual aid, and pro-social standards;

*Insists that all persons be treated with dignity and respect even in the face of disrespect.

Administrators and security staff have praised CM because it reduces problems, assists officers in maintaining a clean, safe environment, and offers hope that fewer offenders will return. Incarcerated participants, especially those 70% returning for the third time (statistic given by Colonel Wilson in January) will see it as a chance to make a life change for good.

CM promotes a tightly structured, intense, weekly schedule with purpose, discipline, and the opportunity for a process of positive change. Program components include Life Without A Crutch, Houses of Healing, Recovery Dynamics, and Men's (or Women's) Work, anger management, 12-step work, community meetings, videos, motion pictures, library books, exercise, journaling, meditation, and numerous other activities under the guidance of senior member participants and a specially trained Community Manager. A typical 12 hour program day runs from clean-up, meditation, and exercise in the morning to two groups before lunch, two groups in the afternoon with parole plays, 12-step meetings, or movies at night. Many of the program materials, books, and videos feature long-term, successful, recovering addicts and ex-offend-

ReEntry Court Project: Fort Wayne, Indiana

By Judge John Surbeck, Jr., Allen Superior Court

In 2000, Judge John Surbeck of the Allen Superior Court, Criminal Division, Sheila Hudson, Executive Director of Allen County Community Corrections, Terry Donahue, a senior advisor for the United States Department of Justice, and Graham Richard, Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne began to examine the recidivism rates of individuals serving sentences at the Indiana Department of Correction and being released to parole supervision. They found that the statistics for Allen County mirrored national statistics which indicated that approximately 45% of offenders were returned to prison for technical violations or new charges within the first year after their release from the Department of Correction. This percentage increased to nearly 67% after the third year. After examining those statistics, they conceived the idea of the "ReEntry Court" project. The mission of the project is to significantly lower the rate of recidivism of returning offenders through gradually decreasing levels of supervision and enhanced delivery of services while maintaining public safety.

The first court session occurred in July,

2001, after approximately 18 months of planning and design. The project originally focused on offenders returning to the highest crime area of the city but has since expanded, taking all eligible offenders returning to Allen County. Eligibility is not limited to any class of offenders such as low risk or non-violent but rather includes any offender, eligible for early release pursuant to Indiana's Community Transition Program, who is willing to participate.

The ReEntry Team consists of employees of Allen County Community Corrections including the ReEntry Director, Transitions Coordinator, Case Managers, Forensic Specialist, Mental Health Therapist, Family/Victim Investigator, and a Clinical Psychologist contracted to oversee forensic evaluation of every incoming returnee. The local community mental health center, Indiana parole and Allen County adult probation also provide staff to the team. Returning offenders are supervised by Allen County Community Corrections field officers as well as by the assigned case managers.

See "ReEntry," page seven

ers.

A Community Model participant recently wrote: When I came over to the program, my attitude was that no drug addict or alcoholic can teach me anything. And I was a little wary about having classes all day. But slowly I began to listen and slowly I began to learn. Slowly I became a part of the program and the program became a part of me. We are a self-run program which takes a look at the attitudes, thinking, choices and subsequently the negative behavior that is displayed in our daily living. Each of us is responsible for the growth and success of the body of individuals who have become one strong body. You could say it is our power source. It does work; one does become aware of who and what he or she has to face in this world. One knows or becomes aware that change inside is necessary and possible. A brand new love of ourselves as people emerges.

This model meets evidence base standards and incorporates the needs of human development and growth stages. CM prepares participants for a new-entry into society recognizing that many participants need habilitation, not rehabilitation; it is in harmony with the 12-step recovery sup-

port community while instilling practical life and relationship skills, and it is linked with New Leaf-New Life's Transition Program. New Leaf-New Life supplies outside community volunteers that support the success of released CM participants as they hit that "first three feet of concrete" (Bill Wilson, Jail Commander).

CM recognizes that jails offer a major opportunity to bring about significant life changes in offenders and that enables the jail to become the cornerstone of community security and justice. Most jails never tap this resource, but MCCC is optimizing it for everyone's benefit...and Menninger once again punctuates what's happening in Monroe County when he told citizens years ago that it was time for them to... "mind their own business." The jail is your business; it belongs to the citizens it serves. As Monroe County Councilman Mark Stoops was quoted in the January 29, 2006, Herald Times, "At some point we have to make a shift...and focus on resources and programs that reach people earlier." The Community Model sees the jail as the most significant place in the county, and for that matter in the country, to do that.

New Leaf-New Life, Inc.; its Role in the Jail and Re-entry

By Hal Taylor, President, New Leaf-New Life, Inc.

www.newleaf-cej.org

Sheriff Steve Sharp, Colonel Bill Wilson, and New Leaf-New Life, Inc., a volunteer citizens organization dedicated to making jails a place of opportunity for individual change, together are developing a revolutionary program in our jail.

Students of criminal justice, psychologists, and educators have long known that punishment alone is ineffective in keeping people out of jail. But lack of community interest in issues of criminal justice and an assumption that the system is operating well have kept the reality of practice in jails years behind knowledge and theory.

The new program has been several

years in the planning, and is still developing. It also has several different facets, each as important as the others.

One component necessarily deals with inmates as individuals and aims to help them become more happy, fulfilled, and mature people. This is the educational, psychological, and spiritual component. It will consist of discussion classes, writing groups, occasional lectures, films, role plays, and individual and group counseling, all aimed at improving the inner abilities of individuals so they will be more resourceful when they return to life outside.

See "New Leaf," page eight

Delancey

Continued from page six

The philosophy of change at Delancey

Street may be

called "mutual restitution". The residents gain the vocational, personal, interpersonal and social skills necessary to make restitution to the society from which they have taken illegally, consistently, and often brutally, for much of their lives. In return, Delancey Street demands from society access to the legitimate opportunities from which the majority of residents have been blocked for most of their lives. By living together and pooling resources, residents acquire enough strength and credibility that the demands to gain access to society's opportunities must be taken seriously. This process requires a minimum stay for two years. The average stay, prior to graduation from Delancey street is four years.

To accomplish this process of "mutual restitution", there is a constant training and education process which begins the day the new resident arrives. Since the average resident is functionally illiterate and unskilled when entering Delancey Street, the 1st area of re-education is "school learning", so that everyone is

tutored in basic skills: reading writing, and math, until each has received a high school equivalency certificate. After that, residents go on to various forms of academic education.

The 2nd area is vocational training, so that three marketable skills are acquired. This occurs in three phases: (1) In-house training: learning basic skills, developing work habits, and self-discipline. (2) Testing these SKILLS in work performed for people in the community through a Delancey Street company which provides vocational skills and which also generates the Foundation's income through pooling the monies earned: a Moving and Trucking School, a Restaurant, a Cafe and Bookstore, a Catering Service, Retail and Wholesale Sales, Paratransit and Private Driving Services, Christmas Tree Sales, and Decorating. (3) Get a job or business in the community, where they must work successfully for six months prior to graduation from Delancey Street. Residents who have been unemployable welfare cases, have started, worked, and manage these training schools/businesses so successfully that they are the Foundation's primary source of working capital.

The 3rd area of re-education is one of the

ReEntry

Continued from page six

The ReEntry Court program lasts one (1) year and consists

of programming ordered as a result of need, according to forensic evaluation conducted upon intake. Programs include Substance Abuse treatment, Job Academy, cognitive-behavioral programs to improve decision-making and life skills training. Faith-based mentoring is an option made available, but not ordered, by the Court.

Although commission of a significant new offense is automatic grounds for termination, technical violations, such as failure to attend an ordered class, are generally responded to with additional interventions to obtain compliance without the need for revocation and return to the penitentiary. Returning offenders are directly supervised by the ReEntry Court judge who meets with participants every several weeks to review their progress in ordered programs. Successes are rewarded and

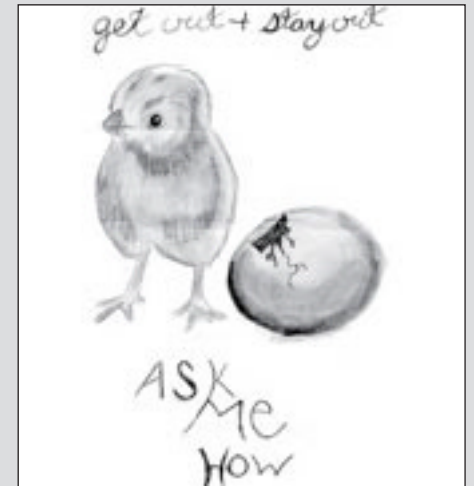
Help Raise Funds for New Leaf

T-Shirt Sale

A design contest was held at the jail for the inmates. The two winning designs have been printed on t-shirts and bumper stickers and can be purchased by contacting Tania at the email address below. You can see one of the designs on the front page of this paper. The other, pictured right, says "Get out and stay out, ask me how."

Textbook Sale

Are textbooks you don't need piling up in your home because you haven't decided what to do with them? Donate your unwanted textbooks to New Leaf-New Life and we will even pick them up at your door. We are selling donated textbooks on Amazon to fund programs in and out of the jail for inmates and their families. Please email Tania at Tania@newleaf-cej.org, or call 219-1349 if you'd like to make a donation.



Designed by Darrell Johnson when an inmate.

most critical: acquiring interpersonal and social survival skills, along with the attitudes, values, and sense of responsibility and self-reliance needed to live in mainstream society drug-free, successfully, and legitimately, by social or community training, by helping others in the community, e.g. working with senior citizens by escorting them to and from the bank, the doctor, the food market, etc.; residents also work with juveniles from poor areas, taking them to cookouts, tours of the city, and giving them crime and drug prevention seminars.

The average resident of Delancey Street has been a hard-core drug addict for 12 years, abusing alcohol and multiple drugs (e.g. heroin, methamphetamines, and cocaine in all its forms) and who has dropped out of school at the 9th grade and has been institutionalized several times. Most have been trapped in poverty for several generations. Approximately 85% come from the courts, either probated, paroled, or sentenced as an alternative to prison, supporting their written request. About 15% have been homeless prior to entering Delancey Street, and make their own written request to be accepted.

The entire organization is run by the

residents in the process of changing their lives. No salaries are paid, not even to the president of the Foundation. Instead, everyone is both a giver and a receiver, so that it operates as an "extended family" rather than as a "program". The organization functions on an "each one teach one" principle where older residents help newer ones, and everyone works. Community friends have helped with donated products, financial gifts, utilizing our training schools, and by believing in it, against all odds.

The concept that became Delancey Street was originally shaped in 1971 when ex-criminologist Mimi Halper Silbert, Ph.D., met a former heroin addict named John Maher, who wanted to develop a rehabilitation program "run by ex-cons for ex-cons" because it takes an ex-con to see through all the sob stories and excuses for wrongdoing. Both persons were ready to work to develop an alternative to the existing system. It is now 35 years along its way. Delancey Street began in San Francisco, where it still exists, and now exists in four other locations in the country.

failures are sanctioned immediately by the Court.

In addition to formal programming, ReEntry Court provides assistance with driver's license issues, housing, physical and mental health issues, and jobs. The Court was successful in obtaining legislation allowing public assistance for persons participating in the Court who would otherwise not have been eligible.

This project is funded by the reallocation of existing resources at state and county

levels. The only discretionary funding obtained by ReEntry Court was for the purpose of evaluation. Two 2-year studies, conducted since ReEntry Court began, indicate that the recidivism rate for persons graduating from the program is almost one-half the national average for persons returning from incarceration. These studies also indicate that the community has realized substantial monetary savings as a result of the program.

Victim Offender Reconciliation Program: What is it?

Amanda S. Nickey, Program Coordinator- VORP

812-336-VORP

www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate

The Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM) strives to promote a civil and just community through mediation, education & restorative justice. In this effort, CJAM offers a variety of mediation and education services, including community and school mediation, mediation training and the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP).

The Victim Offender Reconciliation Program offers Victim Offender Mediation services, a process that provides interested victims (primarily those of property crimes and minor assaults) the opportunity to meet their offenders in a safe and structured setting. The goal of VORP is to hold offenders directly accountable for their behavior while providing important support and assistance to victims. With the assistance of trained mediators, victims are able to express the full impact the crimes have had on their lives and to be directly involved in developing restitution plans that holds offenders accountable for the losses they have caused. Offenders are able to take responsibility for their behavior, learn the full impact of their actions,

and develop plans for making amends to the persons they harmed.

VORP has benefits for everyone involved, including the justice system and greater community. For victims, VORP provides an opportunity to get answers to questions that only the offender can answer (Why did you do this to me? How did you get into my house? Is there anything I could have done to prevent this?). Additionally it allows an opportunity to ask for/receive an apology and have input into resolving effects of the offense.

VORP can help offenders understand the effects of the crime on the victim as well as provide a chance to offer an apology and express remorse. The process also provides an offender the opportunity to make amends and meaningfully right the wrong, rather than just be punished.

As a benefit to the justice system, VORP can help to decrease the time and expense generally required to process offenses in the traditional adversarial manner. Additionally VORP can reduce incarceration costs by substituting creative alternatives for offenders who are not dangerous and can usefully contribute to the community and the victim.

See "VORP," page nine

VORP Case Narrative: "Mobile Crime Scene"

The following story is from a recent VORP mediation. The names and identifying details have been changed or left out. All VORP mediations take place with two volunteer community mediators who help support dialogue between victims and offenders. Many mediations are goal driven and result in a written agreement, while others are dialogue driven. This decision is one the parties make together in mediation based on the situation and what the participants want.

When John and Carole described watching the offender from their bedroom window their voices cracked with emotion. The offender broke into their car and destroyed the steering column and dashboard trying to steal the factory-installed CD player. Their car sat in their driveway in a nice quiet, friendly neighborhood. John and Carole were terrified that the offender would find the garage door opener and try to enter the house. John had called the police. He didn't want to chase the offender off. He wanted this person caught. The police arrived and apprehended the offender and two others who had broke into several cars that night. The damage in the car was beyond repair, as was the damage to John and Carole's sense of security and emotional well-being. The car they once enjoyed special trips together in, John stated, was now a "mobile crime scene."

When John and Carole agreed to go to

mediation with the offender, John asked if he could have just 10 minutes alone in the room with him, joking that only one of them would come out walking. John and Carole both had a lot of anger and resentment toward the offender. They had a lot of questions they wanted answered and they had a lot to say.

Bobby, the offender, was a very quiet guy. In the beginning he said that he wasn't one to express his feelings openly. In the mediation Bobby was asked by John and Carole to speak first. He started his story two years back when he first started hanging out with the other two offenders. He described a common peer relationship when the "new kid" comes to town that is exciting, charming, and dangerous. Bobby looked up to this "new kid" and soon they were always together. During the time of this friendship Bobby's grades went down and he started fighting with his parents. The night of this offense they were drinking at a friend's house when the "new kid" suggested they go steal car stereos and sell them for some extra cash. They walked through the neighborhood and broke into to several cars. When Bobby described his parent's reaction to his arrest, he choked back his tears. He expressed his fear that he would never be able to mend the crushed relationship with his parents.

New Leaf

Continued from page seven

Since life requires some lightness, this need will be met with such things as group singing, bingo games, tournaments, group exercises, and political debates. A drama group will bridge between doing plays and discussing life issues found in them.

A second equally important component is a practical component and deals with issues surrounding the re-entry of inmates into the world outside. See the article by Shari Ring on the extent of the re-entry program as executed by the Transition Program.

Many of the in-jail programs have already begun. When fully activated, the plan will provide each inmate with up to 40 hours a week designed to stimulate, educate, and orient him/her to a fuller life than experienced before incarceration.

Programs now underway or which will begin soon include (for both men and women):

- *The Transition Program (begins with inmates and continues when they are released)
- *Anger management
- *Drug and alcohol addiction control
- *How to have a purpose-driven life
- *Play-reading and discussion of plays
- *Group singing
- *Bingo
- *Informal individual counseling
- *Meditation skills
- *Yoga
- *Vocational training as electricians
- *Writing classes
- *Family outreach

There is also a new program at the jail called the Community Model program organized by the Center for Therapeutic Justice. This is described by Penny Patton and Morgan Moss in this issue of Safety-Net.

Both the personal development and the social re-entry aspects of the program require community volunteers. While the project is blessed with many volunteers who are contrib-

uting hundreds of hours of time toward making these programs work, many additional persons are required to carry our jail into the future as a truly therapeutic endeavor.

If you would like to join us with this dynamic project and help New Leaf-New Life, Inc. celebrate this new era of jail management, contact Tania Karnofski at tania@newleaf-cej.org. to talk about ways you could blend your talents with those already brought to the program of helping people GET OUT AND STAY OUT.

Play-reading at the Monroe County Correctional Facility

By Diane Kondrat, Artistic Director of InterAction Theater of Indianapolis

A new program by New Leaf-New Life, Inc. in the works at the Monroe County Correctional facility (jail) is facilitated by community volunteers, and aimed at improving the emotional and intellectual lives of inmates. Starting this fall the community volunteers will lead inmates in reading classic American plays to each other. Diane Kondrat, artistic director of InterAction Theater of Indianapolis, serves as one of the consultants to the program. She has used interactive theater as education in prisons throughout Indiana since 1992. In 2004 she directed inmates at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in scenes from Shakespeare's Macbeth. Kondrat says the program "can help develop reading skills and give incarcerated individuals a chance to practice their presentation skills, which are very helpful when looking for jobs." As the inmates read the scripts they will also have the opportunity to empathize with the challenging situations of fictional characters. They can compare their real-life problems with those they see presented in the plays. In this way they can improve their ability to see cause and effect relationships, which is a valuable tool for self-assessment. Jail commander Colonel Bill Wilson is in the process of bringing many changes in inmate management to the Monroe County jail. He hopes that programs like these can help more beneficially manage the inmates and give them a sense of accomplishment and positive progress. This program is in its beginning stages and needs the support of community volunteers if it is to succeed. Theatrical experience is not a requirement for community volunteers to participate. Anyone interested in helping should contact Tania Karnofski at tania@newleaf-cej.org.

Progress towards CIT in Bloomington

By Vid Beldavs, NAMI Indiana Board Member

812-320-3161

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) - specially trained police officers operating within a climate of cooperation with mental health care providers with a joint mission to divert mentally ill people in crisis to treatment and not to the criminal justice system.

CIT has been successfully implemented in communities across the country with Fort Wayne a notable success. Fort Wayne has four years of success with CIT with results that speak for themselves.

Calls responded to by CIT: **956**
Immediate detentions (24 Hour Hospital): **635**
Voluntary admissions: **157**
Medical admissions: **8**

Emergency Detentions (72 Hour Hospital): **12**
Subtotal: **812**

Consumers stabilized at the scene: **122**
No action taken/required: **9**
Arrests (1%): **5**
Suicide-related calls: **457**
Party armed: **71**
Currently using drugs/alcohol: **131**

Advocacy for CIT began in Bloomington in the summer of 2003 with a NAMI committee chaired by Hal Taylor. The effort took on urgency with the death of James Borden in the Monroe County Jail on November 6, 2003. Presentations were made to the City and County councils as well as the Monroe County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (MCCJCC) in

the spring of 2004 with the visits of Sgt. Maze and Captain Dottie Davis who presented the Fort Wayne CIT program to Bloomington officials. In May 2004 a CIT Task Force formed under the leadership of Charlotte Zietlow that included membership from the hospital, CBH, IUPD, BPD, Sheriff's dept, Corrections, NAMI, CEJ, Options for Living, Shalom and other organizations. In March 2006 Joe O'Connor, President of the MCCJCC invited NAMI to present progress with CIT that resulted in a letter urging action.

The first training class was organized in June 2006 under the leadership of Captain Mike Diekhoff. Of the 40 participants in the training 11 were BPD officers, 5 dispatch, 5 EMT, 7 Sheriff's deputies, and 8 IUPD. The training conducted primarily by area professionals lasted for three days

and included roughly a half day of presentations by NAMI members including Dr. Jill Taylor, President, NAMI Bloomington, Vid Beldavs, NAMI Indiana Board Member, and a consumer representative from Kokomo, Indiana. NAMI Bloomington donated 35 copies of the book *Crazy* by Pete Earley for officers graduating from the program.

Another CIT class is planned for late 2006 or early 2007. We do not yet have statistics for CIT in Bloomington but are hopeful that our results will be comparable to Fort Wayne with very few arrests. A permanent CIT Board is in process of formation representing law enforcement, mental health providers, families and consumers. The CIT Board will monitor CIT training and implementation.

VORP

Continued from page eight

VORP also benefits the greater community

through lessening the impacts of crime on the community by increasing restoration of losses and reducing the incidence of repeat crime by making offenders understand how they have hurt someone.

Research of Victim Offender Mediation programs shows that

*Victims of crime who meet with their offenders are far more likely to be satisfied with the justice system response to their cases than victims of similar crimes who go through the traditional court process (Umbreit, 1994a and 1994b).

*After meeting with offenders, victims are significantly less fearful of being re-victimized (Umbreit and Coates, 1993; and Umbreit, 1994a and 1994b).

*Offenders who meet with their victims are far more likely to be held directly accountable for their behavior and to successfully complete their restitution obligations (Umbreit, 1994a and 1994b).

*Considerably fewer and less serious crimes are subsequently committed by offenders who met with their victims (Nugent and Paddock, 1995; Schneider, 1986; and Umbreit, 1994a and 1994b).

CJAM receives most VORP referrals from the justice system and participation is voluntary, confidential and free of

charge for both the victim and the offender. Referrals are screened by staff and trained volunteers for appropriateness

and safety before considering mediation.

Narrative

Continued from page eight

After Bobby heard John and Carole's story he apologized. He wanted them to know that he wouldn't have entered the house or tried to hurt them and that he was very sorry for stripping them of their peace and security. He described what he had been doing to improve himself and change his life since this happened. He expressed that he was determined to be a better person. He reassured them that he no longer associated with his old friends and is more careful about choosing new ones.

In the end, John and Carole stated that they didn't feel the need for a formal agreement. They felt that they got their questions answered and that Bobby truly realized the impact of what he had done. Before John left he told Bobby about how he had wanted 10 minutes alone in the room with him. Then he offered Bobby a handshake instead. Bobby thanked John and Carole for meeting with him and expressed how grateful he was for this opportunity.

Agency reports

Banquet teaches lesson in hunger

By Tim Jessen, Shalom Board member

Shalom Community Center
Feeding program, basement of First United
Methodist Church
Resource center and day shelter, 110 S.
Washington Street
334-5728

The Shalom Community Center, a downtown daytime shelter for those in need in Bloomington and Monroe County, will host its 3rd Annual Hunger Banquet on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, at the corner of Kirkwood and Washington.

The purpose of the Banquet is to educate our entire community about the problems of hunger, homelessness, and

poverty, and how we can be part of the answer to these recurring problems. The Banquet also seeks to raise much-needed funds for the Shalom Center. Everyone is encouraged to attend and families with children are especially invited, so that they can learn about dealing with these problems on a practical level.

An outstanding speaker and program is planned, and there will also be opportunity for dialogue about the problem of hunger as it is presented during the evening. As each family or individual enters, they will be assigned to one of three areas for their meal. Some will partake of a meal that would be typical of an upper-class or

wealthy family, some will partake of more middle-class fare, and another group will have a meal reflecting what those who have to live in poverty or a limited income have to eat. Through this experience, both the "haves" and the "have-nots" will learn valuable lessons.

See "Shalom," page ten



Helping Those who Want to Help: RSVP

By Christine McKenna, Director, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)



Top: Barbara Black, an America Reads Tutor

Bottom: Betty Price at the Early Childhood Health Screening



Photos submitted

630 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN
47429
812-876-3383 or 800-844-1010

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Monroe and Owen Counties serves as a volunteer clearinghouse for individuals 55+ years of age. RSVP helps to match volunteers with local agencies and positions that best complement the volunteers' interests, talents, and availabilities. We want to support older adults in using their life experience to help solve local problems and build stronger communities, in ways that excite and nurture the volunteers. We are locally sponsored by Area 10 Agency on Aging.

We currently have 400+ RSVP volunteers serving at more than 80 local agencies. Volunteers serve in nonprofits, schools, and secular and faith-based community organizations in Monroe and Owen Counties. Some of these include Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Opportunity House, New Leaf-New Life, Bloomington Hospital, America Reads, Richland Bean Blossom Health Care Center, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County History Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging, RSVP Employment Program, Red Cross, Monroe County Public Library, American Cancer Society, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Habitat for Humanity, various places of worship (churches, synagogues, etc.) and much more! There are no requirements

regarding education, income or experience. In addition to placing volunteers, RSVP also provides follow-up, recognition, various benefits, and referrals.

Volunteering is mutually beneficial! In fact, volunteering may be one of the best prescriptions for health, longevity, and quality of life for older adults. Studies have shown that volunteering reduces the impact of stress on the body, improves self-esteem, combats social isolation, lowers blood pressure, bolsters the immune system, increases life satisfaction, reduces anxiety and depression, increases mental functioning, creates calmness, motivates one to take better care of oneself, offers opportunities to learn new skills and make new friendships, adds meaning to individuals' lives, and creates a free, all-natural, healthy, and satisfying dose of "helper's high!"

Additionally, when you register with RSVP (registering only takes 5 minutes!), you receive a number of free benefits. If you already volunteer but would like to join RSVP, we warmly welcome you to the program and do not require you to volunteer anymore than you already do. We simply want to help volunteers have the most rewarding and positive experience possible! Benefits for registered RSVP volunteers include: invitation to recognition events, RSVP newsletter, \$2,500 accidental death benefit, free supplemental insurance while volunteering, community building with 400+ RSVP volunteers, support from RSVP staff, awareness of current volunteer opportunities, and more!

There are current volunteer needs within two programs that are coordinated by RSVP staff: The RSVP Employment Program is looking for volunteer Job Coaches to help low-income individuals change their lives. The minimum commitment is 4 hours per month. No experience is necessary, and training and support are provided. Please contact Norm Horrar at 876-3383 or 800-844-1010 if you are interested in making a difference as a Job Coach! RSVP America Reads is currently looking for volunteer Tutors to help children learn to read in the Monroe County and Richland Bean Blossom school districts. The minimum commitment is for 1 hour per week during the school year. Volunteers have continually reported that they are touched and inspired by the relationships they develop and the impact that they make. Please contact Michelle Martin Colman at 322-1500 or 800-844-1010 if you are interested in changing a child's life forever.

Shalom

Continued from page nine

The cost of tickets for the Hunger Banquet are \$20

apiece and can be purchased at the door. Tickets can also be purchased in advance after October 15 at Shalom's resource center and day shelter at 110 S. Washington Street, across the street from the First United Methodist Church. It is open every day during the week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thanks... From Us

Clients of the Shalom Center share their stories and their gratitude



"It's nice to have somewhere to come where you can feel like you're part of a community. The center is like a family. A lot of us help each other. I really appreciate the resources here, including the new shower. It's nice to just have somebody here to talk to."

- Vicki

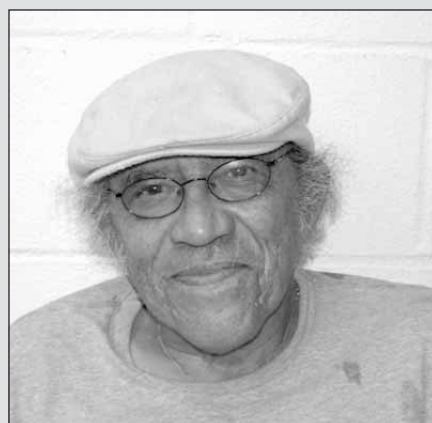
"There's always someone here to help you, if you just look for it. Shalom has really helped change my attitude. I feel that they can help you get your head right in order to help yourself."

-Rick



"Shalom has helped my son a lot. We're able to get his medications here. It's nice to have somewhere to shower and to wash our cloths. On Wednesdays, I volunteer in the kitchen. It's a way for me to give back to something that has helped us so much."

- Abraham



"They have helped me so much. I recently lost my glasses, and they are helping me to replace them."

-Rosie

The Shalom Community Center is a safe, daytime resource center for people experiencing homelessness and poverty. To find out more, access <http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org>. A thank you to Dana Lynn Powell for interviewing the Shalom guests.

A Developed Relationship

By Craig Brenner, Special Projects Coordinator, City of Bloomington

I became Kevin's Big Brother over four years ago. He was in middle school. Now that he is 18 and about to graduate from high school, we have officially terminated our Big Brother-Little Brother relationship - but we have not ended our friendship, and we are looking forward to doing things together occasionally because of the ongoing commitment we have to making sure each is the best person he can be.

Over the course of our BB [Big Brother] relationship we were able to participate in

"Kevin and I are both grateful for Brothers Big Sisters, and we urge others to contact them and get involved as a Big or Little!"

-Big Brother Craig Brenner

lots of great activities. Some of them were made possible by BBBS and its supporters, such as the IU Athletics Department, Tom Hirons, and the Indianapolis Indians. Some were made possible because of suggestions that Kevin made, such as hiking, canoeing, going to movies, etc., and some happened because of activities that I do

regularly, such as playing music.

One time I played at McCormick's Creek State Park, and Kevin helped and had a good time in spite of the insects.

Kevin and I are both grateful for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and we urge others to contact them and get involved as a Big or Little!



What's happening at Wonderlab?

By Louise Schlesinger, Marketing Director, WonderLab

WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology
308 West Fourth St.
812-337-1337
www.wonderlab.org

WonderLab is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to the museum are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. WonderLab does not receive ongoing operational support from any government entity.

Museum-Public Library Promotion

WonderLab joins the Alliance of Bloomington Museums in announcing a partnership with public libraries to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month (September). Adults who present their cards from any public library will enjoy free general admission at WonderLab on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during September. One adult admission per library card.

Visitors who show their public library card will receive special benefits at these other local museums: Monroe County History Center, Mathers Museum of World Cultures, the Galleries at John Waldron Arts Center, Hilltop Gardens, IU Art Museum, IU Geological Survey, IU Lilly Library, and Wylie House Museum.

Ask for a Smartest Card punch card at any of the museums listed above or at

the Monroe County Public Library or its Ellettsville Branch. Get the card punched at four or more participating museums and return it to a Monroe County Public Library Comment Card box by September 30 to be eligible for the Smartest Card grand prize drawing of gifts from the museums. You must be school age or older to participate in this drawing.

Programs:

Teen Challenge Night: Extreme Explosions!

Sponsor: Youth in Action

Program Partner: Coca Cola Bottling Co.

Friday, September 22

5:30-8:30 pm

Special Reduced General Admission: \$3 per person

Explore explosive chemistry through a variety of experiments while hanging out in a supervised and safe setting away from your parents. WonderLab will provide party snacks and the fun. This event is only for teens (grades 7-12 or home-school equivalent).

Science/Art: The Beauty of Rocks

Sponsor: F. Rudolf Turner

Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1



Photo submitted

A young girl discovers the mirror tunnel in the Discovery Garden, an area of the WonderLab Museum just for toddlers and preschool-age children.

Special Activities: 1:00-4:00 pm

If you have ever marveled at the beauty of a rock, the sparkles of a geode, or the intricate details of a fossil, then you won't want to miss this exploration of geology as art and science. Recommended for school-age children, teens, and adults.

Discovery Time

Every Wednesday
10:00 - 10:30 am

Stop by for a special story, animal demonstration or hands-on science activity! This program is intended for children, age 6 and younger, with their caregivers. Older siblings may attend.

Harmony: A place to learn and a place to belong

By Barbara Backler

bbackler@indiana.edu

Some educators from Japan once came and observed Harmony School for a day. When they shared their reflections afterward they said they especially loved what they saw after school. Students all over the building were pursuing various interests on their own and appeared to the guests to be totally engaged. Students at Harmony have the privilege of staying at school until 5:00. If they are younger than fourth grade they are required to be in the after school program for a small fee, but all other students can be in the building for a couple of hours after school. The teacher who is on duty has to virtually throw students out of the building at 5:00 or sometimes even later.

Recently students have been practicing for a play that was written and produced by students during class time with the help of David Christman, one of the high school teachers. Anyone could sign up

to be in the drama class, so potentially anyone could participate. The play was actually designed to accommodate each of the students in the class. Talk about type casting. The students studied each person's personality and strengths and then created a part for that individual.

The Holiday Follies operates from a very similar philosophy. If students are willing to organize an act and practice it, they are free to create their own contribution to the show. Some have said it's a performance only parents can appreciate, but to me it's an opportunity for total self-expression. Students are so supportive of their peers as they get up on stage for the first time and sing or dance, do magic, tell jokes or act out a little drama piece. It's clear that students gain confidence as the audience breaks into enthusiastic applause after each act.

Harmony is small and because we believe in giving everyone a chance to shine, all students have many opportuni-

ties to participate without having to compete for limited chances. Consequently, students become experienced at expressing themselves and learn to communicate effectively.

Besides being small and honoring each child's interests and strengths we also seek diversity in our school. Our goal is to admit students from all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and we include students with a variety of special needs. Our goal is for all members of the community to learn to get along with people who are different from them.

To support the building of community amongst the students and staff, Harmony teachers are very intentional about providing students with opportunities to develop skills in problem solving, conflict resolution, team-building, working independently and making good choices. Every year the middle school engages students in rock climbing, high ropes courses and other physical challenges that result in

feelings of camaraderie and compassion for one another. The high school uses Student Advisory to offer additional support to students who need it. This organization is made up of students from each class and two faculty members. When a student is struggling over a long period the high school will create a circle of peers who offer to meet with a student on a regular basis and provide feedback on how things are going and give additional support.

All programs at Harmony hold Family Meetings. These are times when students work together to make decisions that affect them. Students lead the meetings, and, again, all students have an opportunity to facilitate family meeting. Someone observing the interactions that take place during family meetings would be hard pressed to guess which students were "at risk," since all students can learn to participate in a community and both contribute to and gain from the experience.

United Way: Social Enterprise in Bloomington

By Barry Lessow, Executive Director, Susan Engle, Capacity Building Specialist, United Way of Monroe County

441 South College Avenue
812-334-8370
barry@monroeunitedway.org
uw@monroeunitedway.org
www.monroeunitedway.org

“Nonprofits will redefine the way they look at themselves, conduct business, generate resources, and choose leadership.” That’s how nationally known expert Martha J. Perry describes the ‘social entrepreneurship movement’ that is revolutionizing the way some nonprofits do business.

In an era of declining government support, many nonprofit organizations are seeking ways to diversify income streams through operating social enterprises.

During her visit on June 19th, 2006, Ms. Perry, Associate Executive Director of the McCune Foundation, spoke to over 80 Monroe County community representatives about social enterprise. During her presentation, Perry discussed her experi-

ences in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, and the potential for Monroe County nonprofits to pursue social enterprises.

Ms. Perry’s visit was sponsored by the United Way of Monroe County, the Social Entrepreneurship Program of Indiana University, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, and the South Central Indiana Small Business Development Center.

“Martha presented a sort of Social Enterprise 101 that was both informative and useful—a road map to developing programs and businesses locally,” said Charlotte Zietlow, economic development coordinator at Middle Way House, Inc. and member of the Social Enterprise Committee.

Through the initiation of small ventures that create both social and financial outcomes, nonprofits like Middle Way House now seek a “double bottom line.” Middle Way House operates several small

social ventures including Middleway Food Works, a catering business that provides living wage jobs for women, and Confidential Document Destruction.

Another existing example of social enterprise in Monroe County is Stone Belt Leather Works, an enterprise devoted to crafting fine leather goods while providing education and support to people with disabilities.

Leslie Green, Executive Director of Stone Belt Arc, is also a member of the Social Entrepreneurship Committee, a group of community leaders who helped to bring Mrs. Perry to speak in Bloomington. According to Green, “The gathering of nonprofit, business, and government groups helps get the community in tune with the concept of social entrepreneurship. I hope these sectors can work together to further explore ideas and create a fertile ground for the development of social enterprises within this community.”

Committee member Barry Lessow, Executive Director of United Way, commented “nonprofits in Monroe County continuously seek new opportunities to serve the community more efficiently and

effectively. We look carefully for initiatives that have the potential to reduce budgetary pressures and bring programmatic impacts. Nonprofits will now need to identify and pursue those enterprises that have a realistic ability to contribute to their mission.”

After the workshop, community leaders from all sectors met and planned to take further action. “We feel we have some clear next steps—determining what sorts of businesses might be needed and feasible to develop in this community, figuring out what various organizations can bring to the creating of such businesses, and working out the financing, implementation, training and start-up of these businesses,” said Zietlow.

According to Lessow, “We have already added social enterprise materials to United Way’s Nonprofit Resource Center. We invite any nonprofit that would like to learn more about these opportunities to look through these books and journals. A listing is on our web site at www.monroeunitedway.org/resource.htm.”

Calendar of upcoming events

CJAM

Members of the public are invited to attend Bread Fest 2006. Bread bakers are invited to enter the Bread Baking Competition. The event will be held on November 15, 2006 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Monroe County History Center, located at 202 E. 6th Street in Bloomington, Indiana.

For \$10 admission, attendees will get the opportunity to taste a variety of breads submitted to the Bread Baking Contest by professional and amateur bakers. A variety of toppings and hors d’oeuvre will complement the bread tasting. The event will include live music and a silent auction; wine and beer will be available at a cash bar.

Prizes will be awarded by judges in three bread categories: yeast, quick, and celebration. There will also be a “People’s Choice Award” for a favorite bread chosen by event attendees.

Amateur and professional bread bakers are invited to enter the Bread Fest 2006 Baking Competition. Bakers can enter one or more breads into three bread categories: yeast, quick, and celebration. Bakers interested in entering should fill out a Registration Form available at www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate. Registration forms are due November 8.

Tickets for the event can be purchased ahead of time at the CJAM office at 120 W Seventh St., Suite 310, or at the door on the day of the event. Call (812) 336-8677 or e-mail cjam@bloomington.in.us for more information about the event.

Need more information? Call (812) 336-8677 or e-mail cjam@bloomington.in.us.

Shalom Community Center

The Shalom Community Center will be having its 3rd Annual Hunger Banquet on Thursday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at the corner of Kirkwood and Washington. See the article by Tim Jessen in this issue of Safety-Net.

HAND

The City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) will be holding its Homebuyer’s Club in September. The Homebuyer’s Club is a comprehensive home buyer education workshop offered to anyone interested in learning more about the home buying process. Presenters include local real estate professionals such as a housing inspector, realtor, appraiser, credit counselor and mortgage loan officer. Additionally, graduates may be eligible for up to \$3,000 in down payment assistance from HAND. The class will be held two consecutive Saturdays, on September 9 and 16 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Bloomington Adult Community Center located at 349 South Walnut. To register contact Kerry Slough at 349-3401.

Middle Way expanding programs, services

By Charlotte Zietlow, Development Coordinator, Middle Way House, Inc.

Middle Way House, Inc. is going through the pangs that all social services are facing in Indiana: reduced funding from the Feds and the state and increased case load. Indiana has a 13 per cent increase in poverty from 2004-2005, despite an increase in median income in the state, and the percentage of female-headed households with children under the age of 5 had the highest poverty rate: 51.2% of that group lives below the federal income cut-offs (and the federal income guidelines are much lower than the self-sufficiency guidelines). Since that constitutes a major portion of our client group, we have a daunting challenge.

At the same time, we are working to build necessary emergency shelter facilities, administrative offices and expanded child care at the Coca Cola building, and to renovate the bottling plant for afford-

able housing for single women who are victims of domestic violence and a large commercial kitchen to consolidate and expand the activities of Middleway Food Works. For these last two projects MWH has been recommended for two large grants—one a Federal Home Loan Bank for the affordable housing, and one from the US Department of Agriculture, to assist in the construction of the commercial kitchen and to establish, together with eight other agencies, a local food system. This would include a kitchen incubator to be managed by Middle Way House.

Each of these grants will serve Middle Way clients, but have impact for employment, small business development, housing and other services for individuals far beyond our immediate clients. We look forward to the realization of all these plans and projects, for the benefit of many.

Why I volunteer at the Shalom Community Center

by Andi Oljace, volunteer

About a year ago I started thinking about my need to get outside myself and my little family and try to do something for others. I was greatly inspired by several good friends, including a couple of friends who had battles with cancer. I felt if they could get out there and help people in need despite their own weakness and pain, then I really had NO excuse not to volunteer myself.

The hard part about volunteering in Bloomington is making a choice WHERE! With all of the information available in the "Volunteer Network" it's obvious that there are many opportunities and making a choice was difficult. However, I had read a newspaper article about SCC once and I was really impressed by the services that SCC's staff and volunteers were provid-

ing. So I finally summoned the courage to call and talk to Pam, the volunteer coordinator. I attended the volunteer training, and shortly thereafter my adventures at SCC began.

I'm so happy I volunteer here. The staff inspires me with their hard-working dedication and compassion. The work is fun and challenging. The guests at SCC come in all shapes, sizes, and temperaments, and I really enjoy spending time with them and trying to help them. I say "try" because I now that sometimes I fail, but I hope I always make my best effort. Thankfully, the guests are understanding and grateful, and quite often they end up helping me. It makes me feel good when a guest or staff member lights up and seems happy to see me there - that's the best payoff in the world!



Photo by Pam Kinnaman

Andi Oljace works the phones.

Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Centers bring parents, young children into school

330-7735 #224

When you walk into the cafeteria at Templeton Elementary on Monday morning at 9:30, you might expect to find the custodians busy clearing away the eggs and cereal from the breakfast crush. Instead, you find parents sprawled out on the floor, infants playing on their tummies, and toddlers crawling over the brightly colored soft floor toys, 3 year olds wearing fire helmets and 4 year olds mixing playdough. This morning the cafeteria has been transformed into a pre-school play room. Nancy Armstrong dips the giant bubble wand into the homemade bubble solution and the 2 year olds gaze in awe at the enormous bubbles while the 3 and 4 years olds squeal with delight and

By Lara Weaver, Co-Director, Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Center

jump into the iridescent film. "If these families stay where they are now, many of them will be enrolling in Templeton for kindergarten" observes Armstrong, Co-Director for the Templeton/Shalom Family Resource Center. This is the beginning of a relationship that the Family Resource Center hopes to nurture.

By bringing parents and young children into school, the FRC hopes to begin creating a relationship between families and the school as well as broadening the community involvement in its neighborhood school. The FRC invites parents and caregivers to attend weekly playgroups and story hours on site at Templeton. These programs encourage early literacy skills which are the building blocks for school readiness. Once

enrolled in grade school, children still need support for their continued success in school. We know that when parents are involved in their child's education, the child improves as a student.

Using a model endorsed by the National Center for Family Literacy, the FRC coordinates PACT (Parent and Child Together) time for grade school aged children and their parents. During PACT, parents participate in their child's classroom on a regular basis. After classroom time, parents convene to discuss their observations and learn about the techniques the teachers are using. In addition, the FRC provides evening and summer family activities, parent forums and referral services for families.

The Free Family Market is another

way that the FRC can help families. Each Friday from 2:00-3:30 families are welcome to come to the Templeton Cafeteria to shop for free food and other items such as diapers, gently used clothing. Having some of these needs met may make the difference for a family facing financial need and may prevent frequent moves which would otherwise disrupt their children's schooling.

In addition to these programs, the Family Resource Center offers information and referral for a variety of community services and opportunities for families. All Family Resource Center programs and services are designed to help families raise children to be safe, healthy and successful in school.

YSB offers safe places for area youth

By David Torneo, Clinical Coordinator, Youth Services Bureau

615 S. Adams Street
Bloomington, IN 47403
(812) 349-2506

Website: www.youthservicesbureau.net

The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) operates a Youth Shelter that provides short term residential care and crisis intervention for youths ages 8 to 17. Services are provided for runaway, homeless, and youth in crisis or abusive situations at home. Services also include counseling, education, supervised recreation, and transportation to and from school, as well as referrals to a variety of agencies for other needed services. The Youth Outreach Program, in collaboration with MCCSC, works with suspended and expelled middle school youth, and provides these students with intensive, one-on-one teaching to help them keep up with their education while they are out of school.

The Youth Network is a YSB prevention program in partnership with the Asset

Building Coalition, that helps to create and support student coalition groups in each middle school and one collective student coalition at the high school level.

Project Safe Place

In addition to crisis counseling services, YSB operates Project Safe Place of Monroe and Greene Counties, a community-wide outreach service for runaways and at-risk youth in crisis situations. Throughout Monroe and Greene Counties, dozens of businesses and community locations have volunteered to be part of the Safe Place Network. These Safe Places are identified by the bright yellow Safe Place logo. A youth can enter a Safe Place at any time and ask for help. Within a few minutes a trained volunteer arrives to meet the youth and assist in defusing the crisis. In most cases, the volunteer brings the youth to the Youth Services Bureau shelter where staff welcome the youth and provide for his or her immediate needs - food, warmth, rest, etc. Together they begin to work toward a solution.

Agency reference guide

For more extensive articles about these agencies, see earlier issues of Safety-Net at www.shalomcommunitycenter.org. To learn more about the agencies, and how to volunteer, please access their websites. Several of the agencies described below provide multiple services.

Agency

Service

Amethyst House
Area 10 Agency on Aging
Backstreet Missions, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.
Bloomington Hospital Positive Link
Center for Behavioral Health (CBH)
Community Kitchen
Crisis Pregnancy Center
Family Services Association/Mental Health Alliance (FSA/MHA)
Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND)
Martha's House
Middle Way House
Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)
Monroe County Wrap-Around
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (MHC)
Options for Better Living
Planned Parenthood
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Rhino's Youth Center
Salvation Army
Shalom Community Center
Stepping Stones, Inc.
Stone Belt
WorkOne
Youth Services Bureau

Transitional housing, addiction counseling
 Provides services to elderly and disabled citizens in Monroe and Owen counties
 Men's emergency shelter (crisis and 12 month program). Provides meals and other services
 Matches adult volunteers and children
 Provides nutritious meals to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves
 AIDS Service Organization. Provides testing, case management
 Behavioral problems, Mental health treatment
 Serves meals, Monday-Friday, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Provides multiple pregnancy services for new and expecting mothers
 Individual, family counseling, mental health treatment, CASA
 Affordable housing, housing counseling for individuals with housing needs or difficulties
 Emergency Housing
 Emergency housing for women who are victims of abuse or in danger
 Emergency services to assist families, subsidized child care
 Assistance to families and children, a multi-agency program
 Food pantry for people in need
 Assists disabled people in finding employment
 Services include medical exams, counseling, pregnancy testing, birth control, abortion service
 Opportunities for persons 55 and over to volunteer in the community
 Community youth center
 Emergency shelter, transitional housing, food pantry, other services
 Serves breakfast and lunch, several on-site services, link to other agencies
 Transitional housing, supportive services for youths, aged 16 to 21
 Provides support for people with disabilities and families with young children
 Assists people in finding employment
 Youth shelter

Amethyst House
 P.O. Box 11
 (812) 336-3570

www.amethysthouse.org

Amethyst House provides structured living environments, treatment, and recovery services for individuals with addictions. Amethyst House operates three transitional living facilities: (1) a men's 1/2 way house, (2) a women's 1/2 way house that serves women and their dependent children up to 6 years old, and (3) a men's 3/4 way house. Amethyst house also operates an outpatient treatment facility in Bloomington as well as in Evansville.

Area 10 Agency on Aging
 630 W. Edgewood Drive
 Ellettsville, IN 47429
 (812)-876-3383

www.area10.bloomington.in.us

Area 10 Agency on Aging offers programs and services, as well as being a resource of information about services for older and disabled citizens living in Monroe and Owen Counties. Services that can be accessed include in-home health-related services, home-delivered and congregate meal sites for the elderly, support groups, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman program for residents of area nursing homes, a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, an Older Workers Program for those 55 and older seeking employment, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in

Ellettsville, and also manages the Rural Transit bus service.

Backstreet Missions, Inc
 215 Westplex Avenue
 Bloomington, IN
 PO Box 3297 Bloomington, IN 47402
 (812) 333-1905
www.backstreet.org

Backstreet Missions is a men's shelter that serves the community by extending Christ's love in practical ways. Services include a crisis and 12 month housing program, meals, the provision of clothing, ministry to spiritual needs, job and life skill training, GED classes, and employment and volunteer opportunities. There is also a Thrift Store.

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.
www.bloomington.in.us/~meals
 email: mow@bloomhealth.org

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc. Is a non-profit organization that provides nutritious meals to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves. There are no age or economic restrictions. To find out more, and to enroll in the program call 323-4982 and leave a message. A volunteer will arrange for meal delivery and special dietary needs, explain the costs, and how payments can be made.

Bloomington Hospital Positive Link
 333 E Miller Dr
 812.353.9150

Bloomington Hospital Positive Link is the regional AIDS Service Organization providing HIV Prevention, Education and Testing, as well as Case Management Services, in south central Indiana. Positive Link provides free, confidential and anonymous HIV testing with results in only 20 minutes. In addition, staff can present educational sessions at community agencies or events on topics such as HIV Basics, STD Basics, Hepatitis, and others. For those infected with HIV, Positive Link provides intensive, specialized case management assisting individuals and families in accessing health care and medications, housing, nutrition, and other primary needs.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS)
 418 S. Walnut Street
 (812)-334-2828
www.bigsindiana.org

BBS matches adult volunteers with children ages six through seventeen in Monroe and Owen Counties. Volunteers mentor, bring support, and engage in fun activities with the children with whom they are matched. The "Bigs" meet with the "Littles" at school grounds and the Boys and Girls Club. For children who need and want a Big Brother or Sister, applications are available by calling 334-2828 or accessing the BBBS website (www.bigsindiana.org). BBBS welcomes calls from parents, teachers, and individuals working with youth and families who are interested in the mentoring programs.

Center for Behavioral Health (CBH)
 645 S. Rogers Street
 (812)-339-1691
www.the-center.org

The Center for Behavioral Health provides services for people with behavioral and mental health challenges, such as depression, stress, panic disorders, alcohol and chemical dependencies, phobias, child behavioral disorders, grief and loss, marital and family problems, and severe and persistent emotional disorders. Services provided include psychiatry, 24-hour emergency services, and vocational and residential services. CBH hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments must be made for services in the evening and weekend.

Community Kitchen of Monroe County
 917 S. Rogers Street
 (812) 332-0999
www.bloomington.in.us/~kitchen

The Community Kitchen of Monroe County serves free meals Monday through Saturday 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sit-down meals are served at 917 S. Rogers Street, and carry-out meals are served at the Express location, 1100 W. 11th Street. The Community Kitchen also provides meals for after-school programs at the Boys and Girls Club, The Rise, and Girls Inc. To volunteer individually, or as a group, for meal preparation or to help in serving, call the office manager at 332-0999.

See "Agencies," page 16

Agencies

Continued from page 15

Crisis Pregnancy Center
810 N. College Avenue
(812) 334-0104; (812) 334-0055 (24-Hour-Helpline)
www.cpcBloomington.org

Free programs and services provided include: pregnancy testing and counseling, material support, childbirth and parenting education. CPC operates Hannah House, a residential program for pregnant women and teenagers.

Family Service Association and the Mental Health Alliance (FSA/MHA)
120 7th Street/One City Centre
(812) 339-1551
www.monroementalhealth.com

FSA mission. The FSA mission is strengthening the health quality of family life in its various styles and many relationships. The programs include Oak Tree Counseling (provides individual and family therapy), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), who work with the Court to make recommendations for rehabilitative and protective services for children and families, and Families in Transition/Family Strengthening (provides parenting classes for both the community and for incarcerated parents.)

MHA mission. The MHA mission is promoting awareness in the prevention of mental illness. The programs include an Ombudsman Program (assists people involved with mental health services with respect to arbitration and conflict resolution with those services), Jail Diversion (a support network for services to this sector of the community), and support groups that provide education and advocacy for families and friends of persons coping with specific types of mental illnesses.

Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND)
Showers City Hall
401 North Morton Street, Suite 130
PO Box 100 Bloomington, IN 47402
(812) 349-3401
hand@bloomington.in.gov

HAND creates affordable housing opportunities in the City of Bloomington by working through its partnerships with local non-profit and for-profit developers and through its in-house housing programs. HAND provides housing counseling to individuals with housing needs or difficulties and provides a variety of learning opportunities for the community on housing related issues. In addition, HAND enforces the Property Maintenance Code and the City's weed and trash ordinances.

Martha's House
1010 S. Walnut Street
PO Box 2115
(812) 336-2597

Martha's House is an emergency shelter with 28 beds for homeless men and women. Services provided include case management, food, and clothing. If you would like to make a donation or volunteer, call the executive director at 336-2597.

Middle Way House
24 Hour Crisis Line: (812) 336-0846
Website: www.bloomington.in.us/~mwhouse

Middle Way House is an emergency shelter that provides services to protect and help women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and women who feel they are in danger. Services include a safe place to stay, case management, in-house children's programs, legal advocacy. There is also a transitional housing program called The Rise which has self-contained apartments for families leaving abusive relationships. Women and their children can stay at The Rise for up to two years. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, call (812) 333-7404.

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)
827 W. 14th Street
(812) 339-3429
www.bloomington.in.us/~mcum

MCUM provides a subsidized Child-Care Program for low-income families in Monroe County, which includes a year-round program for children two to six years old, and a summer camp subsidized child-care for children ages six to ten, when school is out of session. All care-givers in the families either work full time or attend school part-time and work part-time. There is also an Emergency Services Program that assists families who are experiencing a short-term crisis. The Emergency Services Program includes a food pantry, a clothing program, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments. If you would like to volunteer, call (812) 339-3429.

Monroe County Wrap-Around
645 S. Rogers Street
(812) 337-2225

Monroe County Wrap-Around is a multi-agency committee that provides needed services to families with children. For example; a case is brought to a particular agency, then a representative from that agency can present the case to Wrap-Around and all participating Wrap-Around agencies can play a role in coordinating help to the family in the most effective way. The planning process is done with the families "in the drivers seat". Each family identifies a "team" that works with them, and the team develops a plan based upon the strengths and needs of the specific family. Representatives from families also serve on committees that examine the policies and goals of Wrap-Around. This summer, the Lost Child Fund, which operates within Wrap-Around, is accepting funds to send children of working single parents to camp.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (MHC)
1010 S. Walnut Street, Suite G
(812) 355-6843
www.bloomington.in.us/~mhc

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is a food pantry that provides nutritious food to people in need. Most of the food is received from the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. MHC also operates a Nutrition Education Program and an organic Community Gardening Program. If you would like to volunteer, call (812) 335-6843 or view the website.

Options for Better Living
200 East Winslow Road
(812) 332-9615
www.optionsfbl.com

Options works with people with disabilities to find a job that matches their skills, and then works one-on-one with the person and the employer to create barrier-free work environments.

Planned Parenthood
421 S. College Ave
(812) 336-0219
www.ppin.org

Planned Parenthood is one of the leading providers of health care in Bloomington. Services that are provided include pelvic exams, breast exams, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and counseling, pregnancy tests, various types of birth control, emergency contraception (the "morning after pill"), as well as abortion services.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
630 W. Edgewood Drive,
Ellettsville, IN 47429
(812) 876-3383

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Monroe and Owen counties provides opportunities for persons 55 and over to provide a variety of services to the community, including: tutoring children in reading, helping to build houses, participating in neighborhood watch programs, delivering meals to the homebound, offering disaster relief to victims of natural disasters, and helping community organizations to operate more efficiently. RSVP assists volunteers in finding projects that match their interests and abilities. If you would like to volunteer, call (812) 876-3381 or email the Director, Christine McKenna: cmckenna@area10.bloomington.in.us.

Rhino's Youth Center
325 S. Walnut Street
333-3430

Website: www.rhinosyouthcenter.org

Rhino's Youth Center, which is a division of the Harmony Education Center, provides entertainment as well as other programs for the youth of our community in an alcohol, tobacco, and drug free environment. In addition to music and shows, Rhino's provides programs in partnership with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department through the week after school. Media classes and practical applications, art programs, classes, workshops, mentoring, tutoring, Internet access, community service, one on one informal counseling, service referral, and more are available.

The Salvation Army
111 N. Rogers Street
(812) 336-4310

The Salvation Army in Bloomington provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, emergency shelter, transitional housing, seasonal assistance, clothing, furniture, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, summer child care, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, child care connection, nursing home visitation, gas vouchers, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store. All services are without charge with the exception of Child Care Connection, thrift store, and transitional housing.

The Shalom Community Center
219 E. Fourth Street

110 S. Washington Street
(812) 334-5728
www.shalomcommunitycenter.org

The Shalom Community Center is a daytime resource center for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. Its feeding program, which consists of breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and lunch from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday is located in the basement of the First United Methodist Church at 219 E. Fourth Street. Its other services, which include mail boxes, telephones, laundry and shower facilities, storage facilities, computer availability, diapers and other baby supplies, job counseling and placement, resume assistance, case-worker counseling, and meetings with representatives from other social service, non-profit agencies and the City of Bloomington, take place Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 110 S. Washington Street, across the street from the First United Methodist Church.

Stepping Stones, Inc.
P.O. Box 1366
(812) 336-7196

Stepping Stones, Inc. provides a transitional housing program and supportive services for young people aged 16 to 21 years old who are experiencing homelessness, in conjunction with Family Solutions and the Youth Services Bureau.

Stone Belt
2815 E. 10th St.
(812) 332-2168

Stone Belt provides education and support for persons with disabilities as well as providing support for families of young children regardless of disabilities. Support includes a Residential Living program, employment, life skills training, parent and child development, and psychological services.

WorkOne Center
450 Landmark Avenue
(812) - 331-6000

WorkOne assists individuals and businesses in meeting their employment and training needs. WorkOne provides employment services, job counseling and assessment services, training services through WIA, older worker services through Experience Works, vocational rehabilitation services through Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation, veteran services and unemployment insurance benefits.

Youth Services Bureau (YSB)
615 S. Adams Street
(812) 349-2506
www.youthservicesbureau.net

The Youth Services Bureau operates a Youth Shelter that provides short term residential care and crisis intervention for youths ages 8 to 17. Services are provided for runaways, homeless, and youth in crisis or abusive situations at home. Services also include counseling, education, supervised recreation, and transportation to and from school, as well as referrals to a variety of agencies for other needed services. The Youth Outreach Program, in collaboration with MCCSC, works with suspended and expelled middle school youth, and provides these students with intensive, one-on-one teaching to help them keep up with their education while they are out of school.