



# Safety~Net

February 2010

## When the Streets are Your Home

By Bill Ferry, Centerstone PATH Case Manager

You may see me walking the streets, wandering the railroad tracks, anywhere in Bloomington's alleys, or close to social services agencies. I'm Bill, and I work for Centerstone. I've always been passionate about helping people and Centerstone puts me on the front lines. One of the best things about my work here is being part of the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Team (PATH). My colleague, Denise Jackson, is another perk. She's a 35-year veteran of caring for those in need, and has just about seen it all. Together, at any given point in time, we work with approximately 50 different homelessness cases.

And when you think about it, homelessness isn't the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Bloomington. Most people have images of college, parties, young vibrant people, and slow, lazy, idyllic summer days. That's only part of the story. There are also people losing jobs, homes, families, and even health. What do they do when this happens? Where do they turn? Where would you turn? Sometimes they're proud; sometimes angry; sometimes too ill to take care of themselves. So they find sanctuary wherever they can, and they're always conscious of a sense of failure. That failure sometimes makes them hide out of sight, stay away from authorities and the scorn of people who don't understand. But they are us. It's all too easy for anyone to fall into a series of

misfortunes that lead to homelessness.

My job is to find these folks, determine what help they may need, learn their stories, and assist them in finding that help, whether it be treatment for medical, addiction, or mental health problems, emergency shelter, food, or financial support to get them back on their feet. I won't lie; it's tough work, but recently I was reminded why I love it.

I'd been working with a gent named Lester, an independent cuss who was stubborn about being a can-do guy. I met him at the Shalom Center one afternoon when he heard me talking and came up to ask about any leads I might have on housing. Lester lost his job in manufacturing, and one by one the rest of his life seemed to follow—his marriage and his home, until he was so disheartened he cut off contact with his family altogether. Even so, he was determined to "fix" things somehow—alone.

I got to know Lester over the next six months—who he hung out with and who he was—out there in the world. We'd meet a few minutes each week, talk about the past, speculate on the country's future, and talk sports. We had a good time while we were quietly learning about each other and discovering trust again. I shared that my own dad had once been in skilled trade and suffered from the steady disappearance

See "Streets", page two

## Some place like home

Safety-Net is a free, volunteer produced, quarterly multi-agency newspaper sponsored by the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) that addresses issues confronted by those in our community experiencing difficulties that can be

addressed by a caring community. Each issue has Focus Articles in the first few pages followed by Special Sections. The Focus Articles in this issue are concerned with various programs concerned with housing needs, including housing for low-income people, and housing and overnight shelters for homeless people. The Special Sections in this issue are: Agency Reports from agencies that reach out to the community, Youth Programs, Therapeutic Jail and Re-Entry Programs, Volunteer Opportunities, Voices Seldom Heard, and at the end of the newspaper a complete Agency Guide that provides information about the many agencies that provide aid in specific areas. Comments

from readers are most welcome. Please address them to white@indiana.edu and copy them to doug@insccap.org. Place Safety-Net on the subject line, and state whether you would like your comments printed in the next issue as part of the Public Comments section.



Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

## What are some of the housing needs in Bloomington, Indiana?

By Lisa Abbott, Director of HAND

The City of Bloomington is currently working on their Consolidated Plan for the years 2010-2015. As part of this process, the city has been collecting data on housing needs. While all of the data are not yet collected, some observations are noted next.

### Random survey of residents

In 2009, the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) sent out a survey to random addresses

seeking citizen perceptions on housing, community development, economic development and social services. While not statistically significant, 63% of respondents indicated they did not believe that Bloomington has enough affordable housing. Forty-five percent (45%) indicated that they were not satisfied with their house or apartment because the rent/mortgage was too expensive. Census 2000 data indicates that 47.5% of households spend more than 35% of their gross

monthly income (before taxes) on their rent. Twenty-five percent (25%) said that their mortgage is a significant part of their monthly expenses and they are currently having to sacrifice many things and/or go into debt to make their monthly payment. Census 2000 data indicates that 27.5% of households spend more than 30% of their gross monthly income on their mortgage. When asked which services were most needed to meet the needs of the homeless,

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## Needs

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22% said supportive services, 21% said homeless prevention and 19% said alcohol & drug treatment/mental health help.

### Survey of residents of the Bloomington Housing Authority

HAND also did a survey to residents of the Bloomington Housing Authority and its subsidized housing program, Section 8. Twenty-eight percent (28.6%) of those respondents indicated that they have experienced homelessness. As of October 5, 2009, there are 310 households on the Section 8 waiting list and 118 households on the public housing waiting list. However, 65.4% of respondents indicated that they either didn't have to wait for their current housing or waited less than 3 months. The Bloomington Housing Authority administers 1,284 Section 8 vouchers and 310 public housing units. The City also provides Tenant Based Rental Assistance to the Bloomington Housing Authority to help additional households while they wait for permanent housing assistance. When asked how satisfied they were with their housing, 79.6% indicated that they were either very satisfied or satisfied.

### Top five needs

The community survey showed the top five needs in Bloomington are health care (medical/Rx), mental health care, emergency shelter, emergency food, and childcare. The BHA survey showed the top five needs affordable housing, health care, transportation, emergency food, and education. HAND held five focus groups on affordable housing, community

development, homeless issues, social services and economic development. The two themes that were constant across all focus groups were affordable housing and transportation.

### Conclusions regarding priority needs

So, what does all of this mean? Well, the City will use the data collected to determine priorities for funding for 2010-2015. For example, during the last Consolidated Plan period 2005-2010, the City invested \$1,024,245.60 in services for people who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless. This is a combination of federal dollars and general fund (local) dollars. Agencies who have received funding in the past include Community Kitchen, Martha's house, Middle Way House, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, the Shalom Community Center, and Volunteers in Medicine. The City has also supported efforts such as the Interfaith Winter Shelter. When asking, the BHA survey respondents indicated they use agencies such as South Central Community Action Program (58.1%), Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (53.5%), Salvation Army (44.2%), and Community Kitchen (32.6%), among others.

### Future plans

In the next five years, the City will continue to invest in services to improve the lives of the residents of Bloomington. Those investments will be made based on data collected from the residents of Bloomington about the needs of the community.

## Perspective

*Continued from page 12*

lines. These are not people who feel sorry for us or pity us, but they are people who understand that sometimes, even if we are doing everything that we know how to do, we need some help. They are not here to give us money. Just handing someone a few dollars rarely makes any kind of lasting difference in their life, but sharing knowledge, ideas, contacts and experience has the potential to open doors and make great changes. Personally, I can't say enough about my three allies who have become my friends, confidants and motivators. We have brainstormed about my

education, potential careers (notice I didn't say "jobs"), my bills, and my immediate family needs. Not one of them treats me with disrespect or pity but with respect and compassion. They challenge me to reach higher for my goals and they are there to support me when I hit another barrier. I count myself blessed to have these wonderful people (and their families) in my life and to be able to call them my friends.

When I am asked for one word to describe Circles, my response is "empowering."

## Streets

*Continued from page one*

of America's manufacturing.

One day, Lester broke down in hysterical tears, describing to me the fear and mental strain that haunted him for so many years. He was by turns anxious, depressed, and kept thinking about past abuse he thought he'd put behind him. In fact, lately he'd been so unsettled and diminished by these feelings, he'd been thinking about suicide. He felt isolated and terrified to seek help. Then he thought maybe his friend Bill would understand. I was stunned and humbled by this confidence and assured him that we would work it out together. I gathered information about what we could do and after consulting Centerstone and the PATH team, we found a way to secure a place for him to stay.

### About Centerstone

*Centerstone, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to "prevent and cure mental illness and addiction," offers a wide range of mental health and addiction services to more than 24,000 people of all ages each year. Formed through the merger of Center for Behavioral Health, Quinco Behavioral Health Systems and Dunn Center, Centerstone has been serving Indiana residents for more than five decades. The organization has more than 60 facilities across 17 Indiana counties and operates the Foster Care Select program in 24 counties. It is accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). For more information about Centerstone, please call 800-344-8802 or visit [www.centerstone.org](http://www.centerstone.org).*

This success led to us talking about what else might help, and soon he considered taking another risk—trusting me further. We came to Centerstone where he learned there were others who care. Today Lester is addressing substance use issues, talking to a counselor, and working on turning his life around from the inside out.

I saw him the other day and his face lit up. "Hey Bill, thank you for your help. I really needed someone to hear me and someone I could trust." Let me tell you... that made my week. I'm grateful for this community, with its unrivaled compassion and awareness. We've got to look after each other. Homelessness, mental illness and joblessness are equal opportunity misfortunes. They know no class distinctions but can happen anywhere, anytime, to anyone.

## About Safety~Net

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**Joe Lee**  
Editorial Cartoonist

### FOCUS ARTICLES

Each issue of *Safety~Net* has articles focused on a particular topic that affects those in need in our community. This issue has focus articles about homelessness and housing issues.

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

The special sections in this issue are: Therapeutic Jail and Re-entry Programs, Voices Seldom Heard, Agency Reports, Volunteer Opportunities, Youth Programs, Agency Guide.

### AGENCY REPORTS

Each issue of *Safety~Net* has articles contributed from the many non-profit/social service agencies in the Bloomington area about programs and services that they provide, as well as volunteer opportunities.

### AGENCY GUIDE

There is an extensive Agency Guide pointing out where specific services/programs are available and how to access them.

**WE WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. Please send these to the editor at [white@indiana.edu](mailto:white@indiana.edu). Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.**

# Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative

By Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Capshew

The author is the Administrator of the Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative for the 2009-2010 season. He is an ordained Interfaith Minister and an author, trainer and community organizer. For more information about the author, please visit [www.innerspark.org](http://www.innerspark.org). For more information about the IWSI, please visit [www.interfaithwintershelter.org](http://www.interfaithwintershelter.org).

## 2009 Season

A little over a year ago, some members of Trinity Episcopal Church gathered together around the radical notion that every human being in Monroe County, regardless of their condition or station in life, is entitled to a safe, warm place to sleep in the winter. From January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009, Trinity hosted a nighttime shelter every night. They decided on a low barrier shelter, which means that it does not matter who you are or what you have done before coming to the shelter, you are welcome at the shelter as long as you treat others with respect while at the shelter – no drugs, no alcohol, no violence at the shelter – a safe and warm place to sleep. Reports from this experiment are that many found it to be a life-changing experience. This article is about what has transpired since last year's shelter.

## 2009-2010 Season

In the spring and summer of 2009, the shelter people at Trinity encouraged and recruited other members of Bloomington faith communities, and by the fall of 2009, four sites had been identified for the 2009-2010 winter season: Trinity Episcopal Church, First Christian Church, First Untied Church, and the Allison-Jukebox Community Center. The endeavors were given the name Interfaith Winter Shelter

Initiative ("IWSI"), with an IWSI Task Force governing the experiment. Each of the congregations where the sites are located has said "Yes" to the endeavor, along with over 30 organizations and faith communities (see <http://interfaithwintershelter.org/partners-and-supporters/>) Without question the IWSI would not be able to function without the partner/supporter organizations and faith communities supporting the endeavor.

This year's Interfaith Winter Shelter opened on November 1, 2009. November saw 681 bed nights and December saw 911 bed nights, averaging nearly 30 persons per night in December. In January 2010, we have reached our capacity of 40 a few times, indicating our program is addressing a growing need in our community. Our guests are 90% male, and 95% identify as a Monroe County resident. While the most of the guests are grateful and retire by 10:30 pm to their cot or mat, a few guests create disturbances. A Behavior Policy with escalating consequences for disruptive behavior has been implemented to maximize a safe, warm and respectful environment for all.

## Contributions of time, goods and money

Three-hour trainings began in October, and after several trainings we have over 400 trained volunteers. This sounds like a large number, but when it takes approximately 25 volunteers per night, every volunteer would need to work a shift twice a month to cover every shift. And, as we reach capacity, more volunteers are needed for each shift to maintain a good balance between the number of volunteers and the number of guests.

Each site provides its own supplies, including cots or mats, blankets, pillows,

linens, drinks and snacks. The IWSI's Mission Statement is: "To provide a low barrier Emergency Winter Shelter for homeless men and women, not families, in Bloomington, IN from Nov. 1, 2009 – March 31st 2010. The hours of operation will be from 9 PM to 7 AM." The Task Force has kept true to this mission, referring guests to other organizations and providers for clothing, meals, employment assistance, housing assistance, and other services needed by this vulnerable population. One exception made is that soup is provided at the Jukebox on Sunday evenings because there is no other place in Bloomington that serves a free meal on Sunday evenings. Countless individuals and organizations have contributed supplies and financial donations to the IWSI and to the individual sites to keep the sites stocked and running. All sites except the Jukebox accept both in-kind and financial contributions during regular business hours. Without question, the IWSI would not be able to function without our volunteers generously donating their valuable time and without individuals and organizations contributing goods and money to the endeavor.

## Conclusion

As the Administrator of the IWSI this season, I have a particular vantage point to view the Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative and see both the individual contributions and the overall landscape. It often leaves me speechless with wonder and gratitude. Monroe County truly has a beautiful heart! Monroe County's heart keeps beating with the hearts of volunteers, contributors, guests, IWSI Task Force members, site coordinators, volunteer coordinators, members of faith communities, government officials and staff, students, staff and

## What the overnight guests have to say...

*"It is nice to have a warm safe place to sleep."*

— "Monte Python"

*"The shelters have been a blessing for me. Without them it would be pretty hard to survive right now. My homelessness was caused by something beyond my control."*

— "Kenny W."

*"The cold is hard to sleep. Wandering around sleeping here and there, an hour here an hour there, shivering because it is cold and so tired and it is too cold to sleep. The sanity is much better – thank you."*

— "Chad O."

*"To all the volunteers helping with the churches who have opened their doors. For myself and all other homeless, I want to THANK YOU for myself and the others. . . . From all who have stayed in these churches, one night or more, thank you."*

— Anonymous

faculty at Indiana University, social service organizations, and people who may not fit in any of the categories I have mentioned here. As we all come together to provide a basic need to fellow humans who, for various reasons, do not have a warm safe place to sleep, we remind ourselves of our best human qualities: the ability to choose to love ourselves the ability to choose to love those around us.

# South Central Housing Network: Housing and Homeless Service Providers

By Jill L. Stowers, Chair of South Central Housing Network

The South Central Housing Network is a community group of housing service providers and concerned citizens who meet monthly to coordinate housing and homeless services for the region. Indiana is divided into 13 regions called Continuum of Care, and the Bloomington region (Region 10) includes Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Greene, Lawrence, and Martin counties. Providers from across the region are invited and encouraged to participate in Housing Network or one of its many task groups.

Currently, the on-going projects being addressed by the Housing Network are Continuum of Care Funding, Annual Homeless Count, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Project (HPRP), and Social Security Access and Recovery (SOAR). Continuum of Care includes HUD programs throughout the region that provide on-going rental assistance to eligible homeless individuals and families. A requirement of receiving CoC funding (and a way to better document the need in our community) is that the region partici-

pate in an annual count of the homeless in our region who are sheltered and those who remain in need of shelter. A part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill), HPRP is a three year program designed to work with people who are homeless and need short term assistance to get back on their feet. SOAR is a new initiative in Indiana focusing on assisting homeless individuals with a disability on accessing their Social Security benefits.

In addition to these on-going initia-

tives, the Housing Network provides those working with housing and the homeless population a place to gather and strategize to ensure that the homeless in our community are offered the best services available in an efficient and streamlined manner. The South Central Housing Network meets on the second Thursday of every month from 12:00 – 1:30 in the McCloskey Room at Showers and is open to the public. For more information, contact Jill L. Stowers at [JStowers@bloomingtonhospital.org](mailto:JStowers@bloomingtonhospital.org).

# Suggestions for obtaining housing

By Judy Allensworth, Housing Director of Area 10 Agency on Aging

## If you are 55+ and looking for an apartment, Area 10 Agency on Aging will do what we can to help you

Just call 876-3383. Dodds-Wylie Court in Bloomington and Edgewood Village in Ellettsville are smoke free. Cunot Senior Apartments in Owen County permits smoking. Section 8 recipients are welcome. In addition, Area 10 operates the Monroe and Owen County 2-1-1 InfoLine. Just dial 2-1-1 to speak with a friendly operator who can give referrals and information on social services and assistance for people of all ages and abilities.

## Suggestions for possible renters

As Housing Director of Area 10 Agency on Aging, I have interviewed hundreds of potential tenants, trying to guess what they'd be like as renters and neighbors in the apartments we manage. Those meetings are the source of my advice on how to put your best foot forward in a tenancy interview. When you find yourself looking for an apartment, following these suggestions may help you land a place to live in comfortably and happily.

**Make a Note.** Your apartment search begins by phone. Keep notepad and pen ready when you contact apartment managers and rental agents. Jot down the apartment name, who you spoke to, the date, and any information you may want to use to compare properties later. Example:

Airplane Apts. 333-3333. Orville Wright, mgr. 12/30/09. Will have 2 vacancies

in Mar. All 1BR, \$470 w/o utilities. Sect. 8 OK. Call back 2/25.

When you're talking to apartment staff, remember to ask, "Can you suggest any other places that might have vacancies?"

**First Impressions.** The phone call is your first "meeting" with apartment staff, so make a businesslike impression. Try to phone from a place with few distractions. Turn off the TV, put the dog out and shut the door. Don't talk to others while you're on the phone. Speak clearly, especially if you are leaving a recorded message. Give your full name, your phone number, and what you are looking for. If you can't leave a phone number where you can be contacted, give a date and time when you will call back. Even if you are so sick of hearing, "Sorry, no vacancy!" that you think you'll never find a place, try to be upbeat. This apartment could be the perfect home for you—if you sound like a good prospect.

**Bring It.** When you meet the manager or agent in person, you'll look better if you have all necessary documentation. You may need proof of age and income (or gross income—before Medicare or insurance costs or taxes are deducted), the name of your bank and your account number, the names and phone numbers of previous landlords, the names and phone numbers of reference people (not relatives—counselors, pastors, long-time friends) and an emergency contact person. Gather your papers and notes in a secure folder or envelope. If you aren't sure what to bring,

phone first and ask.

**Tour Smart.** Time for the property tour: don't forget your pen and pad. Keep your eyes and ears open. Observe the condition of apartments and common areas. Stop and chat briefly with any tenants you meet. They are your best sources of information about what living there is really like—utility costs, bus service, maintenance—things the manager may not know or share. At the same time, listen closely to what the manager is saying. Write down your questions, or ask them now: "Did you say the heat was gas but the cooking is electric?" "Is this the only elevator in the building?" Make a note that will remind you what the apartment was like: "Roll-in shower, water/sewer/trash paid, blue miniblinds, sunny." Ask for an apartment brochure and a business card.

**Check Back.** After the interview and tour, practice the art of polite nagging. While you're waiting for a vacancy or for your application information to be verified, a weekly phone call to check in is usually acceptable if you keep it brief. When you call, remember that the staff interview many people and may not remember you exactly. Give a helpful hint such as, "I'm the veteran you showed the ground-floor apartment to last Tuesday. I said I might be interested in doing some landscaping for you."

**Help Yourself.** When it's requested, provide information fast. Several people may be trying to rent the unit you're looking at, which puts you in a race to complete

the necessary paper work. If the manager hasn't yet received a statement back from your landlord or employer, offer to phone that person yourself to emphasize how important their information is. Check back to make sure that the income verification you requested a week ago has been mailed or faxed. The renting agent will appreciate your help.

**Give Them a Chance.** Renting agents and managers are people, too. They want to provide housing to folks who need and appreciate it. When their apartments are filled with neighborly people who respect the premises and one another, they are proud of a job well done. So even if you've had mean landlords before, assume this one will be the exception and act accordingly. You might get a pleasant surprise.

**It's the Best Policy.** A final note about credit, criminal and landlord checks. If there is an eviction, a bankruptcy or a conviction in your past, you can't change it or hide it without running major risks. Full disclosure in advance will make the best impression: "When you check, you'll find out I had some trouble with the law in 2001. I did my community service and since then I've walked the line," or "I lost my house and filed bankruptcy eight years ago when the plant closed. I didn't want to walk away from my debts but I didn't have a choice. No more credit cards for me."

# Stepping Stones

By Warren A. Wade II, Assistant Director, Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is an independent non profit that offers transitional housing and supportive services to youth between the ages of 16-20 experiencing homelessness.

## Goal

The goal of Stepping Stones is to provide a supportive community that encourages young people to make decisions that positively affect their lives and prepare them for the future. Our program has two overarching components: transitional housing and independent living.

## Transitional Housing

Our semi-supervised transitional housing program is for youth between the ages of 16-20 who are experiencing homelessness. It is comprised of three two-bedroom, furnished apartments for 4 girls and 3 boys at any given time for up to two years. A fourth apartment houses two

resident assistants who provide mentoring, case management and life skills education. And a fifth apartment serves as our Community Center, administrative offices, and resident lab. It is the central hub where residents and program participants receive case management, have group and individual meetings and are able to socialize with staff and friends.

Our clustered housing provides a safe and supportive environment for residents to hone their skills so they can become self-sufficient. It is our goal to move residents into a permanent housing situation once they leave the program.

## Independent Living

Our independent living program serves youth in our housing program, former residents and other at-risk youth in the community. These programs and services are the essential skills youth need in order

to achieve a successful transition into adulthood and become self-sufficient. We provide one-on-one and group coaching and case management to help residents reach their self-identified, staff-assisted goals in a "Life Map."

## Educational Assistance

We believe that one instrument for successful independent living is education. For those residents who have not obtained a high school diploma or GED equivalent, we require them to be enrolled in school during their time in our program. Of the 41 youth who have been in our program since 2005, only 20% have come into our program with a high school diploma or GED. 100% of those residents who had not graduated from school attended high school or a GED program. In collaboration with teachers, counselors and school administrators, we monitor their progress

by reviewing progress reports, report cards and attendance to help ensure their success.

For those who have already graduated, we provide ongoing encouragement and support to those interested in obtaining higher education. We also provide or coordinate tutoring, as needed.

## Job Coaching

Another essential instrument for success that is often a barrier for youth is employment. Residents are expected to be employed while in our housing program. This can be a challenge given their inexperience, youthfulness and, sometimes, poor work history; however, from the time they are looking for jobs and filling out applications to actual on-the-job coaching (if necessary), we provide them with assistance

See "Stones", page five

# Homeward Bound: Walk a day, change a life

By Ann Ruggiero and Danielle Rindler, Homeward Bound Walk Representatives

On April 18 hundreds of people will come together to combat homelessness and poverty in Monroe County at the 8th annual Bloomington Homeward Bound Walk. The Homeward Bound walks are a statewide effort, with walks taking place in 11 different locations across Indiana throughout the year.

The City of Bloomington and 12 local agencies will host the 8th annual Bloomington walk on April 18, 2010 from 11:30 to 4 p.m.

From 2003 to 2009, the Bloomington Homeward Bound Walk has raised more than \$385,000. All of the funds stay local, thanks to the over 100 volunteers and in-kind donations of food, music, and time. Funds from the walk are raised largely through donations and benefit local agencies including Amethyst House, Area 10 on Aging, Centerstone, Community Kitchen, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Martha's House, Middle Way House, Monroe County United Ministries, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Shalom Community Center, Stepping Stones and the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County. All of these agencies work daily to ensure that all Bloomington-area residents have food, shelter, and the services that they need to battle homelessness.

The Bloomington Homeward Bound Committee is proud to announce the 2010 Walk Spokesperson, local musician Kent Johnson. He will be sharing his success story of overcoming homelessness, as well as filling the air with his music. Kent Johnson utilized many of the services provided by the Homeward Bound Benefitting Agencies throughout his struggle against

homelessness. Also joining him on stage will be area female a cappella group, Kaia.

Those interested in participating will have numerous opportunities for participation, from walking and fundraising to sponsorship and donation opportunities for both individuals and corporations. Volunteers are also needed for the day of the event to help with activities in the park, and to direct walkers along the route. If you are interested in changing the lives of those in your community, participating in the Homeward Bound Walk is a great way to get started. The walk is a community-run event where neighbors help neighbors. For more information, contact Kathy Mayer at (812) 349-3430 or visit [www.homewardboundindiana.org](http://www.homewardboundindiana.org).

## Agency Descriptions:

Amethyst House provides structured living environments, treatment, for those struggling with substance abuse.

Monroe County United Ministries offers subsidized childcare and emergency assistance.

Centerstone provides behavioral healthcare and offers mental health, substance abuse and educational services

Hoosier Hills Food Bank collects and distributes nutritious food to organizations, with free feeding programs

Martha's House provides an overnight shelter with the professional social services to help with self-sufficiency

Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County provides services to strengthen



The Homeward Bound Walk is a family event. Have fun together while supporting 12 local non-profit agencies.

families and foster positive development

Community Kitchen provides free nutritious meals, education, and referrals to other agency services

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is a community food pantry that offers healthy groceries and nutrition education

Shalom Community Center provides access to food, housing, education, and health and human services

Area 10 Agency on Aging works to improve quality of life for senior citizens

Middle Way House seeks to end abuse of women and children through programs aimed at individual and social change

Stepping Stones provides a structured environment for young people to hone independent living skills

## Stones

Continued from page four

they need to be successful.

### Life Steps

Our career exploration program is designed to help youth think about their future and how to reach their goals. In both group and individual sessions, residents complete a personal career plan; learn about various occupations; develop job searching skills such as résumé writing, interview skills and professionalism; and they develop an awareness of their personal strengths and abilities.

### Financial Counseling

In an attempt to educate and provide relevant experience to residents, while in the program, they are required to pay a portion of their housing expenses (e.g. rent, utilities, phone, etc). We couple the experience with monthly budgeting meetings to facilitate understanding of income

vs. expense, need vs. want and to encourage them to live a fiscally responsible life.

### Educational Group Sessions

Once a week, residents and staff come together for an evening of community, education and food. We provide a nutritious group meal that residents take turns preparing. Local organizations like Middle Way House, Ivy Tech, Positive Link and other speakers come help us focus on core topics such as drug awareness, conflict resolution and stress management. This experience also fosters a sense of community and is a safe place for our residents to interact with their peers and staff.

### Health & Wellness

Our holistic approach to personal health and wellness begins with preventative measures like accessing health professionals and understanding personal health to providing them with healthy lifestyle alternatives through physical recreational activities and alternatives to substance

abuse. In addition to education, we provide our residents with fresh fruits and vegetables of their choosing on a biweekly basis.

### Health Care

Many of our residents have not seen a health professional in years and have used emergency centers as their primary care. When a resident enters our program, we provide them with guidance to navigate the complicated medical systems as well as other governmental assistance programs. While they are in our program, we also have them create a personal Health Profile and meet with a Community Health Educator to discuss ways to improve their health. By the time they leave our program, it is our goal that they have taken over their own health coordination. Educating our youth on the available community resources and how to access them is an essential component of our program. This provides them with information and networks so that, when they leave the

program, they have the resources to be self-sufficient.

### Be Active!

By offering a wide variety of recreational activities like rock climbing and swimming, this program promotes regular, healthy physical activity and is open to high school-aged youth in the community. While rock climbing at Hoosier Heights, one resident noted that she "forgot how much fun it is to be active!"

### Alternatives & Awareness (AA)

This program educates youth on the negative effects of drug use and gives them healthy alternatives. To ensure the success of our residents, we couple educational sessions and positive alternative activities with drug screenings when use is suspected. In a non-punitive setting, we provide our residents the supplemental counseling and encouragement to break negative habits.

# Section 8 Housing

By Lauren Sedam, SCCAP Communications Intern

Finding affordable housing in Bloomington is a struggle in itself. Add mounting bills and little to no income and the battle can seem impossible.

This is where Section 8 can help.

Section 8, or the Housing Choice Voucher, is a government rent assistance program meant to provide housing to those in need, and with the recent opening of the waiting lists in several counties, it's doing more good than ever before.

## What is Section 8?

At its most basic level, Section 8 is a program designed to help people with low income find a place to live.

The program is run through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD.

According to Chris Myers, Director of Operations at SCCAP, tenants in all four of their counties—Monroe, Morgan, Brown and Owen—must meet the 50% of the Area Median Income requirement or below. This means that a client makes half of what HUD calculates to be the average income in that specific area. In 2009, this was \$22,100 in Monroe County.

Myers added that the SCCAP serves Monroe County. The Bloomington Housing Authority also provides vouchers, but Myers said the difference is that they contract through HUD, while SCCAP goes through the state and federal government.

Once on Section 8, a client is responsible for paying 30% of their income toward rent, or \$50 a month until they are employed if they don't have an income.

The government pays the rest.

But with terms like low-income and affordable housing floating around, it can be hard to know exactly what makes Section 8 different.

Kathleen Edwards, Section 8 Program Director at SCCAP, said the difference lies in mobility. She said Section 8 allows a family the option to transfer it voucher anywhere in the US, while low-income or affordable housing are designated for a particular unit, staying with the unit even if the family moves.

## The process of aid

It starts with a waitlist.

Spots on the waitlist are in high demand, and Myers said SCCAP was able to open its waitlists in its counties this summer for the first time in years.

Applicants fill out preliminary documents, mostly checking the minimum requirements in order to be placed on a waitlist. Once this is done, the government objectively ranks applicants based on demographics.

Then, they wait.

Once the government tells agencies

they can offer vouchers, Myers said, they pull from the top names. Clients then fill out much more intense forms, checking funds and criminal pasts.

Once an applicant is approved and receives their voucher, however, the search has just begun. Applicants go out to look for housing that meets the requirements, communicating with the agency. Once they find a place, there are more requirements to go over with the landlord before the agency can finally approve.

Myers said at any point during this process, the state can stop giving aid due to lack of funds.

Once the deal is made, however, they've made it.

Myers said that clients stay on Section 8 as long as they are income eligible, and the first rental must last for a year.

"As you increase toward self-sufficient, the proportion of rent you pay increases and the proportion the government pays decreases. At some point, we hope tenants can reach the point where they pay all their own rent," she said.

This point is called zero-HAP (Housing Assistance Program), meaning the government is no longer paying anything. If a tenant maintains this for six months, they are no longer on Section 8.

## Section 8 here and now

Though the process seems tedious, Myers said they have been able to open their waiting lists in their counties recently, and are currently "adding everyday, because we can."

She said they are about to draw 20 applicants from the lists in Brown and Owen counties, and there are currently 306 active vouchers in Monroe, Morgan, Brown and Owen.

Though Edwards said some housing areas are struggling because there are more tenants in the subsidized areas than in market rent areas, property managers were positive, and they hoped to be taking applications early in 2010.

Myers said that becoming Section 8 friendly for landlords is as easy as accepting someone on Section 8 as a tenant. She said the program is on a unit to unit basis, and once they accept a client, the agency will go over the details and provide a "landlord packet."

Edwards said the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority has a website on which landlords can list properties for renters to access. The address is [www.GoSection8.com](http://www.GoSection8.com).

"Section 8 people need to be treated exactly the same as renters who aren't on Section 8," Myers said.

And that's the goal.

# There's No Place like Home: Affordable Housing and Emergency Shelters

By Sharon Lucas, Community and Family Resource Commission

Community and Family Resource Commission hosted its first Town Hall meeting on Oct 20th. The commission's goals are to gather information from the community as to their experience with housing and shelters in this area in order to lead to thoughtful solutions and guidance for public policy recommendations in meeting affordable housing demands.

The CFR Commission invited members of the Bloomington business community, social service agencies, neighborhood associations, nonprofit shelter organizations and rental property owners to form a well-rounded discussion about Bloomington's affordable housing stack and the need for emergency shelter options.

The Town Hall meeting goal was to address three questions:

1. What have you experienced in find

and living in affordable housing in Bloomington?

2. What is your understanding of/or experience with emergency shelters in the Bloomington community?

3. How would you advise the Community and Family Resources Commission and the City of Bloomington administration in seeking solutions for gaps in affordable housing or emergency shelter?

Notes from this town hall meeting will be used by the CFR Commissioners for future town hall meetings. It is their hope to draw attention to this topic and garnish support to address the needs of this community. Further information about upcoming events and updates can be found at <http://Bloomington.in.gov/board/cfr> or contact Sharon Lucas directly at [slucas@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:slucas@co.monroe.in.us).

## MOSAIC Film Festival will feature poverty and homelessness

By Audrey Heller

The 3rd annual MOSAIC Film Festival opens February 27th at the Monroe County Public Library, showing films for adults on poverty and homelessness from 11:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Additional showings of selected films will take place on Tuesday, March 2nd at Rhino's at 7:00 P.M. and on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7 P.M. at Rachael's Café. The film festival is sponsored by Diversity Theatre which is a program of the City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resources Department.

The schedule and description of films will be posted on the City of Bloomington's web site, which is <http://bloomington.in.gov/mosaic>.

Films will include stories of the working poor, of homeless children, of veterans of the Vietnam and Iraq wars who are homeless, and also about how some have overcome homelessness. One of the films, Homelessness in the U.S. filmed by students at Batchelor Middle School, won a prize for best film at an international festival of films by children, in Hollywood, California. The film, Hard Life, documents the journey from homelessness to recovery of three men from this area. "Hard Life" filmmaker, Jo Throckmorton will appear

at the festival to comment on the film. Among the discussants for the films will be Joel Rekas, Director of the Shalom Community Center and Sheri Benham, Director of Stepping Stones.

MOSAIC will also feature films for children about disabilities and accepting differences on Saturday, March 6 at the Ellettsville branch of the Monroe County Library, beginning at 1:00 P.m. Contact the Ellettsville library for the schedule and description of films.

Agencies partnering with Diversity Theatre for the MOSAIC Film Festival are the Shalom Community Center, Stone Belt Center ARC, Centerstone, the Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc., Stepping Stones, Inc., CHAAD, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Council for Community Accessibility, Bloomington chapter of the National Council for Mental Health (NAMI), AccessAbility, Inc., and Milestones. These agencies have been invited to staff tables with information about their services on the opening day of the festival, February 27 at the Monroe County Public Library.

All festival events are free and open to the public. Questions? Contact [hellera@indiana.edu](mailto:hellera@indiana.edu).

# Special Section: Therapeutic Jail and Re-entry Programs

*This section describes the many therapeutic and educational programs that take place in the Monroe County Jail to aid inmates while incarcerated, and upon their release, in changing their lives to make a successful re-entry into our society.*

## New Leaf-New Life: Narrative description of inside jail programs

*By Vid Beldavs, Vice-President of New Leaf-New Life, Inc. and Tania Karnofsky, Program Director*

NewLeaf-NewLife is a volunteer-driven organization with a mission to reduce recidivism through programming and services provided to people while they are incarcerated followed up with aftercare and support after they are released from jail. Our key program in the jail is a therapeutic community that provides intensive residential addictions therapeutic services to the men in a therapeutic dormitory on the first floor of the jail.

### **Addicts in Recovery (AIR) Community**

The AIR Community started in July 2006 a residential treatment program that depends on a community peer-managed process for therapeutic input augmented by carefully selected books, workbooks, films and videos that are discussed by the participants in a highly structured process facilitated by a Community Manager (CM). The CM oversees the group and supplies necessary workbooks and materials and helps the group to enforce the decisions of the group. The Therapeutic

Community in the Monroe County jail has been adapted from the Community Model developed the Center for Therapeutic Justice, a firm that was a consultant to NewLeaf-NewLife in the first year of the project.

Since October 2007 we have been moved several times due to construction. We started in A block with 24 beds but after double bunking expanded A block to 32 beds we were moved into F block with 14 beds. Construction in F block moved us to G block with space for 8 men. In Feb. 2009 we were moved to a new block on the first floor with 12 beds. Hopefully this will be home to the community for a while.

On weekdays the AIR community follows a schedule of classes and groups from 9am to 3:30. These include **AA/NA, Life Without a Crutch, Houses of Healing, Anger Management, Developing Capable People, Charting a New Course, Motivational interviewing, Journaling, Values, Meditation, Fam-**

**ily Matters, and Men's Work.** The men also have a set time each week to work on two Transition Workbooks that serve as guides in planning reentry. Most of the groups are facilitated by participants. The Developing Capable People class is facilitated by Tania Karnofsky. There are volunteers who come into the block. Frank Miller comes into the block about three times a week. He does groups on Motivational Interviewing, Relapse Prevention and Meditation. Jim Miller comes in once a week and does a 12 step group. Velma Davis is on leave now but starting on Feb. 3rd she'll be resuming her weekly decision making group based on the Thresholds Program. Hal Taylor has been coming in once a week. Susan Sandberg, Tania Karnofsky and sometimes Joan White come in every Saturday and do a group that centers on play reading, music, or creative writing. Marc Haggerty comes in on Saturdays before the Theater group. We have two guitars that he brings down and plays music with anyone interested. Once or twice a week the men have access to art supplies and can decorate pillowcases or make cards for their children or family members. Craig Brenner comes in every few months with his keyboard

and plays for the men. Once a month several people from RSVP come in and bring art projects which usually include something that can be sent out to inmates children and family members.

There are two or three people in the group who are elected to be senior members. They help set the schedule and discuss with the program coordinator any issues that come up. When new people come into the block they are oriented and given supplies by the senior members. During the first week they will chose a member of the community who has been there a while as a mentor.

Every three months the AIR community has a "certificate ceremony" where participants are given certificates for the phases they have completed.

### **Woman's Block**

Debra Morrow, earlier Volunteer Director and now as a volunteer herself goes into the women's block once a week and works with about 15 women. She offers some coloring pages and puzzles and they are given Transition Workbooks. She fullfills various other requests for referrals for housing, employment, and other

**See "Description", page eight**

*The Bloomington Human Rights Commission selected New Leaf/New Life as the recipient of this year's Human Rights Award. The commissioners were impressed by the work that New Leaf/New Life does with an often-overlooked population.*

## An hour on Sunday

*By Debra A. Morrow, New Leaf-New Life volunteer*

It's 12:25 p.m. on Sunday. A woman pushes a stroller down the alley next to jail towards the entrance. She knows she has a long afternoon ahead of her and she hopes that her two children aren't fussy and that it warms up a little bit. The woman pushes the stroller through the heavy metal door and is careful to not hit people with the stroller as she works her way up to the sign-in sheet so that her and her children will have their brief Sunday afternoon visit with her children's "daddy" today. After she signs in, she looks around the small room and realizes the seats are all full and that she can't really block the main area with her stroller by standing where she's at. So she does what she typically does on Sunday, while she waits to find out what time her visit will be, she heads for the door to stand outside in the alley. It is an-

other typical Sunday at the Monroe County Correctional Center.

People dot the alley, some huddled in small groups and some standing alone. The area next to the door has a small crowd, and right in the middle of the crowd, a white haired man in a suit stands offering coffee, juice and treats to the individuals waiting. Many of the visitors are familiar with this man. They gather around him to share their stories and gather a bit of his wisdom. Others, who are new to the jail visitation process, stand back and watch until they feel more comfortable, and then they too come to meet with Hal Taylor and seek his advice over a steaming cup of coffee.

Reverend Hal Taylor one of the founders and the President of New Leaf-New Life can be found on Sundays offer-

ing support, friendship, and advise to individuals who have a family member incarcerated in the Monroe County Correctional Center. He is often joined by other members of New Leaf-New Life. Their goal during Sunday visitation is to introduce family members of incarcerated individuals to the community services and resources that can help the families of those incarcerated, and the incarcerated individual after they are released.

In December, members of The Daughter's of the King, from Trinity church joined Hal Taylor during Sunday visitation at the jail. They provided holiday gifts for the children, warm apple cider, and many holiday treats and cookies. New Leaf-New Life and Hal Taylor, with the help of Virginia Hall and the other members from Trinity Church were able to show the visi-

tors that people in the community care and have compassion for the difficulties that are faced by families when an individual is incarcerated, especially during the holidays.

The woman with the stroller slowly makes her way toward Hal. He greets her with a warm smile and encourages her to get some juice and cookies for her children. As she does he begins the compassionate process of finding out what type of help she might need so that he can refer her to the appropriate agencies. Within a few minutes, the woman, who is now holding a cup of coffee, is easily talking to Hal about her hardships. It is 1:25 p.m. and a typical Sunday visitation at the Monroe County Correctional Center.

## Description

Continued from page seven

needs. She has facilitated women getting into the Rise, Catholic Workers House and Amethyst House. Twice a month Women Writing for (a) Change holds a writing circle for the women.

## Intake Program

On weekday afternoons at 3:30 New Leaf has access to the multipurpose room and offers classes/discussion groups on different topics. The classes are available to 3 blocks on a rotating basis. The inmates in these blocks are allowed to participate because of their low security classification. Lists are checked on a given day to see if people have left since the week before. The list is then posted in the block if there are available spaces. The classes are limited by the jail to a maximum of 15. topics for the classes vary. Bruce Pearson does his groups on Problem Solving. Hal Taylor has a number of topics he uses mainly based on understanding one's self. Bruce Bundy has been using the 12 step model for his group.

Fifteen people out of each cell block is slightly less than 50% of the population of those blocks. These 3 blocks represent approximately half the jail population of men, not counting the trustees or Therapeutic Dorm.

These classes are very valuable to those who attend. In a place where most of their time is taken up with watching TV, playing cards and reminiscing about their escapades outside, these classes give them an opportunity to think and consider their lives and hopefully develop motivation to change.

## Transition

Transition really is part of everything that New Leaf does in and out of the jail. What's called the Transition Program focuses on the practical things that can be done to raise the likelihood of a smooth transition from jail to life in the community. Flyers are distributed by way of the intake classes that describe some of the services we can provide. In order to get

## Head Start

Continued from page 12

high-quality care for children under three years old," SCCAP Head Start Director Shirley Stumpner said. "The Early Head Start program will provide comprehensive child development, health and social services at the age that's most crucial for each child's future success.

"It will also provide parents with resources and information to help them in caring for the children themselves, and enable them to work or pursue further education while their children are attending the

an ID a birth certificate is needed and we send off for birth certificates for inmates who will be released without going to DOC (prison). We make this restriction because DOC now does this for inmates and can even get them state IDs.

Some of the things we frequently supply inside the jail are: Birth certificates, Amethyst House applications, school applications, Financial Aid applications, Income Tax forms, Driver's Manuals, address change forms, veteran's benefits handbooks, and reading glasses. We also help people make contact with their employers, family members, landlords, etc. on a case by case basis. We receive other requests that we do our best to with such as getting glasses repaired. During the time in jail New Leaf staff and volunteers develop relationships with the inmates that continue after their release. When people are released we are able to find them clothes and personal care items they will need. In fact we have a large collection of men and women's clothes that are available to people who need them.

## Support Services Outside

We have two support groups. Crossroads meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00 at the McDoel Church. A+ meets on Fridays at 6:00 pm and is for people who have been in the AIR Community in the jail. Susan Sandberg and Tania Karnofsky facilitate the A+ group.

On Tuesday mornings from around 10:30 to 11:30 Martha Voyles is at Shalom meeting with people released from incarceration.

On Weds. and Fridays from 1:30 to 3 Joe Castle is at the NewLeaf-NewLife office at WorkOne meeting with former inmates who need assistance with finding employment and housing.

On Sundays afternoons when family and friends of inmates are signing up to visit Hal Taylor and other volunteers provide coffee and treats, discuss issues facing the family members that have gathered and sometimes do a puppet show or other activities that interest the children that have gathered.

year-round Early Head Start program."

The Early Head Start grant will allow SCCAP to hire 18 new employees: one education coordinator, six lead teachers, five teacher assistants, one assistant health services coordinator, one assistant parent involvement coordinator, one family advocate, and three home visitors.

SCCAP's Head Start program currently serves 235 3 to 5-year old children and that number will increase to 267 in January as a result of a \$262,327 in stimulus funds it recently received.

In all, SCCAP has been awarded more than \$3.2 million in American Recovery

## YSB

Continued from page 10

time spent face-to-face with a clients and families, with the majority of their work occurring during evening and weekend hours.

Are we effective? 87% of youth (including those court-ordered!) feel our services are helpful. 84.5% of parents rate the clinical services helpful and 96.3% would refer other parents to YSB services. At 2 weeks following service, 48.6% of families served by the shelter felt that situations in the family improved and 45.7% felt they were at least stable and not worsening. We have 134 Safe Place sites where youth can get access to help. Additional to this, in 2009, our community-based program in Monroe and surrounding communities served 7,176 individuals.

Finally, we have a cohesive, committed staff that has historically retained personnel across years, if not decades. Ironically, in the same January 25, 2010 issue of the H-T that our former director was published, the facing page of that same issue has an article outlining how the State of Indiana is attempting to cut payments for care for youth by 20%. These proposed cuts would seriously harm the YSB, as well as foster parents and other youth serving agencies. Perhaps our community is missing the forest for the trees? While the federal judge in this case did rule to block this move, it is a preliminary ruling. We request that the energy of our Courts, Commissioners, Council, youth advocates and media leaders should be focused on preserving our systems of care for youth against these very material threats. YSB and other youth serving agencies are in peril; they will build better programs (and "cultures") when they are affirmed, experience beneficence and community support. We look forward to working with YOU, our community to improve the community-wide system of care for youth and their families.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## I AM YOU

Stone Belt and the Bloomington Playwrights Project (BPP) will present I AM YOU, a joint fundraiser for the organizations. Now in its second season, I AM YOU is a night of dramatic monologues, written and performed by individuals with disabilities. The event provides individuals with the opportunity to showcase their talents and to invite the community to learn about the experience of disability and ability. First performed in 2008 at the Bloomington Playwrights Project (BPP), the event drew a full house. This year, Stone Belt is pleased to again partner with the BPP to bring the event to a professional theater stage.

## I AM YOU

March 6 at 8 pm

March 7 at 2 pm

Bloomington Playwrights Project (107 W Ninth Street, Bloomington)

Tickets are \$20 and are available for purchase through the Buskirk-Chumley Theater Box Office.

In Person: 114 E Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington. By Phone: 812-323-3020. Online: [www.buskirkchumley.org](http://www.buskirkchumley.org)

For more information visit [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org) or contact Amy Jackson at 812-332-2168, ext. 314 / [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto:ajackson@stonebelt.org).

## Homeward Bound 5K Walk

Sunday, April 18, 2010

12-3:30PM

Third Street Park, Bloomington

"Walk a day, change a life"

The 8th Annual Bloomington Homeward Bound Walk is a community event that benefits 12 local, non-profit agencies, all of which serve those suffering from homelessness in Monroe County. All funds raised through the walk stay local.



# Special Section: Agency Reports

Agency Reports focuses on news and upcoming events from area agencies.

## RSVP kicks off new Adult Mentoring Program (AMP)

By Rebecca Nunley, Area 10 on Aging

### What is AMP?

In late 2009, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Area 10 Agency on Aging) expanded its current Employment Program and launched the new Adult Mentoring Program (AMP). AMP is an empowering program designed to transform the lives of unemployed and underemployed individuals of all ages, most of whom have challenging backgrounds, by expanding their opportunities for success. AMP uses the friendship and wisdom of experienced yearlong mentors to help clients secure jobs, further their education and training, develop careers, and receive ongoing positive support. Whereas the current RSVP Employment Program focuses on 1-5 coaching sessions with trained RSVP Job Coaches, AMP clients receive close mentorship for an entire year.

### Meet the Holls

The Holls (see photo) originally hail

#### Contact Area 10 RSVP...

630 West Edgewood Drive  
Ellettsville, IN 47429  
[www.area10agency.org/rsvp](http://www.area10agency.org/rsvp)  
812-935-2514  
[rnunley@area10agency.org](mailto:rnunley@area10agency.org)

from the northwest Chicago suburbs. Prior to retiring, Lois was a social worker in the schools, and Rick taught in a K-12 school that specialized in working with children affected by behavior disorders. They moved to Bloomington in April 2006 and love the rich cultural activities that abound here. In addition to AMP, they also volunteer in the jail, help international graduate students integrate into life in the US, and spend time with their grandchildren. In early November, Rick and Lois Holl were the first mentees matched with an AMP client and have served as a test case for the program. They've committed to their client for the year, taking an hour or two weekly to communicate with her via email or in person. Rick and Lois talk at length about common attitudes among clients who feel that the "system has let them down," that "life is unfair," or who simply give up trying because everything seems to turn out badly for them. This is what they, as mentors, try to overcome.

### Get Involved!

AMP is new, but it already has a hefty waiting list, and many more volunteer mentors are needed. Clients on the waiting list want to get on track for achievement but typically lack the skills, knowledge,

and empowerment to get out of old patterns and begin to identify with opportunity, possibility, and success. AMP is overseen by RSVP staff member Norm Horrar whose passion for the mission is infectious. Full training and ongoing sup-

port are provided to all volunteers. The commitment is 1-2 hours per week for one year. Please contact RSVP ([nhorrar@area10agency.org](mailto:nhorrar@area10agency.org) or 876-3383) for many more details.



RSVP gives great thanks to the Holls and the other volunteers who have signed up to be AMP mentors. This is one volunteer opportunity with an impact that can definitely last a lifetime.

## Amethyst House, Inc.

By Julia Dotson, Lead Case Manager

Amethyst House, Inc. is a Bloomington-based non-profit United Way agency that provides Residential and Outpatient services for people with drug, alcohol and gambling addictions, as well as educational and self awareness groups for persons with potential substance abuse issues. Amethyst also provides Outpatient services through an office in Evansville.

Our Mission Statement is: "Amethyst House partners with individuals, families and communities impacted by addictions and substance-abuse issues by providing quality recovery services and guidance for clean, sober and healthy living".

We recognize that substance abuse, which is a disease in itself and our primary focus, is often accompanied by personality disorders, history of trauma, extreme anxiety and/or depression, as well as long term behaviors, including dishonesty, stealing, misguided anger, and often a

general mistrust of self and others, to name a few. These characteristics and behaviors have proven dysfunctional, typically over many years, to the person seeking sobriety and positive change. Through Case Management, Intensive Outpatient groups, Individual counseling, Twelve Step program involvement, and referral to local professionals, we support clients to meet their individual needs and make positive life changes. Family members/significant others are involved on a regular basis in Case Management sessions to ensure education about addictions, how they can better support and practice open communication with loved ones residing in our halfway houses.

The Vision Statement of Amethyst House is: "to promote a world where recovery services are accessible to all, the

See "Amethyst", page 10

### What Amethyst House means to me

Who are the homeless? The poor? The hopeless? The mentally ill, who can't find their way home? The desperate? Maybe.

Surely not an educated woman from a middle-class family who grew up with unlimited possibilities for a successful future. But that is exactly who I was, and homeless was what I had become.

At one time I had a career, a family, a home, vehicles, all the nice things I could want. But one by one all of those things disappeared, along with my self-esteem, self-worth, and pride.

I suffer from the disease of Addiction. And no matter how badly I wanted to give up alcohol and drugs and just live a normal life, I couldn't seem to keep it together. After years of struggling to regain control and failing time after time, I finally reached out for help. Thankfully, there was a

place I could go to as long as I was willing to follow a few simple rules. I needed a place to start over and the Women's Amethyst House has given me a chance to do just that. When I arrived, I did not know a single person in Bloomington. I was full of fear, homeless, jobless, and my spirit was broken. The women who work at Amethyst were willing to give me a chance. But I had to be willing to put forth the effort it takes to change.

Today, my life is so much better, and quite different than it was just a few months ago. I am employed full-time, I am taking the necessary steps toward getting back into my career, and I am sober and healthy. I am learning how to be independent again and gaining a sense of self-worth. I have had a chance to form bonds with other women who are a lot like me. I have discovered that

See "What", page 10

## Amethyst

Continued from page nine

stigma of addiction is eliminated, and life-long recovery is a reality”.

Amethyst House, Inc. was founded in 1980 by a group of recovering community members who recognized the need for safe housing for people in early recovery from drugs and alcohol. The name was changed from Ray of Love to Amethyst House in 1989 and now provides long-term housing, Case Management and life skills, as well as recovery support, for men and women in three downtown locations in Bloomington. Outpatient services in Bloomington and Evansville provide individualized and group education and ongoing opportunities for self-awareness and accountability. Clients receiving Outpatient services are able to attend group or individual counseling as long as needed, or desired. Residents in the Men's and Women's halfway houses are encouraged to stay longer than the recommended six months if they feel they would continue to benefit from support and programs offered.

The Amethyst Residential programs offer a unique opportunity for individuals, many of whom are homeless, who come directly from jail or prison after years of drug and alcohol abuse, to live in a home with others who are also working toward a future which includes a sober life of responsibility, accountability, optimal health, meaningful relationships, and personal goals achieved.

The Board and Staff of Amethyst House, Inc. are proud to partner with United Way and numerous social service providers, Indiana University, local individuals and businesses, as well as state and national task forces, to work toward elimination of the stigma of addiction and replace it with support for positive change.

### Contact Amethyst House...

Outpatient office: 812-336-3570

Men's house: 812- 336-2812

Women's house: 812- 336-2666

Evansville office: 812 401-3415

[www.amethysthouse.org](http://www.amethysthouse.org)

## Youth Services Bureau

By Marge Faber and Julia Heimer Dadds, YSB Advisory Board members

For the Monroe County Youth Services Bureau, change in the midst of hard times seems to be provoking critiques that do little to move forward on much needed progress in our work with the youth in our community. A recently released report “studying” the YSB made some helpful recommendations to the Monroe County Commissioners but induced a counterproductive community focus by positing a “negative culture” within the agency.

Following this, the H-T published an Editorial accepting the study's findings of a “dysfunctional, unhealthy culture” at face value. Several other columnists have referenced this notion as a given and a guest column from the YSB's past director took community partners to task for decisions negatively affecting the lives of youth.

Is it perhaps that past director's strong advocacy stance that is encoded in the study's charge of a “negative culture?” If so, that is not a culture but a concern around one man's communications. If not, we maintain that the study's only cogent note around “culture”—that staff are worried about future community interactions—is not a sufficient condition for labeling the entire YSB culture as negative. The YSB has just recently experienced the director's resignation, is facing budgetary challenges, has been informed that we need to make office space available to the probation department and that our supervising agency is changing from the civic arena to the justice system. Beset by radical change

and concerned? Yes. Historically and currently a negative culture? No.

The YSB makes no apologies for being an advocate for youth, for being cautious of any moves that would make it appear less a haven and more a punishment. The current staff and advisory board, while they may grieve when systems don't live up to their ideals, do not feel negatively toward any of their community partners nor are we negative within our own culture. Indeed, we feel that Monroe County has the potential to be a model community when it comes to a system of care for youth and their families. We welcome supportive collaborations that are truly mutual and focused upon the well-being of youth through preventative and community-based interventions.

What are the facts about YSB? In 2009, of the 550 inquires for service, 271 resulted in placement at the shelter. Our referrals—both to the shelter and to our support services—come from the school system, counselors, the courts, Department of Child Services, parents and—perhaps most significantly—youth themselves. Between 2008 and 2009 the number of youth referring themselves for service increased by 5%, with some months showing over 5 fold increases. 67% of our clinical hours are spent in face-to-face service with our clients and 30% is spent in agency and community collaboration/education. Clinical staff spend 67 % of all possible work

See “YSB”, page eight

## MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

By Margaret Harter, Community Relations Coordinator

### MARCH 18

6-8 p.m., Program Rooms B/C, second floor, Monroe County Public Library  
**Job Search @ your Library: Resume Review and Interview Preparation**  
Call 349-3228 to attend.

### APRIL 15

6-8 p.m., Program Rooms B/C, second floor, Monroe County Public Library  
**Job Search @ your Library: Open Computer Lab**  
Call 349-3228 to attend.

### MAY 20

6-8 p.m., Program Rooms B/C, second floor, Monroe County Public Library  
**Job Search @ your Library: Resume Review and Interview Preparation**  
Call 349-3228 to attend.

### Tuesdays, MARCH-MAY

4-6 p.m. First-come, first-served. Sign up outside Room 1B, first floor, Monroe County Public Library  
**Lawyers in the Library**  
Civil cases in areas of family law, guardianship, and debt collection defense only. Bring paperwork.

Call District 10 Pro Bono Project, 339-3610, with questions about a case fitting this program.

### MCPL Renovation

It's been 13 years since the Main Library on Kirkwood was renovated and expanded to a full city block. With an average of 3,000 visits every day, the library has experienced a lot of wear and tear. The needs of patrons have changed too. Since last fall, The Main Library on Kirkwood has been undergoing renovation to refurbish some of its public spaces and to transform checkout, public computing, VITAL, and Drive-up areas so that we can better serve today's library users. MCPL has an annual circulation of 2.5 million. Many patrons want to reserve materials from home or work and arrange to pick them up at the library's Drive-up Window. When stopping by the library, busy patrons value the convenience of self-checkout.

The newly renovated Children's and first-floor Checkout areas were completed at the end of January. Stop by and see the changes – improved seating and easier access to materials for children and families, more color, and new furnishings and learn-

ing centers in the “Learn and Play Space” for preschoolers. We're adding another self-checkout station.

The renovation of the second floor began the first week in February. It is expected to be completed by the end of April. During the second-floor renovation, two library services are in temporary spaces:

- El Centro Comunal Latino is in Room 1A, first floor.
- VITAL (Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners) is in Room 1C, first floor.

El Centro, VITAL services (including one-on-one tutoring and ESL conversation groups), the VITAL collection and the Job Search Collection will remain open to the public throughout the renovation. Please call 349-3050 if you have questions. The library's Public Computing Center (PCC) has closed. This space is being reconfigured for Checkout, the Circulation Department, and a new Drive-up Window, which will allow the library to offer pickup of reserved materials (holds) all hours that MCPL is open. The public computers formerly in the PCC are now out on the second floor and are available for use by patrons all hours that the library is open.

### Library Hours:

M-Th, 9-9

Fri, 9-6

Sat, 9-5

Sun, 1-5

While at times over the next few months, it may be a bit noisy and things may be out of place during the renovation, our staff commitment to personal service—to helping every patron find the information and materials he or she needs—is the same. If you need help, please ask us! Spanish speakers are encouraged to check out the library's collection of Spanish-language books, newspapers and magazines, movies, and music CDs under the Bienvenidos sign on the second floor.

### Contact MCPL...

303 E Kirkwood Ave  
Bloomington, IN 47408

812-349-3057

fax 812-349-3051

[www.mcpl.info](http://www.mcpl.info)

### What

Continued from page nine

never again do I have to be alone. We have learned to support each other in our personal struggles.

I think the greatest gift I have received is the gift of being able to

give of myself—my feelings, my pain, my experiences. The women in that house have helped me grow—emotionally and spiritually. I can't imagine where I would be today if the Amethyst House hadn't seen something in me worth saving.

—Anonymous

# Catholic Charities Bloomington Aims to Reduce Poverty

By Marsha R. McCarty, Agency Director

“The ultimate goal in providing help is to create hope,” according to David Siler, director of the Catholic Charities effort of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Indianapolis. Help and hope are key ingredients of our work at Catholic Charities Bloomington (CCB), a counseling agency sponsored by the archdiocese and supported by United Way.

CCB offers help by providing quality professional mental health services to anyone who needs them, without regard to the client’s ability to pay. Our hope is to have our services contribute to a national campaign to reduce poverty. Catholic Charities USA, the member service organization for Catholic Charities throughout the country, has announced the goal of reducing poverty in the United States by half by the year 2020. We share that goal, which influences all we do.

As a counseling agency, CCB seeks to reduce poverty in the area it serves—Brown, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Orange, and Owen counties—in two major ways. It provides mental health services on a sliding-fee scale to people of all ages, races, and beliefs. CCB also partners with local antipoverty agencies and programs to furnish direct services to people in poverty on site at those agencies.

## Counseling and Poverty

CCB counseling offers support to people in poverty so that they may move out of poverty and to other low-income people so that they may avoid slipping into poverty. CCB’s professionally trained therapists assist clients in addressing family conflicts, chemical dependency, and other problems that may interfere with people’s ability to manage time and money and meet their responsibilities. Therapy can help clients stabilize their personal and work lives.

CCB provides counseling in two schools in Bloomington and one each in Bedford and Seymour. In the schools therapists work with children in classrooms, small groups, and individually. Children of families living in poverty or in danger of slipping into poverty are particularly likely to experience disruption and stress at home. School-based counseling may alleviate the effects of those conditions and foster social and learning skills that improve children’s chances of flourishing as they mature.

Recent events in Bloomington show how precarious services to low-income people can be and how crucial CCB’s role



as a counseling agency is. In January 2010 financial problems forced Oak Tree Counseling, the only other private, nonprofit United Way agency in Bloomington offering mental health services on a sliding-fee scale, to close. With the support of United Way, CCB was able to integrate two Oak Tree counselors and their clients into its program, sparing clients from disruption and helping maintain access to mental health services in the community.

## Partnering with Other Agencies

CCB also works to reduce poverty in Bloomington and surrounding areas by offering direct services, on site, to clients of antipoverty agencies and programs. By cooperating with Head Start, Martha’s House, and the Monroe County Circles™ Initiative, CCB makes counseling more accessible to people in poverty.

At Head Start, the major antipoverty program focused on preschool children, CCB therapists work with children and families.

At Martha’s House, which provides transitional housing for the homeless, CCB professionals and graduate students working under their supervision have led stress management classes and sessions devoted to practical topics, such as preparing for job interviews. These programs help equip residents with skills useful in seeking and maintaining employment.

CCB has been involved in the Monroe County Circles™ Initiative from its beginnings in 2008, and Dr. Marsha R. McCarty, CCB’s director, serves on its Guiding Coalition. The initiative, funded by the South Central Community Action Program, seeks to spur communities to adopt the goal of ending poverty and to help people lift themselves out of poverty while they help solve community problems. It does both by linking individuals in poverty with allies from the community in intentional and supportive relationships.

At Circles™ CCB conducts programs for school-age children while their parents participate in meetings with their allies.

More than child care, the programs use engaging, interactive, fun activities as means to promote self-esteem, character building, and communication skills. Children participating in the Circles™ Youth Program. “A Circles™ Youth Program group activity is led by CCB interns, Leslie Jenkins and Jacki Jordan while parents attend ‘Getting Ahead’ training.” (See photo.)

Thanks to our dedicated staff, students and interns from Indiana University, donors, and volunteers and to the skilled and caring people we collaborate with at other agencies, Catholic Charities Bloomington has been able to expand and diversify its services. Counseling hours provided have increased from approximately 1800 in 2007 to approximately 2400 in 2009. We welcome volunteers. If you are interested in supporting our efforts to promote mental health and to reduce poverty, please see [www.catholiccharitiesbtown.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesbtown.org) or contact us at (812) 332-1262.

# Monroe County Circles™ Initiative Making a Difference

By Bonnie Vesely, Coordinator of Monroe County Circles Initiative, South Central Community Action Program

This is an exciting time for the Monroe County Circles™ Initiative. We are seeing changes in lives AND changes in how our neighbors view people in poverty!

Our local Circles™ Initiative is one of 43+ such initiatives across the country, united in a campaign to end poverty. Circles™ is not a program, but a strategy to help motivated people build resources and transition into a more comfortable life, one in which every day is not a struggle to remain housed, warm and fed – AND to solve problems in the community and beyond that make it hard to get ahead.

Each low-income “Circle Leader” is matched with middle-class community “Allies” who provide friendship, assistance with problem-solving, a support system and connections, helping their Circle Leader work through his/her plans to move out of poverty. Allies and Circle Leaders complete trainings before being matched. Later, they attend weekly Circles™ Community meetings, where friendships are built and helpful programs provided. Trainings for Circle Leaders, and meetings, always include dinner and a Youth Community for the children.

Our newest Circle Leaders, matched with Allies in December, are progressing toward their goals! One Leader, through Circles™ networking, found part-time employment that pays substantially more than her previous part-time job; her new employer is very pleased with her work, especially her PR efforts that brought a large number of people to an annual event that was barely attended last year. The employer is looking for funding to make

her position full-time!

An Ally of another new Circle Leader accompanied the Leader to court in Indianapolis, and was able to advocate successfully with the judge - and a long-standing issue was resolved.

A Circle Leader who was matched with Allies last April began classes at Ivy Tech this semester. Another will graduate from Ivy Tech this spring!

An important Circles™ goal is to provide insight for our more affluent neighbors into the realities of living in poverty, and bring about a community-wide change of heart that will help us break down barriers that prevent people from moving ahead.

Poverty Simulations, provided by Circles™ and the South Central Community Action Program, help middle-class community members understand poverty. This exercise puts low-income people into roles of service providers, teachers and business staff. Middle-class participants take roles of people experiencing poverty who must feed their families, pay the rent or mortgage, keep the utilities turned on and children cared for, all with limited resources and transportation – and with unexpected crises popping up! People who have enough resources are shocked by what people in poverty must go through to survive. Some begin the exercise homeless; others become homeless by the end.

Partnering with Bloomington’s Community and Family Resources Commission, and with funding through an MLK Day grant, Circles™ held a January Poverty Simulation at the Bancker Community

Center. During the discussion afterward, a social service employee said that the experience will change the way in which she works with clients. A young woman who had grown up in a working-poor family said that, for the first time, she understands what her mother went through. Others remarked that their eyes had been opened!

Circles™ also helps the public understand poverty through six-hour Bridges Out of Poverty trainings, which all Circles™ Allies complete. We offer this training to any organization or business that would like to understand how poverty affects people and learn more successful ways to work with low-income people, build relationships, and create positive changes for everyone.

Through these trainings and exercises, and as Allies and Circle Leaders speak out and create understanding in the community, we are building momentum for success with the Circles™ “Big View” process. Monroe County residents will be invited to attend newly established Big View meetings within the next few months, to help us resolve a problem that prevents low-income people from getting ahead, such as transportation problems, affordable housing, etc. Circle Leaders lead the way in choosing this issue. With each success, we will move on to address other problems on local, state and national levels. For information about Poverty Simulations, Bridges trainings or Big View, or about becoming an Ally or Circle Leader, contact Bonnie at 339-3447, ext. 218, or [bonnie@insccap.org](mailto:bonnie@insccap.org). And watch the Safety Net for more information!

## The new Early Head Start Program begins May, 2010

By Doug Wilson, SCCAP Director of Communications

Local families will soon have access to Monroe County’s first federally funded, low-cost program to provide child care and development services to children at the most critical time in their development — from birth to three years old.

The new Early Head Start program will begin in May 2010 thanks to a \$578,160 grant to the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) that Congressman Baron Hill’s office recently announced. That grant is for the first 10 months of the program’s start-up and operation. The federal Office of Head Start has committed to fund another 12 months after that and the hope is that funding will be ongoing in future years.

The second-year of funding, at \$734,321, brings the two-year budget to more than \$1.3 million.

Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan and Jason Carnes, Field Representative for Congressman Hill, praised the Early Head Start program at a news conference at City Hall in Bloomington.

“Accessible quality infant care is one of the major barriers to true workforce development, and having an organization like SCCAP, a group of people with the expertise to be able to transform this funding into real results for children of working class families is such a blessing,” Kruzan said.

“I would like to congratulate the South Central Community Action Program for securing such a significant and competitive grant,” Hill said in a written statement. “These funds allocated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will enable the South Central Community Action Program to implement a new vital service, Early Head Start. Early Childhood Education, and education in general, is the best investment one can make in our future. It’s an investment in our children, in our families, in our economy, in Indiana and our great nation.”

SCCAP will provide services for 24 infants and toddlers in a licensed child care center and an additional 33 families in their homes. The home-based option will include services to pregnant women and post-partum support. As children turn three years old and advance to the regular Head Start program for 3-to- 5 year-olds, additional spots will open for 0-3 year olds in the Early Head Start program.

“Families in this county have for decades experienced a shortage of low-cost,

## Circles from a Leader’s Perspective

By Tracey Hodge, Circles Program

When first presented with the opportunity to be involved in an initiative to end poverty in our community, I was initially skeptical. After all, how many “programs” to help us get back on our feet, or at least off of the system, have those of us who live below the poverty line been involved in- usually by force as a requirement to receive or retain assistance? But as I sat down and talked with Linda Patton who is the Circles Coach, I realized that this is different. It is not a “program” because it doesn’t have a specific end to a timeline of involvement; the reality that climbing out of poverty is a journey that takes much more than six weeks or three months and that we cannot do it alone is at the core of this initiative.

In Circles we define poverty as “the

extent to which a person does without resources” because poverty is more than a lack of money, it may include the lack of strong, positive relationships, spiritual guidance or meaning in your life, and education. The Circles concept is that we must examine how we came to this point in our lives, make our own plan for how we believe we can successfully overcome our lack of resources, examine what agencies, programs, and policies in the community are working, or not working, to help people rebuild their lives, and team those of us who are trying to make a better life for our families and ourselves with caring people in our community who live above the poverty line and who truly want to make a difference by helping to eliminate poverty in our community.

The self-examination isn’t easy as it means taking responsibility for decisions that we have made that contributed to our current situation, but it is invaluable. Through this process we also see some of the other barriers that we have faced that prevented us from being able to stand on our own two feet. Once we have investigated our lives and the available community resources, we are matched with those terrific people I mentioned earlier; they are referred to as Allies.

Allies are an incredible support network. They help us look at the goals that we have set for ourselves and come up with ways to accomplish them, while we make intentional friendships across class

See “*Perspective*”, page two

See “*Head Start*”, page eight

# Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

*Voices Seldom Heard provides a space for self-reflective writings from people in our community.*

*The following writings are from the Addicts in Recovery (AIR) Community in the Monroe County Correctional Center. The AIR Community is a collaborative 24/7 offender helping offender effort of New Leaf-New Life, Inc. and the Monroe County Correctional Center in hopes of lowering recidivism through successful reentry into society.*

## Who Am I?

*By Calloway Perine*

I am a product of the 50's  
When things were difficult.  
I am from the 60's  
We found out growing up was hard.  
I am from the 70's  
Then I went to war.  
I am from the 80's  
Where things were better  
But still hurt from the war.  
I am from the 90's  
Doing time I got into trouble with drugs.  
I am here in the present  
Where I am trying to get help for my problem.  
Who am I?  
I am trying to find myself.

## The Thank You

*By Kayvin Jones*

To thank someone is to express gratitude and to give thanks and to hold responsible for whatever has happened. That is the so-called definition of the word thanks. But to us in the recovery block it means much, much more. As we all know, being in jail is not fun nor is it pleasant. Nor do we as people like our freedom taken from us.

And by being in jail we get the first-hand experience of being judged and looked down upon. But in our therapeutic block there is none of that. No judging, no looking down on. In our block we do have something to look up to. And to be thankful for. When the volunteers do come in we get a lot of ourselves back.

Being able to socialize with people that see us as people. As for us, that is where our thanks come in. We thank them for coming in when they don't have to. Thank them for the educational material they bring in. And yes, all the educational stuff can be taken back, but not the time that you give to us. That is ours to keep and for that, your time, we thank you very much.

*The Shalom Writers' Circle is a group of poets, story-tellers, and song-writers that meets every Wednesday from 11:00-12:00 at the Shalom Center to share work-in-progress, ideas, and our life stories. Newcomers are always welcome. For more details, contact Shannon Gayk at [sgayk@indiana.edu](mailto:sgayk@indiana.edu).*

like sparrows we nest  
in open eves. all is ours.  
everywhere is home.

—Charlie

Gray tonight the sky  
Hurling snows blur my vision  
No warm place to sleep.

Long the dawn arrives  
Bitter night dispelled by sun  
Sparrows leave their nests.

I could just give up  
Find a boxcar goin' south  
Rest my weary bones.

—Kent Johnson

## Women's Voices From the Monroe County Jail Winter 2010

*Have you ever had feelings for someone you have never met, never seen or never talked to?*

*I have had a terrible feeling about my birth mother, who I never met, talked to or ever seen. But I have heard about her from several people. I heard she's smart, but has a terrible drug addiction. I have always loved to see her and ask the questions that are still unanswered. I wish she could see me and (know) how I feel without her. But I think she may have killed herself with all the drugs. I have had a promise to myself I would never follow her drug addictions. I have had opportunities to smoke crack and cocaine, but I still said NO! I have still succeeded my promise to this day of Dec. 3rd, 2009. I have been arrested earlier this afternoon for 3 C felonies. I have followed the first unwanted step of my birth mother. You know I wrote a poem of all the steps I have chosen to pass that my birth mother took. I dedicate my Poem "In Remembrance"!*

## The Single Trip

*In remembrance of My Birth Mother, Teresa Bolden*

Walking alone  
in an unknowing zone,  
never feeling this way before  
and I looked into innocent eyes (for)more

Those who are turning purple and blue  
having no clue on what else to do

On behalf of my Birth Mother  
I have finally discovered

Using drugs and sharing needles  
Loses hugs and forgets the giggles

As I look into my eyes  
As if tears could show my disguise

I try and try to pass by  
The tears that are forming in my eyes

I am trying to forget  
That awful shit

Teresa had to hit.

I will eventually forget about the past  
Start hoping for my life to ever-last.

My belief is  
If I keep believing  
By achieving  
Giving  
And not receiving,

I shall hold on to my biggest goal  
And not be brought down by a single soul.

I will live forever  
Keep love and life better

I will always have love  
For all the ones above

Including ones in need.

To those who are living with H.I.V.  
One day there will be a cure  
For you and me.

*Written by Sierra Launer*

# Special Section: Youth Programs

This section focuses on youth services in and around Monroe County.  
For more information on youth programs, please see the Agency Reference Guide, pages 17-20

## Big Brothers Big Sisters: Helping children build a positive future

By Kathy Delaney Willett, Director of Outreach and Enrollment,  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana

### What is the positive impact on children?

Many people are familiar with the name Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), but fewer are aware of exactly how vital its growth and success are tied to the growth and success of our community. Research shows that children with a Big Brother or Big Sister have higher self-esteem, do better in school, are more likely to avoid drugs, alcohol and violence and are more likely to complete a four-year college degree. Those results demonstrate that the mentoring relationships formed through

BBBS enrich our entire community with better schools, a more educated workforce and children who believe in their ability to accomplish positive change, not only for themselves, but for others as well.

### More mentors are needed

So, it's all good, right? Yes, but... Big Brothers Big Sisters has pledged to serve all of the children in Monroe and Owen counties who need and want our services. In order to fulfill that pledge, we need more mentors. Currently there are over one

hundred children waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister. Many of those waiting are among our community's most vulnerable citizens; children living at or below poverty level or children with a parent in the criminal justice system. Seventy-five percent of those waiting children are boys. One hundred percent of those waiting children are great kids. Mentors do not need a lot of time, money or any special skills. Whether your idea of great time is attending an IU sporting event, hiking in the great outdoors or scrapbooking; all you

need to do is include a child in the fun. It's that simple. Yet, the payoff is enormous—for everyone.

### How you can take part

If you're ready to be a Big or if you have questions, please call Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana at 812-334-2828 or visit the website at [www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org). Remember: a child is waiting.

## Big Sister Match of the Year!

By Deborah Meader, Director of Site-Based Programs,  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana's Big Sister Match of The Year is Big Sister, Debra Beck and Little Brother, Donnie. Deb and Donnie were matched in the School Bigs program when he was in first grade. At the time of their match, Donnie was also on the waiting list for a Community Based Big Brother. While waiting for that Big Brother, Donnie was able to enjoy the support and friendship of Deb each week at school. Deb really focused on helping Donnie succeed in school. They always spent 1/2 of their time together doing school work, the other half enjoying activities like playing cards and tether ball.

Knowing how long boys can wait for a Big Brother, Deb eventually decided to get matched in the Community Program with

Donnie. Now they meet outside of school weekly, throughout the year.

Deb truly represents the best of mentoring. She has developed a strong relationship with Donnie's mom, who has always appreciated having Deb in her son's life. Deb really strives for Donnie to have experiences that will help him gain confidence and give him a sense of his own future. Their long list of outings and activities is comprised of many first experiences for Donnie: "Touch a Truck", Wonderlab, the 4th of July parade, swimming lessons, soccer, baseball and finally karate, which Donnie has really embraced. During the course of their match Deb has had celebrations and challenges, but she has rarely missed her time with Donnie.

### Girls Inc.

Continued from page 15

of opportunities to get involved with Girls Inc. Registration is open year-round for after school programs. Sports programs include volleyball in the spring, dance in the summer, and basketball in the fall. Girls Inc. also runs a full-day summer camp for girls ages 5-18. Programs spaces are limit-

ed, so sign up early. Volunteers are needed to assist with programs and tutoring after school, coach sports teams, and help in summer camp. For more information about any of these opportunities, check out our website at [www.girlsinc-monroe.org](http://www.girlsinc-monroe.org), email Rachel at [rdotson@monroe.girls-inc.org](mailto:rdotson@monroe.girls-inc.org) or call 812-336-7313.



Big Sister Debra Beck and Little Brother Donnie

# Big Brother Match of the Year!

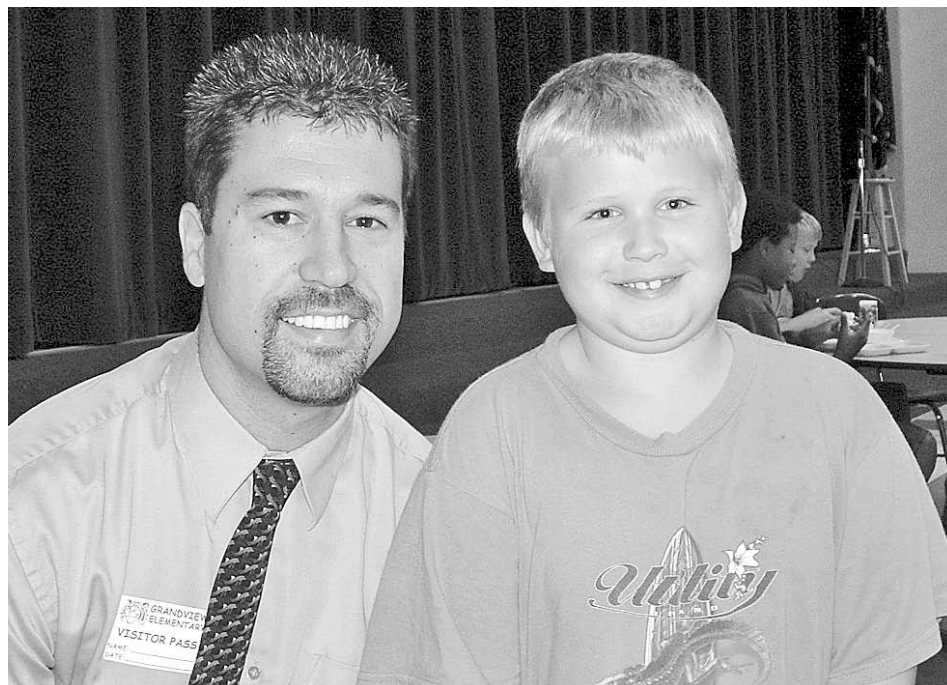
By Celeste McGregor, Match Support Specialist, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana's 2010 Big Brother Match of the Year is Mike Gerth and Little Brother, Brynt. Mike and Brynt have been matched in the School Bigs program at Grandview Elementary School since October 3, 2006. Brynt, now a fifth grader, was in second grade when he and Mike first met.

As a School Bigs match Mike and Brynt spend time together each week at Brynt's school. The two of them work on academics together, play Battleship, draw or play cards. If it's a nice day, they often go outside and shoot hoops or throw a football around. Brynt knows that he can count on Mike to be there each week and to help him with his studies.

Mike came to Big Brothers Big Sisters through a partnership with Old National

Bank, where he works as the manager of the bank's Whitehall location. In addition to being a dedicated Big Brother, Mike is an avid Big-recruiter as well. Mike never misses an opportunity to educate others about Big Brothers Big Sisters and urge them to get involved. Over the years, Mike has successfully recruited a number of co-workers and friends to become Big Brothers or Big Sisters. This fall he even recruited his wife! Because he understands the importance of the Big-Little relationship, Mike offers his fellow Old National Bank employees flexible lunch hours so that they have enough time to visit with their Littles. Along with being a mentor, Mike has made an on-going effort to support Big Brothers Big Sisters in any way he can. Last spring he participated



in the agency's first annual Fore! Kids Golf Scramble at Rolling Meadows Golf Course. Overall, Mike is an outstanding example of dedication to the Big Brothers

Big Sisters mission, but more importantly, he's an outstanding example of dedication to a child; his Little Brother, Brynt.

## Girls Inc.—What we do.

By Rachel Dotson, Director of Operations, Girls Incorporated of Monroe County, 812-336-7313

### Mission statement

The mission of Girls Inc. is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Girls Inc. provides programs to school aged girls, including after school programs, summer/winter day camps and organized sports leagues, and offers fun, meaningful, low-cost programming to girls in the community.

### Programming and goals

Girls Inc. provides programming focused on sports, health, art, science and much more. The goals of the organization are grounded in the Girls Inc. Bill of Rights, which states that girls have a right to be themselves, to express themselves with originality and enthusiasm, to strive freely and take pride in success, to accept and appreciate their bodies, to prepare for interesting work and economic independence, and to have confidence in themselves and be safe in the world.

While great strides toward gender equality have been made in recent years, too often, girls are still denied opportunities because of their gender. By providing girls with opportunities to take risks and try new things, care for themselves and for others, prepare for interesting work, and develop self-confidence, Girls Inc. helps girls to overcome gender barriers they encounter now and in the future. By offering need-based scholarships and transportation to our center, Girls Inc. ensures that girls

of all socio-economic backgrounds have access to our critical services.

Girls Inc. programming creates measurable improvements in girls' lives. Girls Inc. members stay in school and become active in their community. At Girls Inc., we recognize that confidence is often the strongest asset and the best deterrent against self-destructive behaviors and in our center, girls practice being assertive and making healthy choice. We are committed to helping all girls develop the confidence they need to successfully navigate the challenges they will face during their teenage years and beyond.

The compensatory programming offered at Girls Inc. provides girls with experiences and opportunities they are less likely to encounter in school or other settings. We offer girls interactive, one-on-one relationships with caring adults, learning through play and hands-on activities, leadership opportunities, and the chance to be equally included regardless of ability. By starting with youth, we are working to end the cycle of poverty, abuse, and chemical dependence and, in turn, helping to build a stronger community.

### How to get involved

Whether you are a teenager, a family member of a girl, or a community member interested in volunteering, there are lots

## What Girls Inc. means to me

A couple of weeks ago, I was asked to speak to the Girls Inc. board of directors about my goals, plans for college, experience, and suggestions to make Girls Inc. a better place. As I prepared for my presentation, I began thinking about my first time at Girls Inc. as a rebellious, ornery 8 year old. I realized what Girls Inc. had taught me over these last years, and how much I've matured.

Through Girls Inc., I've learned valuable lessons and gained skills that I will use in real world settings. Girls Inc. provided structure and classes designed to help me learn about money, leadership, and values. Sports programs allowed me to exert bottled up energy through basketball, softball, kickball and soccer. Art gave me the opportunity to express myself through creative activities.

As a result of playing basketball at Girls Inc., I've learned team work and leadership skills. Now I am coaching Upward basketball at my church. I wanted to share my love of basketball with younger girls, and teach them the values that Girls Inc. taught me over the years. Through summer camp at Girls Inc., we volunteered different places within the community: Pages

to Prisoners, Community Kitchen, and Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Girls Inc. has provided me with a way to socialize and meet new friends through the experiences I have had. I have learned to be patient and caring, and that not everyone has the same set of values and experiences that I have. The staff at Girls Inc. were always warm and kind, and I feel comfortable talking to them if I need guidance or am having a problem.

Next fall I plan on attending Ivy Tech to major in criminal justice with a minor in psychology. Eventually, my goal is to become a police officer. I plan on being successful and never losing sight of what I want. I know if I work hard and have faith in myself, I can be anything I want to be and nothing can stand in my way. The Girls Bill of Rights says that "All girls have the right to take risks, to strive freely, and to take pride in success." I want to be able to take risks and make mistakes along the way. I know that no one is perfect, and that everybody falls down once in awhile. The important thing is to always pick yourself up and keep pursuing your dreams.

—Veronica Fosha

Girls Inc. was proud to have Veronica Fosha, long-time Girls Inc. member, apply for a Girls Inc. national scholarship this year. Veronica is a 17 year old senior at South, and has been participating in Girls Inc. programs since age 8. In applying for the national scholarship, Veronica had the opportunity to reflect back on her time at Girls Inc., what she has learned, and how she has grown.

See "Girls Inc.," page 14

# Special Section: Volunteer Opportunities

*Volunteer Opportunities outlines the multiple opportunities to lend a hand in and around Bloomington. The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network keeps a huge archive of volunteer positions for all ages and skills at <http://bloomington.in.gov/volunteer/>.*

## **Volunteer Profile: Erica Burrin and Jeff Soper, Circles Initiative**

### **Taking the initiative to help reduce poverty—one dinner at a time.**

According to the most recent census report, 41.7% of Bloomington residents live below the national standards. For individuals working to transition out of poverty, finding support can often be a frustrating and impersonal task.

The Monroe County Circles Initiative is a high-impact strategy to build intentional friendships and community across race and class lines; to empower people living in poverty to create their OWN plans to build resources and transition out of poverty; and to join with people living in poverty and other community members in eliminating local barriers that prevent people from getting ahead.

Bloomington hosts one of 40+ Circles Initiatives operating across the country. People transitioning out of poverty are called Circle Leaders; they are trained in “Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’-By

World” to take leadership in their journey out of poverty. They are then matched with 3 - 4 Allies from the middle-class community who provide friendship, emotional support, problem-solving assistance and connections to the middle-class for Circle Leaders.

During the weekly training sessions and community meetings, dinner and childcare are provided to participating families. Providing this service enables participants to focus on their participation in the classes and connecting to their Circle members.

Erica Burrin, a Circles Initiative Guiding Coalition member, was initially concerned that there were not enough volunteers to meet the demand of these two services. Without these services, many would not be able to attend the meetings. Along with her husband, Jeff Soper, the

two prepared meals, and during the weeks they weren’t cooking, supervised the child care program.

Each week they contributed a significant amount of time, and found enough energy and enthusiasm to continue with the program despite commitments in their personal life.

Erica and Jeff stand out for their invaluable volunteer service, unwavering support and infectious enthusiasm for the continuation and growth of the Circles program. Their efforts have made it possible for the program to run smoothly and for participants to focus on their own journey towards success.

Learn more about how you can get involved with the Circles Initiative by contacting Bonnie Vesely at South Central Community Action Program, [bonnie@insccap.org](mailto:bonnie@insccap.org) or 812-339-3447

## **Volunteer Needs**

**Bargain Boutique** Do you love clothes? Then consider donating a weekly or bi-weekly shift at My Sister's Closet, the nonprofit store at 1010 S. Walnut Street. Tasks include processing donations, tagging and displaying clothing, and helping women select work-force attire. No retail experience is needed as training is provided. Minimum age is 16. Please contact Sandy Keller at (812) 335-6603 or [skeller@absoluteresearch.net](mailto:skeller@absoluteresearch.net). ([www.sisterscloset.org](http://www.sisterscloset.org))

### **Adult Education Tutors**

The MCCSC Adult Education program helps local residents through literacy learning, basic skills improvement, English learning, and preparation for the GED® exam. Positive, patient, welcoming, and flexible tutors age 18 and older are needed for reading, math, ESL, or computer basics under the supervision of a licensed teacher. Classes are offered mornings, afternoons, and evenings. The only degree you need is a degree of caring. Make a difference in these students' lives! A limited felony background check will be required. Please contact Melanie Hunter at (812) 330-7731 ext. 52137 or [mhunter@mccsc.edu](mailto:mhunter@mccsc.edu). ([www.adult.mccsc.edu](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu))

### **Urgent need at Shalom!**

At the Shalom Community Center, volunteers are needed for hospitality - greeting visitors, answering the phone, and registering clients for services. Volunteers are also needed to put their kitchen skills to work - assisting with meal preparation, serving and clean up for breakfast or lunch meals. Shifts are available Monday-Friday. Minimum commitment is a two-hour shift, one day per week. Minimum age is 18. Please contact Pam Kinnaman at (812) 334-5734 or [pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org](mailto:pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org). ([www.shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org))

### **Furniture Pickup and Distribution**

The St. Vincent De Paul Society would like your help, volunteering individually during the week or with a group of volunteers on Saturdays, either picking up donated furniture or distributing furniture to those in need. The time requirement is very flexible - from a few hours a week to a few hours a month. Volunteers with and without pickup trucks are needed to drive and/or go on short runs around town to pick up donated furniture or distribute furniture to those in need. Teens welcome! Please contact Donald Van Arman at (812) 361-3344 or [Donald@VanArman.com](mailto:Donald@VanArman.com). ([www.bloomingtonsvdp.org](http://www.bloomingtonsvdp.org))

## **Nominate A Volunteer!**

*Be More Inspired! Nominate a volunteer for this year's Be More Awards™ honoring our community's outstanding volunteers. Awards will be presented in 9 categories. Honored volunteers will receive a cash award for their agency! Don't delay - nominations are due February 24. Read more about the Be More Awards and complete a nomination form at [www.bloomington.in.gov/bemore](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/bemore). Please contact Lucy Schaich at (812) 349-3433 [orschaich1@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:orschaich1@bloomington.in.gov). ([www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer))*

## **Volunteer Profile: Alex Smith, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard**

### **Digging deep to make a difference.**

Alex Smith digs deep to help run Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. As a garden intern, he goes beyond the call of a volunteer to coordinate the garden volunteers, and supervise and address the needs of creating a sustainable and healthy garden. He helps produce the needed produce for low-income families included in MHC's program. Alex is involved in planning the gardens, planting and conditioning the soil and focusing on a reliable and effective composting and watering system. All of this effort has given MHC the peace of mind that their programs can be supported by consistent crops and invaluable care that Alex brings.

With his desire to connect the community to the benefits of gardening, Alex created a space that was open to the youth of the Crestmont area. Over 20 young people participated and learned how to tend to a working garden over the past year. As a biology student at IU, he has also driven fellow students to connect with the goals of MHC, and has increased their volunteer network.

The desire to expand his program to the greater Crestmont community will surely be a success. He strives to make the MHC garden more accessible, and features the need for additional volunteers to sustain the program he dedicates so much time to.

He will also co-facilitate with the Boys and Girls Club, by supervising a weekly youth program to teach the value and benefits of harvesting fresh food.

Stephanie Solomon, who nominated Alex for the Be More Awards stated “Alex is an excellent example of the power of service-learning, his education is supplemented by the faces of the youth gardeners and the issues in the soil, and community members benefit from his knowledge and passion.” For more information about volunteering at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, contact Stephanie Solomon at [stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org](mailto:stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org) or (812) 355-6843.



# Directory of agencies and services

This directory outlines several agencies and services available to residents of Monroe County. Additionally, many listings provide contact information for prospective volunteers. For more extensive articles about many of these agencies and services, see earlier issues of Safety-Net at [www.shalomcommunitycenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunitycenter.org). Several of the agencies and services described provide multiple forms of aid. Unless otherwise noted all services and agencies are located in Bloomington. Several of the agencies listed below send representatives to the Shalom Resource & Family Center in the basement of the First Christian Church at 205 E. Kirkwood Avenue at specific times during the week to meet with people. If you are interested in talking with someone from an agency, call the Shalom Center at 334-5728 and ask for the schedule.

## Addiction Counseling

### Amethyst House

**Address:** 645 N. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-3570

**Web:** [www.amethysthouse.org](http://www.amethysthouse.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x10; [amethyst@bloomington.in.us](mailto:amethyst@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** 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 Evansville.

### Centerstone of Indiana, Inc.

**Address:** 645 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-1691

**Web:** [www.the-center.org](http://www.the-center.org)

**About:** 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. Centerstone 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.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

**Address:** Hours and locations vary.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8191

**Web:** [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org)

**About:** Provides support for those wanting to stop alcohol consumption.

## AIDS/HIV Services

### Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

**Address:** 333 E. Miller Dr.

**Phone:** (812) 353-9150

**Web:** [www.bloomingtonhospital.org](http://www.bloomingtonhospital.org)

**About:** About: HIV testing and extensive care coordination for those living with HIV/AIDS. Serve as a community resource regarding HIV/AIDS education and awareness. Also offer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing.

## Clothing, furniture, housewares

### Monroe County United Ministries

**Address:** 827 W. 14 Ct.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3429

**Volunteer Contact:** Rebecca Gordan ([812] 353-9150; [mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** 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.

### My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.

**Web:** [www.mysistersclosetofmonroeco.org](http://www.mysistersclosetofmonroeco.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** JoAnne Bunnage ([812] 335-6603; [jbunnage@indiana.edu](mailto:jbunnage@indiana.edu))

**About:** Provides low-income women with free interview and workplace apparel, helping them overcome hurdles they face to independence and family self-sufficiency. Also sells used, affordable clothes to the public.

### Salvation Army

**Address:** 111 N. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-4310

**Volunteer Contact:** Monica Clemons ([812] 336-4310 x10; [monica\\_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:monica_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org))

**About:** Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, 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 and thrift store.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Address:** 4607 West State Road 46

**Phone:** (812) 961-1510

**Web:** [www.bloomingtonsvdp.org](http://www.bloomingtonsvdp.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Scott Alber, ([812]335-1280volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org)

**About:** A Catholic led ecumenical society of volunteers dedicated to helping those in need. Assistance is offered in the form of community resource information, vouchers for furniture, and in some cases limited financial help with a utility bill, rent, rent deposit or other essential need. Almost all funding comes through donations and assistance is given without regard to religion, race or creed. Volunteer opportunities abound.

## Disabilities assistance programs

### Abilities Unlimited

**Address:** 2620 N. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-1620

**Web:** [www.abilitiesunlimited.net](http://www.abilitiesunlimited.net)

**Volunteer Contact:** Lynne Argent ([812]332-1620; [au@abilitiesunlimited.net](mailto:au@abilitiesunlimited.net))

**About:** Supplies free services to citizens with disabilities, including the elderly. Services include the temporary loan of durable medical equipment after an accident or illness, such as a wheelchair, walker, bath seat. Individuals who do not have insurance can borrow equipment for as long as they need it. Other services include the supply of Home Modifications for Accessible Living to low income City of Bloomington residents. This includes installation of wheelchair ramps, safety railings, and bathroom renovations. Also offers camp scholarships to young people with disabilities.

### Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1732

**Volunteer Contact:** Jo Gilbertson

([812]219-5566; [j.gilbertson@insightbb.com](mailto:j.gilbertson@insightbb.com))

**About:** Facilitates the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and interests of people with disabilities through Volunteer Advocates.

### Mental Health America

**Address:** 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 104

**Phone:** (812) 339-1551

**Web:** [www.monroementalhealth.org](http://www.monroementalhealth.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Donna Graves ([812]339-1551 x12 or [mha@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mha@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** 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.

### Options

**Address:** 200 E. Winslow Rd.

**Phone:** (812) 332-9615

**Web:** [www.optionsfbl.com](http://www.optionsfbl.com)

**Volunteer Contact:** Karen Scherer, ([kscherer@optionsfbl.com](mailto:kscherer@optionsfbl.com))

**About:** For over 26 years, Options has provided customer-oriented, community-integrated services to people of all ages with disabilities. Options offers customize services in community living, employment and continuing education. Other services include health care coordination, behavior supports and respite. Options services are available in seven South-Central Indiana counties. Options' mission is to partner with people with disabilities and their communities to bring about self-directed and fulfilled lives.

### People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

**Address:** 680 W. That Rd.

**Phone:** (812) 336-2798

**Web:** [www.palstherapy.org](http://www.palstherapy.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Jan Gavin ([812]325-7863; [jbgavin@indiana.edu](mailto:jbgavin@indiana.edu))

**About:** Provides Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) such as therapeutic riding and hippotherapy to children and adults with disabilities and to at-risk youth from South Central Indiana. PALS is a NARHA Premier Accredited Center ([www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org)) and a United Way of Monroe County Member Agency.

### Stone Belt

**Address:** 2815 E. 10 St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-2168

**Web:** [www.stonebelt.org](http://www.stonebelt.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Amy Jackson (332-2168 x314; [ajackson@stonebelt.org](mailto:ajackson@stonebelt.org))

**About:** A community-based organization with over 48 years of experience in serving persons with developmental disabilities. Supports include residential, employment, life skills training and psychological services. With locations in Monroe, Lawrence, Owen, Bartholomew and surrounding counties, Stone Belt's mission is to prepare, empower, and support persons with developmental disabilities and their families to participate fully in the life of the community.

## Employment resources and job counseling

### WorkOne

**Address:** 450 Landmark Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 331-6000

**About:** 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.

### Options

*See disabilities assistance programs.*

### Stone Belt

*See disabilities assistance programs.*

### Job Links

**About:** An Area 10 Agency on Aging RSVP program that helps people write resumes, find employment, and prepare for job interviews. Job Links takes place at several locations, including the Shalom Community Center at 334-5728.

## Family Services

### Family Service Association

**Address:** One City Centre

**Phone:** (812) 339-1551

**About:** 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.)

### Family Resource Center at Templeton School

**Address:** 1400 Brenda Lane

**Phone:** (812) 330-7735 x 50117 and 50120

**About:** Provides pre-school play groups and story hours, a Free Family Market (a free food source) on Fridays, 2:00-3:30 p.m., and programming for families focused on literacy and family fun; information and referrals for the needs of children and families.

### Head Start Program

**Address:** 1520 W. 15th St.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8350

**Web:** [www.headstart.bloomington.in.us/](http://www.headstart.bloomington.in.us/)

**About:** Guides children aged 3 to kindergarten towards gaining cognitive skills, patience, sharing, problem solving, hygiene, safety, and practice in good decision making. Free to income eligible.

### IN Dept. of Child Services

**Address:** 1717 W. 3rd St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-6351

**About:** Services are designed to protect children from abuse and neglect by partnering with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing, and stable homes. To make a report of child abuse or neglect the public can call 1-800-800-5556.

### Division of Family Resources

**Address:** 1787 W. 3rd St.

**Phone:** 1-(800)-403-0864

**About:** Provides aid to families with dependent children (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF), food stamps, Medicaid.

### WIC Program

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive

**Phone:** (812) 353-3221

**About:** Provides nutritional support for underprivileged mothers, babies and children up to five years of age in Monroe and Greene Counties. Applicants must meet income guidelines, live in Indiana, and have a nutritional need. All services are provided free of charge.

## Food stamps

### Division of Family Resources

*See family services.*

## Health care

### Futures Family Health Clinic

**Address:** 338 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 349-7343

**About:** provides family planning health services for adolescents, men, and women. Services are provided on a sliding fee schedule based on income. Services offered include annual exam and Pap smear, pregnancy testing, STD and HIV testing, birth control counseling, emergency contraception, health education, birth control pills, birth control shots, IUD (intrauterine device), and condoms.

### Bloomington Hospital Home Health & Hospice

**Address:** 619 W 1st St.

**Phone:** (812) 353-9818

**Web:** [www.bloomingtonhospital.org](http://www.bloomingtonhospital.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Melanie Miller ([812]353-9818; [mmiller@bloomhealth.org](mailto:mmiller@bloomhealth.org))

**About:** Provides care and support for people who are terminally ill and their families. Training classes for new volunteers are offered twice a year.

### Hoosier Healthwise for Children

**Address:** 401 Morton St., Suite 260 (City Hall)

**Phone:** (812) 349-3851

**Web:** [www.hoosierhealthwise.net](http://www.hoosierhealthwise.net)

**About:** A state sponsored health insurance program for children, pregnant women, and low-income families. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria. Free or low cost, depending upon income.

### Monroe County Public Health Clinic

**Address:** 333 East Miller Drive

**Phone:** (812) 353-3244

**About:** Services provided include screenings for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, elevated blood sugar, anemia, elevated lead, tuberculosis, head lice and pregnancy; health and wellness assessments; communicable disease education. Call for appointment.

### Planned Parenthood

**Address:** 421 S. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 336-0219

**Web:** [www.ppin.org](http://www.ppin.org)

**About:** Services 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.

### Vistacare Hospice

**Address:** 1801 Liberty Dr., Ste. 103

**Phone:** (812) 330-9640

**Web:** [www.vistacare.com](http://www.vistacare.com)

**Volunteer Contact:** Cathi Counterman ([812] 340-3467; [cathi.counterman@vistacare.com](mailto:cathi.counterman@vistacare.com))

**About:** Provides caregiver relief and companionship for terminally ill patients and bereavement support for family members.

### Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

**Address:** 811 West 2nd Street

**Phone:** (812) 333-4001

**Web:** [www.vimmonroecounty.org](http://www.vimmonroecounty.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Shelley Sallee

([812]333-4001 x109; [info@vimmonroecounty.org](mailto:info@vimmonroecounty.org))

**About:** Provides free medical care, including dental care at the offices of participating dentists, for people living in Monroe or Owen County who lack health insurance and have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. This means that the income must not exceed \$20,420 for a 1-person household. For each additional person, add \$6,960. To qualify for medical care individuals must fill out an eligibility form about their economic situation and set up an eligibility interview. Children or adults who qualify for health care at the clinic will receive free care at Southern Indiana Pediatrics.

## Housing (abused women)

### Middle Way House

**Address:** 404 W. Kirkwood Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 336-0846 (Middle Way), (812) 337-4510 (The Rise)

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~mwhouse](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mwhouse)

**Volunteer Contact:** Colleen Yeakle ([812] 333-7404; [mwhouse@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mwhouse@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** 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.

## Housing (emergency, for adults)

### Backstreet Missions

**Address:** 215 Westplex Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 333-1905

**Web:** [www.backstreet.org](http://www.backstreet.org)

**About:** A men's shelter with services including 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.

### Martha's House

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St. (office) 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

**Phone:** (812) 335-6841 (812) 332-1444 (office)

**Volunteer Contact:** Bobbie Summers

**About:** An emergency shelter with 28 beds for homeless men and women. Services provided include case management, food, and clothing. Opens at 4:30 p.m.

## Housing (Pregnant women)

### Hannah House Maternity Home

**Address:** 808 N. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 334-2662

**Web:** [www.cpcbloomington.org](http://www.cpcbloomington.org)

**About:** A comprehensive residential program or pregnant women and teenagers. Offers access to prenatal and pediatric care. Also offers life skills training and assistance in achieving longer-term educational and career goals.

## Housing (Rental)

### Bloomington Housing Authority

**Address:** 1007 N. Summit St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-3491

**About:** Subsidized housing, Section 8, Public Housing. Cost varies to income eligible.

### Housing and Neighborhood Development

**Address:** 401 N. Morton Street, Ste. 130

**Phone:** (812) 349-3420

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.gov/hand](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/hand)

**About:** 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.

**South Central Community Action Program, Inc.**  
**Address:** 1500 W. 15th St.  
**Phone:** (812) 339-3447  
**Web:** <http://www.sccap.monroe.in.us/>  
**Volunteer Contact:** Beth Pankoski ([812]339-3447 x233; [beth@sccap.monroe.in.us](mailto:beth@sccap.monroe.in.us))

**About:** State and federal anti-poverty programs for low income individuals and families. Weatherization Assistance, Energy Assistance, Owner Occupied Rehabilitation, Section 8 rent subsidy program.

## Housing (homeless youth)

### Stepping Stones

**Address:** PO Box 1366  
**Phone:** (812) 339-9771  
**Web:** [www.stepsstones-inc.org](http://www.stepsstones-inc.org)  
**About:** Transitional housing program and supportive service for homeless young people aged 16-20.

### Youth Services Bureau

**Address:** 615 S. Adams St.  
**Phone:** (812) 349-2506  
**Web:** [www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net)  
**About:** Provides short-term residential care and crisis intervention for youth ages 8-17. Provides other services as well.

## Legal and court-related services

### Community Justice & Mediation Center

**Address:** 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 310  
**Phone:** (812) 339-1551  
**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~mediate)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Amanda Nickey ([812] 336-8677; [vorpem@bloomington.in.us](mailto:vorpem@bloomington.in.us))  
**About:** Programs include the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program, Shoplifter's Alternative Program, Workshops, Trainings, and Community Mediation Services for neighborhood, school, family or business conflicts.

### Legal Services Organization of Indiana, Inc. Bloomington

**Address:** 214 S. College Ave.  
**Phone:** (812) 339-7668  
**About:** Cannot help people in criminal cases. Helps people in civil cases, including: Housing (eviction, foreclosure, landlord/tenant); Public Benefits (food stamps, SSI, unemployment, poor relief, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)); Health (Medicaid, Medicare); Divorce or child custody where there is child abuse or spouse abuse; Child In Need of Services (CHINS); Consumer (collections and repossessions); Education (including expulsion and access to special education services and Vocational Rehabilitation); Access to Justice (e.g. denial of a court-appointed attorney in certain civil cases).

### Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

**Address:** 120 W. 7th St., Ste. 104  
**Phone:** (812) 339-1551  
**Web:** [www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp](http://www.monroementalhealth.com/casa.asp)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Sandy Rampley ([812] 339-1551 x23; [casakids@bloomington.in.us](mailto:casakids@bloomington.in.us))  
**About:** Provides direct advocacy for child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Volunteer advocates represent children in the court process to protect the child's best interests.

### Monroe County Prosecutor—Victim Assistance Program

**Address:** 301 N. College Ave., Rm. 211  
**Phone:** (812) 349-2670  
**Web:** [www.co.monroe.in.us](http://www.co.monroe.in.us)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Sarah Lanman ([812]349-2670; [slanman@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:slanman@co.monroe.in.us))  
**About:** Helps to ease the trauma victim's burden by explaining the criminal justice process, accompanying victims to court, updating them on current cases and obtaining restitution.

## Meals and pantries (no cost)

### Meals

#### Area 10 Agency on Aging

**Address:** 630 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429  
**Phone:** (812) 876-3383  
**Web:** [www.area10agency.org](http://www.area10agency.org)  
**About:** Area 10 Agency on Aging offers 3 main nutrition and food services for senior citizens.

**Congregate Meals** — We offer congregated meals at 11 am at the following locations: Spencer Senior Center, Fairview United Methodist Church—Bloomington, Cambridge Square Apts.—Bloomington, Unionville Senior Center, and Maple Shades Apts.—Ellettsville. Seniors must be over 60, and a \$2 donation is requested.

**Mobile Meals** — We home deliver meals to seniors who are 60 years of age or older and who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. A \$2 donation is requested to help cover the cost of the program. For more information seniors can contact Mary Boutain at 812.935.2505 or e-mail her at [mboutain@area10agency.org](mailto:mboutain@area10agency.org).

**Food Pantry** — We provide seniors with two bags of groceries and frozen food each month. Seniors must be over 60 and can call 812-876-3383 to request an application for eligibility.

#### Backstreet Missions (Gino's Cafeteria)

Monday-Friday: Lunch: 11-12 p.m.; Dinner: 4-5 p.m.  
Saturday: Breakfast 8-9:30 a.m.; Lunch 11-12 p.m.

### Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

**Address:** 714 S. Rogers St.  
**Phone:** (812) 323-4982  
**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~meals](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~meals)  
**About:** Provides meals to homebound people who are unable to cook for themselves. No age or economic restrictions. To enroll, call number listed. A volunteer will arrange for meal delivery and special dietary needs, explain the costs and how payments can be made.

### Bloomington Catholic Worker

**Address:** 577 Graham Place  
**Phone:** (812) 339-4456  
**Thursdays:** Dinner on 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month, 7:30pm- 9:00pm  
**Saturdays:** Brunch on 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, 10:00am-12:00noon.  
**About:** Provides home-based open-table meals. Graham Place is just south of Bloomington South High School off of Henderson Ave. Take the #1 or #7 bus. 577 is in the first set of houses on the right. You can call to inquire about rides.

### Community Kitchen

**Address:** 917 S. Rogers St.  
**Phone:** (812) 332-0999  
**Web:** [www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Annie Brookshire ([812] 332-0999; [volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com))  
**Monday-Saturday:** Dinner: 4-6 p.m.  
**About:** Provides hot meals in a sit-down area as well as cold carry-out boxed meals. Also provides meals for afterschool programs at Boys and Girls Club, The Rise, Girls, Inc., Monroe County Community Corrections JAMS Program, Teen Learning Center, and Rhino's Youth Center.

### Community Kitchen Express

**Address:** 100 W. 11th St.  
**Monday-Saturday:** Dinner: 4-6 p.m.  
**About:** Provides hot and cold meals as carry-out only. See Community Kitchen listing (above) for phone and volunteer information.

### First Christian Church

**Address:** Corner of Kirkwood Ave. and Washington St.  
**Sunday:** Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m.

### Harvest House Soup Kitchen

**Address:** 1107 S. Fairview Dr.  
**Phone:** (812) 339-4462  
**Sunday:** Lunch: 2-4 p.m.

### Shalom Community Center

**Address:** 219 E. 4th St. (entrance off alley at back)  
**Phone:** (812) 332-5728  
**Web:** [www.hoosier.net/~shalom](http://www.hoosier.net/~shalom)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Pam Kinnaman ([812] 334-5734; [pkshalom@ix.netcom.com](mailto:pkshalom@ix.netcom.com))  
**Monday-Friday:** Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m.; Lunch: 12-1:30 p.m. (except Wednesday lunch, 12-1 p.m.)  
**About:** A daytime resource center for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. The FUMC facility is open all day and functions as a Day Shelter for guests, where they can use restroom facilities, make phone calls, and

do their laundry. Shalom's Hospitality Center is located in the First Christian Church. Guests can go there to see case workers, employment counselors, connect with visiting agencies, seek assistance through the Family Homelessness Prevention Project, store belongings, receive mail, use restroom facilities, and take a hot shower.

## Pantries/Groceries

### Area 10 Agency on Aging

*See meals and pantries — meals*

### Backstreet Missions Thrift Store

**Address:** 1928 Arlington Rd.  
**Phone:** (812) 333-1501  
**Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-noon.  
**About:** Offers patrons one week's worth of food once a month.

### Hoosier Hills Food Bank

**Address:** 615 N. Fairview St.  
**Phone:** (812) 334-8374  
**Web:** [www.hhfoodbank.org](http://www.hhfoodbank.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Stephanie Solomon (334-8374; [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@hhfoodbank.org))  
**About:** Collects, stores and distributes donated food to 84 nonprofit organizations with feeding programs that directly serve needy and hungry people. Distributes about 2 million pounds of food to hungry people each year.

### MCUM Emergency Pantry

**Address:** 827 W. 14th St.  
**Phone:** (812) 339-3429  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8-11:30 a.m.; 1-3:30 p.m.  
**About:** Canned goods only. One week's worth provided. Must be Monroe County resident. Must present photo ID, SS#, last 30 days income.

### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.  
**Phone:** (812) 355-6843  
**Web:** [www.mhcfoodpantry.org](http://www.mhcfoodpantry.org)  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday 4-6 p.m.  
**About:** Provides nutritious food to people in need. Most of the food is received from the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Also operates a Nutrition Education Program and an organic Community Gardening Program.

### Salvation Army

**Address:** 111 N. Rogers St.  
**Phone:** (812) 336-4310  
**Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon; 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
**About:** Need ID. Depending upon income and resources, can offer one week's supply of groceries. Will not provide again for at least 30 days.

### Shalom Community Center, First United Methodist Church

**Address:** 219 E. 4th St.  
**Phone:** (812) 334-5728  
**Hours:** Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
**About:** Provides brown bag lunch, groceries.

### **Township Trustees Food Pantries— Bloomington**

**Address:** 2111 W. Vernal Pike

**Phone:** (812) 336-4976

**Hours:** Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

**About:** Provides canned goods. Must be a resident of Bloomington Township.

### **Township Trustees Food Pantries—Perry**

**Address:** 1010 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-3713

**Hours:** Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

**About:** Provides canned goods. Must be a resident of Perry Township.

## **Medicaid**

### **Division of Family Resources**

**About:** Medicaid is a federal and state funded medical assistance program that pays for approved and needed medical care for persons who meet eligibility requirements. For more information on the Division of Family Resources see the family services listing.

## **Older citizen programs**

### **Area 10 Agency on Aging**

**Address:** 630 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, Indiana 47429

**Phone:** (812) 876-3383

**Web:** [www.bloomington.in.us/~area10](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~area10)

**About:** 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.

## **Pregnancy testing, counseling, education**

### **Crisis Pregnancy Center**

**Address:** 810 N. College Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 334-0104

**Web:** [www.cpcbloomington.org](http://www.cpcbloomington.org)

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

### **Planned Parenthood**

*See health care.*

### **WIC Program**

*See family services.*

## **Rent, utility, bill assistance**

First call the Township Trustee in the Monroe County Township in which you live: Bean Blossom (876-5109), Benton (332-6081), Bloomington (336-4976), Clear Creek (824-7225), Indian Creek (824-4981), Perry (336-3713) Polk (837-9446), Richland (876-2509), Salt Creek (332-9777), Van Buren (825-4490), Washington (331-0809).

## **Youth programs**

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters**

**Address:** 418 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 334-2828

**Web:** [www.bigsindiana.org](http://www.bigsindiana.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Andrea Smith ([812] 334-2828; [amsmith@bigsindiana.org](mailto:amsmith@bigsindiana.org))

**About:** Serves the emotional and social needs of 6 to 17-year-olds by facilitating professionally supported relationships with adult volunteers. Programs also exist here children are visited in school or at a partner site by adults or high school students. Volunteers mentor, bring support, and engage in fun activities with the children with whom they are matched.

### **Bloomington Boys and Girls Club**

**Address:** 311 S. Lincoln St.

**Phone:** (812) 332-5311

**Web:** [www.bgcbloomington.org](http://www.bgcbloomington.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Donnie Morgan ([812] 332-5311; [domorgan@indiana.edu](mailto:domorgan@indiana.edu))

**About:** A guidance organization which fosters the physical, intellectual and social growth of boys and girls ages 6-18 with a special concern for those most in need of service.

### **Girls Inc.**

**Address:** 1108 W. 8th St.

**Phone:** (812) 336-7313

**Web:** [www.girlsinc-monroe.org](http://www.girlsinc-monroe.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Rachel Dotson, Director of Operations ([812] 336-7313; [rdotson@monroe.girls-inc.org](mailto:rdotson@monroe.girls-inc.org))

**About:** Girls Inc. of Monroe County, is an affiliate of a national youth organization dedicated to inspiring girls to be strong, smart, and bold through after school programming, organized sports, and summer/winter camps. Provides programming for girls ages 6 to 18. Services include transportation, organized sports, a teen room, technology, self-defense and homework help.

### **Harmony School**

**Address:** 909 E. 2nd St.

**Phone:** (812) 334-8349

**Web:** [www.harmonyschool.org](http://www.harmonyschool.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Libby Gwynn ([812] 334-8349; [libby@harmonyschool.org](mailto:libby@harmonyschool.org))

**About:** An independent pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade school providing education to youth ages 3 to 18 from a wide range of economic and educational backgrounds.

### **Rhino's Youth Center**

**Address:** 331 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 333-3430

**Web:** [www.rhinoyouthcenter.org](http://www.rhinoyouthcenter.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Brad Wilhelm ([812] 333-3430; [rhinosdirector@ameritech.net](mailto:rhinosdirector@ameritech.net))

**About:** 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, provides programs in partnership with the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department through the week after school. Several creative and practical classes and workshops, as well as mentoring, tutoring, counseling, and more, are available.

### **Youth Services Bureau**

**Address:** 615 S. Adams St.

**Phone:** (812) 349-2506

**Web:** [www.youthservicesbureau.net](http://www.youthservicesbureau.net)

**About:** Alongside youth shelter (see housing [youth]), provides 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.

## **Additional services**

### **Catholic Charities-Bloomington**

**Address:** 631 North College Avenue

**Phone:** (812) 332-1262

**Web:** [www.CatholicCharitiesBtown.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesBtown.org)

**About:** Provides education, social service delivery, and advocacy. Takes special interest in poor, disabled, and otherwise disadvantaged persons. Serves residences of Brown, Lawrence, Morgan, Monroe, Orange and Owen counties, especially through mental health services. Provides individual, family, couples and group counseling to the English- and Spanish-speaking clients.

### **Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County**

**Address:** 213 E. Kirkwood Avenue

**Phone:** (812) 331-4069

**Web:** [www.monroecountyhabitat.org](http://www.monroecountyhabitat.org)

**About:** Habitat for Humanity helps families and volunteers to build homes for those living in inadequate housing. The homes are for families who have an income but do not have the funds to secure a bank loan. The money to build the homes comes from contributions from local churches, citizens, businesses, and other sponsors. Families pay back a zero interest mortgage over 15-25 years. That money goes into a fund which helps to pay for more houses.

### **Monroe County Safe Kids Chapter**

**Phone:** (812) 353-5437

**About:** Certified Child Passenger Safety technicians will help you install your child's car seat and answer questions regarding general vehicle safety. If you need financial help with the purchase of a seat, let us know. All services are by appointment only.

### **Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project**

**Address:** 310A S. Washington St.

**Phone:** (812) 339-8710

**Web:** [www.pagestoprisoners.org](http://www.pagestoprisoners.org)

**Volunteer Contact:** Tess Hannah (339-8710; [midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com](mailto:midwestpagestoprisoners@yahoo.com))

**About:** Provides free reading material to inmates upon request. Encourages self-education among prisoners in the United States.

### **Monroe County Public Library**

**Address:** 303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

**Phone:** (812) 349-3050

**Web:** [www.mcpl.info](http://www.mcpl.info)

**About:** Offers books, magazines, audiovisual materials, Internet computers, and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile (with over 25 stops weekly), and the Outreach Van. Library cards are available at no charge to all county residents. The VITAL literacy program offers one-on-one confidential tutoring to adult learners and ESL classes. During the school year the Main Library offers homework help to elementary students and math homework help to teens. During tax season volunteers offer tax help. The library also offers public meeting rooms to nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community may produce a program through CATS for the Public Access Channel

### **Monroe County Wrap-Around**

**Address:** 645 S. Rogers St.

**Phone:** (812) 337-2225

**About:** 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 driver's 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.

### **New Leaf-New Life, Inc.**

**Address:** PO Box 7071

**Phone:** (812) 349-2890

**Web:** [www.newleaf-newlife.org](http://www.newleaf-newlife.org)

**About:** Volunteers work both inside and outside the jail to help inmates, and those recently released from jail transition successfully back into society. Services offered include: employment help; support groups; family support; and community referrals. Volunteer opportunities can include: mentoring; transition services; office work; family outreach; or programming in the jail.