



# Safety~Net

May 2010

## Comments from the Mayor

By Mark Kruzan, Mayor of Bloomington

Every year more than 1 million people in the United States access homeless shelter services or obtain services through a domestic violence shelter. Many others sleep on a family member's couch, in their car or on the streets.

In our own community the need to provide services to the homeless and underserved is great, and the challenge is ongoing. The City of Bloomington recognizes this fact and is committed to continuing to provide help to those in need.

In January, the Housing Network repeated its Point-in-Time count for Region 10, which includes Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Greene, Lawrence and Martin Counties. This effort found 289 people experiencing homelessness on the night of January 27. Of those, 182 were single adults and 37 were families, which included 59 children. Ten percent of the single adults were considered chronically homeless, meaning they have been homeless for more than a year or had three episodes of homelessness in the past four years and have a disabling condition.

The City addresses this great need in the community in a number of ways, including: providing an environment where nonprofits can succeed at fulfilling their mission; providing financial and staff support to local organizations that serve the underserved population; and by providing direct assistance to individuals and families through several departments.

In order to help with the chronically homeless, a group formed the Inter-Faith Winter Shelter. Operating from November 2009 through March 2010, this low barrier shelter provided 4,572 nights of shelter and operated out of three churches and space donated by the City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department.

Over the years, the City has provided more than \$2.3 million dollars for operational and physical improvement funding to sheltering organizations that include Middle Way House, Shelter Incorporated, Martha's House, Amethyst House, Centerstone/Center for Behavioral Health, and Stepping Stones.

Since 1975, the City has invested more than \$6.7 million dollars in projects and services for people experiencing homelessness or those who are at risk for homelessness. This funding includes \$695,508 in improvements for the Crestmont/Reverend Butler neighborhoods.

Since 1992, the City also has provided the Housing Authority with more than \$750,000 in tenant-based rental assistance for people with emergency housing needs on the Housing Authority's waiting list. In 2004, the City applied for, on behalf of Centerstone, funding under the US Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development (HUD)'s Shelter + Care grant program. The City was successfully funded and since then, HUD has provided \$210,309 in rent subsidies for permanent supportive housing for homeless adult persons

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## Comentarios del Alcalde

por Mark Kruzan, Alcalde de Bloomington

Cada año mas de 1 millón de personas en los Estados Unidos visitan refugios para personas sin hogar u obtienen servicios através de refugios para personas abusadas físicamente, otros duermen en la sala de la casa de un familiar, en el auto o en las calles.

En nuestra propia comunidad la necesidad de proporcionar servicios a los desamparados y desatendidos es grande, y el reto continúa. La Ciudad de Bloomington reconoce este hecho y se compromete a seguir prestando ayuda a los necesitados.

En enero, la Red de Vivienda reiteró su conteo de punto en el tiempo para la Región 10, que incluye los condados de Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Greene, Lawrence y Martin. Este esfuerzo encontró a 289 personas sin hogar en la noche del 27 de enero. De ellos, 182 eran adultos solteros y 37 familias, que incluían 59 niños. Diez por ciento de los adultos solteros eran considerados crónicamente sin hogar, lo que significa que han estado sin hogar durante más de un año o tres episodios en sus vidas de falta de vivienda en los últimos cuatro años y tienen una condición de discapacidad.

La Ciudad trata esta gran necesidad en la comunidad en un sin número de maneras, incluyendo: proporcionar un entorno en el que organizaciones sin fines de lucro pueden tener éxito en el cumplimiento de su misión, el suministro de apoyo financiero y personal a las organizaciones locales que atienden a la población marginada, y prestando asistencia directa a las personas y las familias a través de varios departamentos.

Con el fin de ayudar a los sin techo crónicos, un grupo formado de la diferentes Fe's Vivienda de invierno. Operando desde noviembre 2009 hasta marzo de 2010, este refugio de barrera baja proporcionan 4,572 noches de alojamiento y operados por dos iglesias y un espacio donado por la Ciudad de Bloomington Departamento de Parques y Recreación.

Con los años, la Ciudad ha proporcionado más de \$ 2.3 millones de dólares para funcionamiento y financiación de la mejora física de refugio a organizaciones que incluyen Middle Way House (la Casa

See "Alcalde", page three

## SAFETY-NET Bridges To Somewhere: People Helping People

Safety-Net is a free, volunteer driven community newspaper sponsored by the South Central Community Action Program (SC-CAP) that is published once every 3 months. A big "thank you" to all of you who contribute articles and make Safety-Net possible. This issue of Safety-Net features the many agencies that provide much needed supportive services to our community members, as well as comments and articles from individuals who have benefitted from the agencies. In addition to the feature articles, there are Special Sections, as well as an extensive Directory of Agencies and Services that provide important information about available services. Comments from readers are most welcome. Please address them to the editor, white@indiana.edu and copy them to the assistant editor, doug@insccap.org. State whether you would like your comments printed in the next issue.

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Editorial Cartoon by Joe Lee

# eBus will provide free banking, credit and homeownership information

By Doug Wilson Director of Communications South Central Community Action Program

The Fifth Third Bank Homeownership Mobile, aka, "The eBus," will be rolling into Bloomington Thursday, June 3, 2010. The Homeownership Mobile is a 40-foot bus that doubles as a mobile classroom to provide credit counseling, financial literacy, homeownership assistance and foreclosure prevention directly to where people live and work.

The public is invited to participate in this free event from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Bloomington Housing Authority, 1007 North Summit St. Free food and refreshments, as well as activities for youths, will be provided.

Fifth Third Bank has several community partners that will help make the eBus program a success: The City of Bloomington (HAND, Safe & Civil City Program, and Latino Programs & Outreach), the Bloomington Housing Authority, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana, Ivy Tech and Momentive Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Inc.

This is the fourth year the eBus has visited Bloomington. In 2008, 120 Bloomington residents stepped aboard the Homeownership Mobile. This year, organizers are hoping to do much more by offering free credit reports, foreclosure prevention counseling and classes on basic banking, repairing damaged credit and preparing for homeownership.

## A Mobile Classroom

A self-contained mobile classroom on wheels, the eBus is Internet-equipped with 14 computer terminals for instructor-led or self-directed homeownership and credit counseling programs, and access to comprehensive financial services information, including the free Fifth Third Homeownership Guide and Dream Guard life planning materials. Fifth Third community development officers, mortgage professionals and retail banking staff will be on board the Homeownership Mobile along with community partners to promote financial literacy, homeownership assistance and foreclosure prevention in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

### On the bus, visitors will be able to:

- Request a free credit report.
- Attend classes on "Basic Banking", "How to Repair Your Credit Report" and "Preparing for Homeownership".
- Receive a free consultation on loss mitigation and foreclosure prevention.
- Receive a free personalized evaluation of finances.
- Speak with non-profit organizations that provide housing, money management and business advice.
- Browse free multi-lingual, self-directed programs on homeownership and credit counseling.



eBus.

- Receive money management and budgeting information.
- Apply for a mortgage loan or employment at Fifth Third Bank.
- Open checking or savings accounts.

and preparing for homeownership, please sign up by contacting Sylvia Wendeln of the Bloomington Housing Authority at 339-3491, ext. 120 or by email at [swendeln@bhla.net](mailto:swendeln@bhla.net).

If you would like to attend the classes on basic banking, repairing damaged credit

For further information about the eBus event, please contact Fifth Third Bank, Sandra Sandifer at 317-383-2144.

## MAYOR

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with disabilities and their families.

The City recognizes that providing shelter is just one aspect of fulfilling the community's needs. Therefore, the City has invested more than \$2.8 million dollars in supporting additional components of well-being such as food and medical care.

Our commitment includes continued allocation to the Community Development Block Grant funds for physical improvement projects that better people's lives. In 2010, the City has committed more than \$200,000 for the renovation of the Community Kitchen's new facility on South Rogers Street. The Jack Hopkins Council Social Service fund will soon allocate \$200,000 to social service agencies and this July I will propose, as part of our 2011 budget request, a 10% increase to the Jack Hopkins fund for a total of \$220,000. That increase will mean the Hopkins Fund will have doubled in the last six years even as

other parts of the City budget were being cut.

The City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department (CFRD) also provides services and assistance to the homeless and low-income, including enrollment help for the Healthy Indiana Plan and Hoosier Healthwise. Also, CFRD hosts the annual Homeward Bound Walk to raise awareness and funds for 12 area agencies that provide services to the homeless and low-income population. Since 2003, the Walk has raised more than \$400,000 for local agencies.

The City of Bloomington constantly strives to provide a diverse set of resources for individuals experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of homelessness. Our mission is and continues to be to not only provide direct assistance to the homeless, but provide resources to the many agencies in the community who specialize in helping individuals in Monroe County improve their quality of life.

## About Safety~Net

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### 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 the many agencies that provide services to our community.

### SPECIAL SECTIONS

The special sections in this issue are: **Voices Seldom Heard, Agency Reports, Volunteer Opportunities, Youth Programs, Agency Guide, Public Comment.**

### 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.



# Adult Ed in the Bloomington Area: Limping, But Alive

By Melanie Hunter, Marketing/PR Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator, MCCSC Adult Education, Broadview Learning Center

Not long ago I read an Internet article about a young man who had been run over by a train at the age of 15 and had lost both his legs and his right arm. Now, nine years later, with special prosthetic limbs, he travels the country visiting other amputees and giving inspirational speeches to junior high and high school students. An accomplished swimmer, his next goal is to complete a triathlon. He could already run and swim, but said he was working on the cycling.

Perhaps we can find such inspiration here at Broadview Learning Center (BLC). We're reeling from budget cuts, the potential loss of most of our teachers, regionalization, the shift toward the Workforce Development system, and the excitement and stresses of hosting a statewide Adult Education conference. But we're still here providing classes to help people go back to school and build better futures for themselves and their families.

With all the Bloomington Herald-Times articles published lately about MCCSC's financial woes, it should come as no surprise that BLC is losing a few of its programs and some of its teachers. In the Teen Learning Center, all the programs except the teen GED class have been cut in order to incorporate those students back into the high schools. And our teachers with less tenure who did not retire or lose their jobs may be moving elsewhere in the corporation while displaced librarians or other teachers with more tenure take over their classes here.

Last year, Adult Education, which remains a part of the Department of Education but is working more closely with the Department of Workforce Development, began reorganizing its programming with a strong emphasis on learning for employability. In its new three-year regionalization plan, Adult Ed is breaking up into regions that will work closely with WorkOne offices to focus on transition to post-secondary education in preparation for a better, more effective job force. Meanwhile, in April, Bloomington hosted a major statewide conference of the Indiana Association for Adult & Continuing Education at the Bloomington Convention Center to show that we are still "Solid As A Rock." Despite statewide budget woes, the conference was well attended and helped Indiana's Adult Ed teachers with their transformation process. We even had a rock wall to climb!

So we're still "Solid As A Rock"—just being reshaped.

Once again, we held our Adult Student Recognition Ceremony on May 12 at BHS North, where about 120 students received GED diplomas or achievement certificates. Six student speakers told their stories: a teen, a woman from Timbuktu (yes, really!), a couple of people who've lost their jobs due to plant closings or downsizing, and one retired woman who realized she might need to go back into the workforce. Our guest speaker was Barry Lessow,

**See "Adult Ed", page 7**



Broadview Learning Center.

## Adult Education: Accomplishing a Goal

(From a speech by G.E.D. student Mary Freeman at the May Recognition Ceremony for the MCCSC Adult Education program)

Earlier this month, I joined with students, teachers, parents, and friends to celebrate the accomplishments of the Broadview Learning Center Class of 2010 at the Recognition Ceremony. For me, the challenge had started a little more than 21 years ago in the Adult Education class. When I met the teacher, Eileen Crain, she welcomed me in this program and helped me to get started on my G.E.D. Then, because of some personal issues I went through, my schooling was put on hold.

I got a job with Monroe County Community School Corporation in 1977 as a custodian. Every day when I went to work, I would read the blackboard, after looking to see if it said "Save" on the classwork before I cleaned it. And with my two kids that needed their homework checked, I've seen a lot of school work over the years, and I continued to learn. I never lost my desire to get my diploma.

Well, now the kids are grown, and I've retired. It's time for me to pursue my desire and get my diploma. You can imagine the shock when I showed up at class one day, and I told Eileen my name and said, "I'm back and I'm serious about getting my G.E.D. after 21 years."

I'm not at the age of social security, so I may have to find a job. But my chances of being hired without a diploma are very slim. I appreciate the program that offered me the chance to fulfill my dream. Now that I have accomplished this challenge, who knows what's next.

—Mary Freeman

### ALCALDE

Continued from page one

Camino del Medio), Shelter Incorporated (Refugio Incorporado), Martha's House (Casa de Marta), Amethyst House (la Casa Amatista), Centerstone /Center for Behavioral Health (Centro de Salud Mental), y Stepping Stones (Piedras Trampolines).

Desde 1975, la Ciudad ha invertido más de \$ 6.7 millones de dólares en proyectos y servicios para personas sin hogar o para los que están en riesgo de perder su hogar. Esta financiación incluye \$ 695.508 en mejoras para el barrio Crestmont/ reverendo Butler.

Desde 1992, la Ciudad también ha proporcionado a la Autoridad de Vivienda con más de \$ 750.000 en ayuda de alquiler del inquilino a las personas con necesidades de vivienda de emergencia en la lista de la Autoridad de Vivienda de espera. En 2004, la Ciudad solicitó, en nombre del Centerstone, la financiación por parte de los EE.UU. Departamento

de Vivienda y Desarrollo de Vecindarios (HUD) 's Vivienda + programa de becas de atención. La ciudad recibió financiamiento con éxito y desde entonces, HUD ha proporcionado 210.309 dólares en subsidios de alquiler para la vivienda de apoyo permanente para personas adultas sin hogar con discapacidades y sus familias.

La Ciudad reconoce que esta acogida es sólo un aspecto de satisfacción de las necesidades de la comunidad. Por lo tanto, la Ciudad ha invertido más de \$ 2,8 millones de dólares en el apoyo a otros componentes de bienestar como la alimentación y atención médica.

Nuestro compromiso incluye la asignación a la comunidad de los fondos de Subsidios Globales para el Desarrollo (Community Development Block Grant funds) para proyectos de mejoramiento físico de las plantas para que la gente

viva mejor. En 2010, la Ciudad se ha comprometido a más de \$ 200.000 para la renovación de las nuevas instalaciones de la Cocina de la Comunidad sobre la cooperación al Sur Rogers Street. El Consejo Social (Jack Hopkins Council Social Services) fondo de servicio y destinará 200.000 dólares a las agencias de servicio social y en julio de este año nos proponemos, como parte de nuestra solicitud de presupuesto del 2011, un aumento del 10% al fondo de Jack Hopkins para un total de 220.000 dólares. Este aumento significa el Fondo de Hopkins se ha duplicado en los últimos seis años, a pesar que en otras partes del presupuesto de la ciudad se han cortado.

La Ciudad de Bloomington departamento de Recursos para la Comunidad y la Familia (CFRD) también ofrece servicios y asistencia a los desamparados y personas de bajos ingresos, incluida la

ayuda de matrícula para el Plan de Salud de Indiana Hoosier Healthwise. Además, alberga la CFRD las caminatas anuales de Homeward Bound Walk y de crear conciencia y fondos para las agencias de la zona 12 que prestan servicios a las personas sin hogar y la población de bajos ingresos. Desde 2003, la caminata ha recaudado más de \$ 400.000 para las agencias locales.

La ciudad de Bloomington se esfuerza constantemente para ofrecer un conjunto variado de recursos para personas sin hogar y los que están en riesgo de quedarse sin hogar. Nuestra misión es y sigue siendo, no sólo para proporcionar asistencia directa a las personas sin hogar, sino que aportan recursos a los organismos de muchos en la comunidad que se especializan en ayudar a las personas en el condado de Monroe mejorar su calidad de vida.

# Middle Way House Residential Services

By Toby Strout, Executive Director, Middle Way House, Inc. 812-333-7404 (administration)  
24 hr. crisis hotline 812-336-0846 • www.middlewayhouse.org • P.O. Box 95 Bloomington, IN 47402-0095

**Middle Way House.** Middle Way House provides residential options across the housing continuum for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. The Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing (The Rise) serve families rendered homeless by intimate partner violence. A single family home serves survivors at or below 80% of area median income.

**A new location is being prepared.** Once Middle Way House has moved to its new location in June (New Wings), the Shelter will be able to house 30 individuals. Six one-bedroom apartments will house women who do not have children living with them.

**Accessing shelter.** To access shelter, women have to call our 24-hour crisis line and speak directly with the advocate who answers. We do not admit people on anyone else's say-so. Women can and do call without referrals from third parties. However, many women are referred by law enforcement personnel, attorneys, physicians, therapists, teachers, pastors, and employers or employee assistance programs. And, it is not rare for women to call because friends or family members have attended one of our community or school-based awareness-raising or prevention programs and passed on their concern and the information they received. Shelter services are free and confidential.

**The Rise.** The Rise is a service-rich two-year transitional housing program. There are 28 self-contained apartments (22 three-bedroom and 6 two-bedroom). At exit, adult residents should have improved their position in the job market and be prepared to sustain stable housing, and children should be functioning at a level appropriate for their age. Residents, who have

to meet HUD guidelines as poor or very poor, are required to pay 30% of their gross monthly income toward rent.

**Programs.** Once at the Shelter or The Rise, women and children have a great many options available to them. The programs include mentoring, resume-writing and job placement assistance, and employment in two Middle Way House-owned social enterprises, Confidential Document Destruction and Food Works.

There are also weekly support groups (for women, mothers, teens and pre-teens, girls and boys) and skill-building programs from money management to household repair and car maintenance for the women.

There are assertive communication, non-violent conflict resolution, and problem-solving for the children and youth, as well as legal advocacy, homework help and tutoring, school entrance and scholarship application assistance.

Advocates and childcare and youth empowerment services staff are trained to assess strengths as well as needs. We believe that making the crisis call or coming to shelter are not signs of weakness but of strength and courage. We assume nothing about the women who seek our services; we let them tell us - what happened to them, how they'd like their lives to change, and how they think we can help

them achieve the future they envision. Whatever path they choose, we provide the best information we can find to help them make informed decisions along the way, prosper and be safe. We believe, also, that every child is lovable and talented and we work and play so those positives are brought to the fore. Truly terrible things have happened to the people who seek services at Middle Way House. For many the wounds are deep, but it is rare to encounter someone who, given time to rest, think, and dream, and provided with meaningful alternatives to living with violence, doesn't heal, doesn't find the resilience to pick up and start over.

## It Can Be Expensive to Be Poor

by Michelle Hunsicker as told to Joan Foor White



Back in 2003 she was a single mother with two young sons and had to make the choice, at some point, between her car insurance and her other bills. The car insurance seemed the most expendable at the time. Late, on her way to work one day she did a "California roll" (not coming to a complete stop) was ticketed for that AND for not having insurance (\$150.00 was the price of that, at that time). Michelle says, "couldn't pay that one, got pulled over again for another minor violation (going 25 mph in a 15 mph zone) and because I still didn't

have insurance, was ticketed again for that, and they ended up suspending my license." She continued to drive without a license to get to work (living in Gosport and working in Danville) and eventually, not having the money to get out of this fix, not having had the money in the first place for insurance, she was put in jail for driving without a license. Ultimately, she says, "I ended up having to pay \$3200.00. \$985.00 was the reinstatement fee to BMV; \$365.00 to get the car out of impoundment; and \$375.00 bail. Then there were probationary fees and court costs."

Michelle moved into the Rise at that point because she did lose her house (receiving no aid of any kind)

and her job. "Living there, I got my life back on track, found another job, and went back to school. Martha Voyles was my case manager at the Rise. She gave me moral support and helped me to set goals, which included paying my fines when I started working again. "She lived at the Rise for 2 years and has continued her relationship with the women working at the Rise who were immensely helpful to her.

She would also like to say here, publicly "that I understand the need for everyone to carry auto insurance." She would also like to say that costly punitive measures taken against the poor are counter-productive, as illustrated by her story.

## Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative a great success

By Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Capshaw, Interfaith Minister Administrator, Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative • PO Box 1324 • Bloomington, IN 47402-1324

The Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative opened its doors on November 1, 2009 and ended on March 31, 2010. We provided a warm, safe bed for up to 40 adults each night at four different locations. Three churches provided sites (First United Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and First Christian Church), and the City of Bloomington provided the Jukebox community center on Sunday evenings as a site. Each evening a single shelter was host to the homeless, and the shelter sites

moved from one site to another during the week. In total, we were able to provide 4572 bed/nights for 151 nights, averaging thirty guests per night. Men and women were housed in separate areas. 461 volunteers received training to work one of the five shifts per night. Volunteers and contributions (both financial and in-kind) came from twenty-one faith communities. Thirteen governmental, service and business partners contributed as well, with extensive support from students, staff and

faculty at Indiana University. Interacting with and caring for our less fortunate neighbors benefits all involved, reminding us of our common humanity.

The Interfaith Winter Shelter Initiative Task Force has decided to offer the same low-barrier model again next year, staffed with volunteers and guided by a hired Administrator and a Governing Board. The dates have been set for November 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Anyone interested in volunteering next year can have their

name placed on a contact list by emailing info@interfaithwintershelter.org. People on the list will be contacted in the fall when training dates are set.

The Task Force is also moving forward with a Homelessness Summit, scheduled for June 12 2010 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at City Hall, to bring together all interested parties and stakeholders to discuss long term solutions to homelessness in Bloomington and Monroe County. Call City Hall at 349-3401 for more details.



# Community Kitchen: Hunger Relief

By Vicki Pierce, Executive Director, Community Kitchen of Monroe County  
917 South Rogers St. Bloomington, Indiana • (812) 332-0999 • www.monroecommunitykitchen.org

**Free meals are provided both on-site and off-site to anyone in need.** Community Kitchen provides free, nutritious, hot and cold meals six days per week (Monday-Saturday) from 4pm-6pm at two locations (917 S. Rogers St. and 1100 W. 11th St.). Sack meals and snacks are provided to at-risk children in youth programs at other agencies and breakfasts to low-income children during the summer. Community Kitchen also provides weekend backpacks of food for some low-income children in elementary schools and weekday meals to HIV+ clients through Nutrition Links.

Community Kitchen's emergency free meals service provides warm nutritious meals to anyone in need from both locations every Monday through Saturday from 4-6pm. Sit down meals are available at the 917 S. Rogers Street facility, while Express warm meals are carry-out only. Cold carry-out meals are also available at both locations. Sack lunch meals are provided each weekday to at-risk children and youth in after-school programs at the Boys & Girls Club (Main, Crestmont and Ellettsville), The Rise at Middle Way House, Monroe County Community Corrections Juvenile Adult Management Sessions (JAMS) program, Girls Inc., and Broadview Teen Learning Center. From June through August, Community Kitchen also sponsors a Summer Breakfast Program which serves two youth programs and eight low-income housing complexes (Crestmont Apartments, Country View Apartments, Walnut Woods Apartments, Henderson Court Apartments, Arlington Valley Trailer Park, Arlington Park Apartments, Highland Park Elementary School area and Heatherwood Trailer Park). This program will expand into two Ellettsville sites in summer 2010. Community Kitchen began the Backpack Buddies Program in 2005, whereby backpacks of food are given to low-income children at Fairview, Summit, Arlington, Clear Creek and Grandview Elementary Schools each week to help sustain their family's nutrition over the

weekend.

In September 2006, Community Kitchen embarked on a partnership with Bloomington Hospital's Positive Link called Nutrition Links. Through Nutrition Links, CK provides two nutritious meals per day for Positive Link clients in need of the service. These meals are provided and delivered free of charge to HIV+ individuals in our community.

Community Kitchen serves patrons who include the homeless, low-income and unemployed individuals and families, along with mentally and physically challenged individuals. In 2009, 61% of all Kitchen patrons were children under the age of 18 and another 17% were seniors.

In 2009, CK served a record number 185,029 meals, an average of 591 per day. In the first four months of 2010, Community Kitchen has experienced so far another 20% increase.

**History.** Community Kitchen (CK) is in its twenty-seventh year of providing hunger relief in Monroe County. CK was incorporated as a non-profit agency in 1983 "to work alone, and in collaboration with others to eliminate hunger through direct service, education, and advocacy." The agency is governed by a 15-member volunteer board of directors and staffed by five full-time, six part-time, one work-study employee and a SPEA Service Corp intern. In addition, CK is assisted by over 70 volunteers each week (80/week in the summer).

After many years of providing meals from various locations, in 1992 CK entered into a partnership with Perry Township and Shelter, Inc. to provide meals from a permanent location on South Rogers Street. A similar partnership with Bloomington Township, formed in 2001, provides the Community Kitchen Express facility at 1100 West 11th Street. In addition, CK maintains a partnership with Martha's House, a sheltering agency co-located with us at 919 South Rogers Street.

## What Community Kitchen guests have to say...

*I have a number of health problems: heart, COPD (asthma related), diabetes. If it weren't for the Community Kitchen I would not receive a healthy meal.*

*The chef and staff are top notch. Terrific "A+" quality for nutrition and taste.*

*The increase in the number of fruits and veggies and healthy foods has been impressive. Laid off work recently, back to CK for the first time in 2 years. Thank you.*

*The Kitchen is a wonderful thing because of it those who are hungry have food, it feeds those who really wouldn't eat without it, Thank You.*

*I appreciate and benefit from the balanced meals and the great prices! I also appreciate some of the people I meet and converse with here. Because of low income, I could not possibly at this time in my life stay healthy without the help I receive here. Thank you!*

*I've been very grateful for the many kindnesses shown me and my friend during my times in Bloomington. We have stayed here permanently and the CK services have assisted us greatly in the transition from vagabonding to homebound. Thank you.*

*The CK is important to me as well as to others for a variety of reasons. One of them being that hunger really gets in the way of functioning. Some people can't consume very many foods with sugar without suffering from low blood sugar soon after. Some people are diabetic and the menus always seem to be considerate to this along with the consideration of what people like to eat and what tastes good.*

## Shalom Finds Permanent Home: Raising Funds a Top Priority

Patricia Andrews, Vice-president, Shalom Board of Directors

After ten years, the Shalom Community Center is moving out of the First United Methodist Church. Its lease with FUMC is up on May 31 and will not be renewed. FUMC houses Shalom's Hunger Relief program (serving breakfast and lunch each week-day), the day shelter, and laundry and phone services. Those services may be temporarily suspended on June 1 unless another summer location can be identified (a work in progress).

Two other churches house portions of Shalom's programs. At First Christian Church, Shalom guests meet with representatives of visiting agencies (e.g., Job Links, St. Vincent DePaul, and Ivy Tech), take showers, use restrooms, receive mail, meet with caseworkers, and store their belongings. FCC also provides a special room and services for Shalom families

with children. Last year, the Center's Family Homelessness Prevention Project prevented an episode of homelessness for 227 families by providing emergency financial assistance. Equally important, those families *remain* housed. At Trinity Episcopal Church, guests meet with attorneys who volunteer their time to work at the Shalom Legal Aid Clinic two days each week. In 2009, those attorneys served over 300 guests and assisted 116 individuals in either receiving or having public benefits restored (i.e., Social Security, Medicaid, and federal food stamps).

The Legal Aid Clinic will likely remain at Trinity on into the future, but services at First Christian Church will not be extended beyond August 1.

Shalom clearly needs a new permanent home, and board members believe they have found it! If all goes as planned, on

May 15, Shalom will purchase a former furniture warehouse at 620 South Walnut Street and immediately begin the renovations necessary so that all programming from FUMC and FCC can be up and running by August 1. An architect is working with staff and board members to design the new Shalom, renovation bids are being evaluated, and fundraising is in full swing. Just to close the deal, to finance Phase I renovations, and to pay for the first year's mortgage and utilities, Shalom must raise at least \$150,000 by May 15. Phases II requires \$100,000 in 2011 and Phase III, another \$100,000 in 2012 for additional expenses related to utilities, maintenance, and continuing renovations.

To contain renovation costs, Shalom will use volunteer laborers, who will work under the direction of a building contractor. Habitat for Humanity is partnering

with Shalom to provide many volunteers, and Shalom guests with construction experience will also offer a helping hand.

The new Shalom will offer all programs currently in operation and will add expanded laundry and shower capacity and a completely separate dining area for families with children. It will also include a small chapel for meditation and prayer.

We have made *significant* progress in raising the funds needed to purchase, renovate, and maintain the new Shalom. Even so, donations (and *especially three-year pledges*) are badly needed. Checks should be made out to: Shalom Community Center with "building fund" on the memo line, and mailed to SCC at P.O. Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402. All gifts are tax deductible, and receipts will be mailed promptly. Questions can be directed to Joel Rekas, Executive Director, at 334-5734.

# As need for services has grown, so has SCCAP

By Todd Lare, Executive Director South Central Community Action Program • 1500 W 15th St. Bloomington • (812) 339-3447

The hardships and pain of this economic depression grab your attention every day at the South Central Community Action Program in Bloomington.

So do the efforts of people striving to create a stable, comfortable future for themselves and their families.

Over the past couple of years, we've seen many new faces of people who never thought they'd be forced to seek public assistance. These include, among others, people who've lost their jobs or had their hours cut, or who got sick and weren't adequately covered by insurance.

"People who normally could have survived on their own just can't do it," SCCAP Energy Assistance Program Coordinator Mary Zimmerman said. "We've truly seen a different group."

SCCAP has also seen many of the chronically poor who are finding it harder than ever to get jobs and to pay their bills. We've seen elderly people who are forced to choose between paying their heating bill or buying medicine they need because they don't have money for both.

"The poor and the elderly have been crunched pretty badly," Zimmerman said. "It's so sad what's happening to people."

Over the past year, the South Central Community Action Program has served more people than it did in any previous

year in its 45-year history, more than 13,000 individuals. Our Energy Assistance Program alone served more than 5,200 households in Monroe, Brown, Morgan and Owen counties this winter.

This fall, when we were able to expand our Section 8 housing program, the demand was so high that we had a line of people waiting outside overnight on a cold night to be close to the front of the line when our office opened in the morning.

During the winter, the lobby and parking lots of our main office in Bloomington were jammed with more people than they were built to accommodate. The severe shortage of parking spaces, creating an eruption of cars into places not intended for parking, resulted partially from the increased number of clients, but also from an increase in the number of SCCAP staff available to provide that help.

During the past five years that I've been at SCCAP, we have increased our funding and staffing to help low-income people to escape poverty and reach their potential.

Over the past year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has aided this effort. SCCAP has been awarded \$3.3 million in Recovery Act funds. This money has allowed us to expand our Head Start program for 3 to 5 year-olds, create an Early Head Start program for infants and

toddlers under 3, expand our Weatherization Program to provide energy efficiency improvements to more homes and create a Jobs/Training Program to help local residents obtain new skills and careers.

These are investments that will change lives and reduce the need for future public expenditures. With children in Head Start, in particular, there is a mountain of evidence that if we aren't able to help them get a good start as they begin school, their odds of school dropout and other social problems skyrocket.

Besides helping hundreds of local families with low incomes, these stimulus funds have allowed SCCAP to provide jobs for 35 local residents and to boost the sales of numerous local businesses.

Another relatively new program expansion at SCCAP is the Circles Initiative, which started in 2008. The Circles Initiative is part of a national campaign to eliminate poverty. It aims to increase the emotional and financial stability of participating families and reduce their use of welfare benefits.

While the details of how the Circles Initiative operates and the progress of its

Monroe County participants are explained elsewhere in this newspaper, the big-picture significance of this initiative might not be obvious. Here it is: The Circles Initiative is unusual among programs that serve the poor in that it is designed to provide all of the necessary resources and support to enable them to escape poverty and not just to be more comfortable while living in poverty.

This initiative puts renewed emphasis on SCCAP truly living its mission to help low-income people become self-sufficient. This will be our focus in the years ahead. Currently, our board of directors and staff are exploring additional program expansions in areas such as child care, Circles, green initiatives, housing, job training and weatherization. These expansions will fill gaps in local resources and allow larger numbers of low-income people to bring stability to their lives and ultimately to escape poverty.

In doing so, we are committed to doing everything we can to reverse the growth in the numbers of local people who are struggling to provide for the basic needs of themselves and their families.

*To learn about ways you can support us in this effort, contact me at todd@insccap.org. To receive more information about any SCCAP program, call 339-3447.*

## Circles™: Change is in the Air

By Bonnie Vesely, South Central Community Action Program

The Monroe County Circles™ Initiative has been officially in existence for two years. It's been just over one year since our first group of Circle Leaders was matched with Allies, and only five months since our second group was matched. A third group has just begun training. And great changes are building in peoples' lives as well as in the community!

The National Circles™ Campaign operates in 40 sites across the country, with the goal of eliminating poverty in our lifetime. Monroe County is one of those sites. Circles™ is a strategy to build relationships, bridge divisions between people of different races, ethnicities and economic classes and create close community among these diverse people. Every low-income person who graduates from our training, "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin'-By World," has the opportunity to become a "Circle Leader" and is then matched with three "Allies" from the middle-class community. Allies provide Circle Leaders with friendship, emotional support, important social and networking connections to other middle-income people, problem-solving as-

sistance, and help with navigating middle-class norms as Leaders build resources necessary to move out of poverty. Weekly dinner meetings enable us to build community as we help one another, and enable our Circles™ children to build valuable skills as they have fun in our dynamic Youth Community.

But Circles™ is also involved in changing conditions that make it difficult for people to move out of poverty. We provide community education on poverty and issues that surround poverty. Through our "Big View" process we work to break down community, state and national barriers that keep prevent people from becoming self-sufficient. We address local needs such as affordable housing, transportation, livable-wage jobs and affordable childcare. Circle Leaders lead the way in choosing one barrier at a time to address, and invite the community to join in a step-by-step process of resolving that issue.

Among the many personal successes achieved recently by Circle Leaders:

- Two Circle Leaders graduated from Ivy Tech this spring – another will graduate



Children playing at the Circles program. See additional photos on pages 11, 14 and 15.

later this year, and still another will graduate from I.U. next year!

- Allies helped their Circle Leader find a pro bono lawyer in another state who could appear in court for her to help her regain a driver's license that had been revoked in that state many years ago; the legal issues were resolved and she will soon have her license back! She is one of our new graduates, and being licensed to drive will help her find and keep a job.

- A family, with the help of Allies, cre-

ated a budget which is ensuring that all of their bills are paid on time.

- A Circle Leader was just inducted into an honorary sorority!

Many Circle Leaders have received help from their "extended family" Allies when crisis has threatened, helping those Leaders to avoid collapse of their plans to get ahead.

Circle Leaders are also embarking upon an exciting jump into creating community change! The Big View process is under-

**See "Circles", page 7**



# Centerstone—“Everyone Matters”

by Cathi Norton, Centerstone Communications Specialist • 645 S. Rogers St. • (812)-339-1691

Centerstone, a not-for-profit behavioral health organization, was formed when Center for Behavioral Health (Bloomington, IN), Quinco Behavioral Health Systems (Columbus, IN), Dunn Mental Health Center (Richmond, IN) and Centerstone (Nashville, TN) joined forces to share best practices, expertise and strengths to better serve communities in central and southern Indiana, and Tennessee. Centerstone provides a wide range of mental health and addiction services to people of all ages and is dedicated to its mission: to prevent and cure mental illness and addiction.

Centerstone of Indiana offers mental health consultation and evaluation by master's degree-level-and-above clinicians and psychologists, and comprehensive psychiatric evaluation to determine problem severity and treatment options. Medication management for both substance abuse and psychiatric diagnosis is followed by carefully monitored medical and psychiatric treatment.

Specialized services include:

- **Addictions services** provide a variety of educational programs to help clients learn about use, misuse, abuse and dependence on substances, as well as high risk situations, thinking distortions, cravings, and life-style choices. Treatment options are also varied with treatment designed to benefit individual need. Programs address all stages of use-to-addiction substance issues, including co-occurring disorders, batterers' treatment, recovery and aftercare.
- **Adult services** address mental disorders from depression, anxiety and

panic disorders to serious and persistent mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, and bipolar disorders. Evidence-based treatments are employed to help each person attain the highest level of independence and quality of life possible.

- **Child and adolescent services** include a number of age-specific, group treatment programs, parenting and family support programs, and wrap-around services with other community organizations to provide a strengths-based, family-driven approach to care.

- **Employment services**, a vocational counseling program that provides job counseling, placement and support to individuals with barriers to employment referred by the Indiana Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Help is offered in the development of pre-employment skills, resume writing, interviewing and relationship skills. Job coaching and development are also offered.

• **Case management services** support treatment and may include: home-based support for those with severe behavioral health disorders; monitoring and oversight of symptoms and progress; assistance with accessing needed community resources; consumer education and advocacy; crisis intervention; and life skill training. Case management often includes monitoring of day-to-day activities and assistance in receiving medical care as well.

- **Day therapy and clubhouse programs** provide an environment of community, friendship, education, meaningful

work and support for individuals who experience behavioral health disorders. The goal of these programs is to rebuild the lives of participants.

- **Foster Care Select**, a service of Centerstone, is a child-placement agency which promotes providing care of the highest quality to foster children with special needs by addressing foster children's individual treatment needs, provides train-

ing and in-home support to foster parents, and offers crisis intervention services for children in foster homes.

- **Residential services** provide a wide variety of housing options for those with mental health challenges. Everything from 24-hour supervision to long-term subsidized apartments for clients living independently can be found in Centerstone's residential program—one of the largest residential continuums in the state.

*Centerstone has more than 60 facilities across 17 Indiana counties and 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).*

## Centerstone Story – “Spiraling out of Control”

*Over five years ago my life was spiraling downward as I found myself binge-drinking alcohol and using pain medications excessively. My addiction to pain medication in particular led me to write illegal prescriptions so I could get drugs. Eventually I was caught three times and taken to jail. Each time I managed to post bond, only determined not to get caught again. The last time I was caught, out of fear and desperation I called Centerstone.*

*Through Centerstone I was involved in an intensive day treatment program for substance abuse. This helped me learn how to live clean and sober. I was also assigned a therapist who helped me deal with serious issues that caused me a lot of emotional pain. Centerstone even provided case management through which someone came to my house to help me with anything—from opening my mail to cleaning up a room in my house. This same case manager also led a group of her clients, including myself, to the YMCA where a weight-loss program was established. By my participation I was able to lose 65 pounds in a year and a half. My involvement with Centerstone definitely gave me a greater quality of life. Centerstone even provided me with psychiatric counseling to help me with medications. Recently through Centerstone I was introduced to their employment program which helped me find a job.*

*I cannot stress enough how Centerstone has changed my life for the better. To date, I have been drug and alcohol free for over five years and now live with hope for the future. My wish for Centerstone is that they continue to help people like myself and that I can continue to partake of their great services. Thank you Centerstone, for giving me back my life.*

—April

### CIRCLES

*Continued from page six*

way, and Circle Leaders have chosen to advocate for measures that will create more Section 8 housing availability as well as affordable housing in Bloomington. Be watching for announcements of the monthly Big View meetings that you can participate in and help us to achieve this goal!

Other changes for Circles™ include the loss of our incredible Volunteer Coordinators Tom Kenning and Genese Parker as their AmeriCorps service ends. We will sorely miss them, but are very fortunate to have had them with us over the past year. Tom and Genese have built relationships, cooking teams, our Youth community, and a volunteer management infrastructure that

will be a tremendous asset to Circles™ for years to come.

I have been blessed and honored to serve as Circles™ Coordinator since the inception of our local initiative. I am now moving into a new role at SCCAP doing community and family development work, which will include continued assistance with the Big View process and community education about poverty. I am excited about the opportunity to complement Big View work on housing issues by serving with other local groups to address the many additional issues affecting low-income people. In joining together to solve problems, we are all blessed!

### ADULT ED

*Continued from page three*

Executive Director of the United Way of Monroe County, a man who understands the plight of many of our students from the work he does every day.

A few other changes are going on here. The GED testing fee, which has been \$60 for years, is going up to \$70 as of June 1. Individual tests will still be \$15 apiece, and scholarships or vouchers are still available from WorkOne.

Our summer class schedule is now ready. For Adult Basic Ed/GED Prep classes, Teen GED classes, and ESL classes, orientation for *new students* will be Thursday, June 3—one day only!—and classes will be Monday-Thursday, June 7-24. Jail classes will also still be offered.

Call 330-7731 to find out all class times.

BLC's volunteer program is alive and well. It has been streamlined this semester, and has openings for people willing to tutor students in basic math, English, social studies, and/or science. As one volunteer said of her experience here, “It has been wonderful! The staff is so caring and the students are responsive and enthusiastic. You guys are the best!”

Check our website—[www.adult.mccsc.edu](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu)—for up-to-date information about all of our various offerings. And we'll be re-tooling and gearing up for another school year in August. We may not participate in a triathlon, but we'll still help people go back to their future!

# Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

South Central Indiana's HIV/AIDS Client Services and Education Organization  
By Sarah Ginascol, Intern, BSW Student • Emily Brinegar, MSW, LSW Prevention Coordinator

**Bloomington Hospital's Positive Link is the region's HIV/AIDS service organization.** Through federal funding administered by the Indiana State Department of Health, and with support from Bloomington Hospital, Positive Link provides HIV education and testing to Bloomington and surrounding communities, as well as case management for people living with HIV. Positive Link provides two types of services for the community - client services and prevention.

**Client services.** The client services team provides care coordination, or case management, for clients who are HIV positive. Positive Link's four care coordinators can assist with partner notification, help a client cope with his or her new positive status, provide support as clients work through housing and financial issues, obtaining and maintaining health insurance and finding a medical provider, help apply for other assistance, and make referrals to other community agencies. Care coordinators are available for as much or as little assistance as a client would like and are readily available to assist their clients with whatever needs they might have.

#### **HIV testing and outreach programs.**

The prevention team consists of a team of six educators who provide a great number of services to not only clients who are HIV positive, but also the greater Bloomington area by providing HIV testing and outreach services. HIV and Hepatitis testing are offered by Positive Link at several area programs including: Futures Family Planning Clinic, Centerstone, Stepping Stones, IU's GLBT office, and the Monroe County Jail. Services are also provided in Bartholomew, Brown, Lawrence, Owen, Greene and Johnson counties. The tests are free and can be done anonymously or confidentially. Rapid HIV tests are available for those interested with results in 20 minutes. Blood tests that can detect HIV and Hepatitis can also be given and yield results in two weeks.

Outreach education about HIV and other STI's is available by setting up an appointment, but is also offered in many IU classes and at other area programs and agencies. Presentations are free of charge and offer information on all different topics related to HIV.

**Prevention.** Positive Link's prevention team also provides individualized risk reduction counseling for individuals who

may be at a high risk for contracting HIV. Comprehensive Risk Counseling is offered for both positive and negative individuals who may struggle with challenges (addiction, mental health issues, physical health issues, etc.) that may affect HIV risk, both passing or receiving. These services help clients acquire strategies that can help them lessen their risk factors.

**Groups and activities.** Positive Link also has a variety of groups and activities that are very beneficial to clients. Community Mamas is a group that specifically reaches out to people in the Latino community to help educate the community about HIV risk and offer HIV testing. Live and Learns are bi-monthly social gatherings that incorporate an educational aspect with something fun that will be beneficial to clients. Examples of Live and Learn topics are medication adherence, yoga, gardening, summer socials, and winter holiday parties. There is also a support group for clients that is held on the first and third Thursday of the month, which allows clients to get together in an informal social setting to talk about different issues they may be dealing with, and also interact with one another, as well as staff. Clients

are able to participate in local community events, such as World AIDS Day celebrations and the AIDS walks.

**Volunteer and/or donate.** Positive Link is able to serve a number of clients in Bloomington and other surrounding communities. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, making a donation, or learning more about the agency, please contact Positive Link at 812.353.9150 or 800.313.4645. For inquiries regarding Care Coordination services, please contact Tammy Dutkowski at [tdutkowski@bloomingtonhospital.org](mailto:tdutkowski@bloomingtonhospital.org), and for Prevention Services, contact Emily Brinegar at [ebrinegar@bloomingtonhospital.org](mailto:ebrinegar@bloomingtonhospital.org).

#### **Bloomington Hospital Positive Link**

333 E. Miller Dr.  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 353-9150

#### **Walk-In HIV Testing**

Mondays 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
Fridays 9:00 a.m- noon

## Stepping Stones

By Warren A. Wade II, Assistant Director, Stepping Stones  
(812) 339-9771 • fax: (812) 339-2991 • [wwade@steppingstones-inc.org](mailto:wwade@steppingstones-inc.org) • [www.steppingstones-inc.org](http://www.steppingstones-inc.org)

**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. 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. 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 they need to be successful.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Our Residents' Statistics**

As of 12/31/2009, Stepping Stones has housed 41 youth and provided over 7500 days of housing for youth experiencing homelessness. Of those youth, 32% were under the age of 18. 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. 90% have obtained a job while in our program and additional financial resources like food stamps and Medicaid.





# Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

By Meagan Niese, Marketing & Communications Director, Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County  
213 East Kirkwood Ave. Bloomington, IN 47408 • 812-331-4069 • www.monroecountyhabitat.org

## A family helped by Habitat for Humanity

Spending her thirtieth birthday alone and childless in a homeless shelter gave Kristin Bogue the wake-up call she needed to get her life back on track. Kristin grew up in a good home in Bedford, Indiana, and she never imagined that one day she might not be able to provide the same stability for her own girls: Hannah, 14 years; Kayla, 11 years; and Jaycee, 10 years.

Kristin has come a long way in four years. She now works at a factory and lives with her family in a small, affordable Section 8 home. It isn't ideal. The Bogues have battled cockroaches and ongoing break-ins, but they are together and basic needs are met.

Everything was starting to look up for the Bogues until Kristin's car broke down. She had to resort to public transportation to get her girls to school and herself to work.

"That month that I rode the bus I saw a Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County poster every day," Kristin recalled. "God put me exactly where he wanted me to be." And because she believes everything happens for a reason, Kristin took a leap of faith, applied for a Habitat home, and was accepted. "Now I'm actually grateful my car broke down!" she exclaimed.

Today Kristin's favorite part of Habitat for Humanity is watching the walls of a house rise. "It never gets old," she said. She is consistently amazed by the volunteers who are there solely for the pleasure of helping someone else. Kristin continued, "The sense of community in Bloomington is very impressive... and my girls and I now have a safe place where we can build our memories together too."

**More about Habitat for Humanity**  
Habitat for Humanity of Monroe

County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing locally. Habitat does this by partnering with families in need to build decent, safe, affordable homes. Habitat homeowners pay an interest-free mortgage and invest 250 volunteer hours with Habitat for their house. Applicants to Habitat's home ownership program must meet three basic criteria:

**1. Need for housing** – this includes substandard conditions affecting the structure, water, electrical or sewage systems, heating, hazardous substances, or failure to meet city property maintenance standards.

**2. Ability to pay** – Habitat homeowners pay an interest-free mortgage. Habitat is not a give-away program. Applicants cannot qualify for Habitat if they can obtain a home loan through traditional means. The mortgage payments Habitat

homeowners make are then recycled by Habitat to build more homes in Monroe County.

**3. Willingness to partner** – Habitat homeowners must invest 250 hours of "sweat equity" or volunteering, with Habitat as a down payment on their home. They work constructing their own home and those of other Habitat partners, volunteer in the Habitat ReStore and in the Habitat office.

Habitat also runs a ReStore on 300 W. 11th Street in Bloomington. ReStore collects and sells donated building materials and home furnishings to the public at discounted prices. All profits from the sales are used to build more homes for Monroe County families. Free donation pick-up is available. For more information about Habitat for Humanity and the Habitat ReStore, visit [www.monroecountyhabitat.org](http://www.monroecountyhabitat.org) or call 812-331-4069.

## Changes at Monroe County Public Library

By Margaret Harter, Community Relations Coordinator

It's an exciting time at the library as we complete renovations to the Main Library on Kirkwood. The project started last fall. Since finishing up the first floor changes to the Children's Area and to Checkout early in the year, the focus has turned to the second-floor public areas and a new Drive-up Window. Library patrons have been very patient during the renovation. They got to watch (and hear) much of the process up close as the library determined to stay open throughout.

As of May 1, **El Centro Comunal Latino** ([www.elcentrocomunal.org](http://www.elcentrocomunal.org)) has moved into a bigger, more centrally located space near the second-floor elevators. Please ask at any Information Desk if you need help finding the El Centro Office in its new location or finding any of the library's Spanish language materials (book, music, magazines, and music).

After a sojourn in temporary quarters on the first floor, **VITAL (Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners)** has moved back into its renovated space on the second floor. The new space configuration offers better lighting, larger tutoring rooms and a room for group learning. New learners and folks in the community wishing to find

out about becoming a VITAL tutor can call 349-3173, or stop by VITAL to see the changes.

In late May, **Circulation Services on the second floor** will move into their new location with enhanced self-check opportunities and a **new drive-up window** that will be open all library hours as a pickup location for reserved items. The new drive-up will become operational when the library closes the Grant Street Drive-Up.

Although there are a lot of changes happening at your library, many things are wonderfully 381000173355 the same. For instance, the **Summer Reading Program**. This year children are invited to "**Make a Splash**" at the library. Beginning Tuesday, June 1, children can

begin to pick up guides to participate in all the summer fun and learning at the library. Children can produce and/or perform in a television show, enjoy a variety of special story events, meet exotic animals and read to dogs, create comic books, do scientific experiments with goop, and much, much more. There's something for all children at the Main Library, Ellettsville Branch, and

### Contact MCPL:

303 E. Kirkwood Ave.  
Bloomington, IN  
47408  
812.349.3050  
[www.mcpl.info](http://www.mcpl.info)

See "MCPL", page 10

## 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 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

### Amethyst House, Inc.

Outpatient office: 812-336-3570,  
Men's house: 812- 336-2812  
Women's house: 812- 336-2666  
Evansville office: 812 401-3415  
Website: [www.amethysthouse.org](http://www.amethysthouse.org).

See "Amethyst House", page 10

# Area 10 Agency on Aging: Who we serve, what we do

By Susanna Foxworthy, Area 10 on Aging

Area 10 Agency on Aging is a private nonprofit organization serving older and/or disabled individuals in Monroe and Owen Counties. The agency provides a variety of services and has been active in the community since 1981. By engaging our area's older residents, our mission is to improve the quality of life and celebrate the health, dignity, and independence of our area's older residents.

Some of the services we provide include the Senior Citizens' Nutrition Project, a food pantry, Rural Transit, housing, and the 2-1-1 Infolink. Area 10 also sponsors the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, an initiative that offers meaningful volunteer opportunities for adults 55+ years in age.

This program matches seniors' talents and interests to local nonprofits in the community. Last year, 450 local seniors served over 90,000 hours.

In addition to RSVP, Area 10 provides recreational opportunities for seniors at the Endwright Center. The center includes a 150-foot soft-floor gymnasium, two exercise rooms with up-to-date fitness equipment, a creative arts room, and the Patsy Earles Performing Arts Stage. Here, seniors can participate in a variety of activities including painting, singing, one-on-one computer tutoring, strength training, and dance.

Area 10 offers helpful advice to seniors and their families through the Aging and Disability Resource Center, which serves as a bridge between individuals and the services that can help them maintain their independence and quality of life as they age. To maintain quality of life, Area 10 provides in-home services including grocery shopping, handyman services, and meal delivery.

Through Area 10's nutrition services, seniors who are 60 years of age and older, homebound, and unable to prepare meals for themselves receive prepared meals at



Area 10 offers money management to seniors who would like help with bills or balancing their checkbooks.

## Testimonial by Zena

*Every month, volunteers from Area 10 deliver groceries to houses around the community. I've received a bag of groceries every month for 4 years and share extra food with neighbors. One day, the driver who delivers my food, Bob, came to the door. I was not feeling very well, and he volunteered to take my blood sugar because I am a diabetic. My blood sugar was at 40, and Bob immediately called an ambulance and dropped everything to help me. He made me drink sugar water and stayed with me. Bob literally saved my life, and without him I wouldn't be around today. I still get meals from Bob and am doing much better. Because of Area 10 I have a bag of groceries every month.*

their house. One recipient of the program said, "The quality and regularity of the meals delivered have reminded me to eat regularly which I had been prone not to do. I do not drive and cannot walk without a cane or walker or wheel chair. This service has probably saved my life." Seniors can also receive nutritious meals at congregate sites in Monroe and Owen Counties.

The mission of Area 10 is to improve the quality of life for all seniors. We run an Older Workers Employment Program that helps seniors find gainful employment. An employment specialist

helps seniors build resumes that highlight their skills as well as find job opportunities. We also organize a Low-Vision Support Group that provides support for seniors who face vision impairment.

In addition to direct services for seniors, a long-term care ombudsman advocates for senior rights. These services are confidential and free, and anyone can contact the Ombudsman if interested in improving long-term care in our community. For more information on how you can receive any of these services or volunteer for the agency, please contact Area 10 Agency on Aging at 812.876.3383.

# Homeward Bound Walk: Helping those in need

By Homeward Bound Walk Organizing Committee

On April 19, more than 800 people set off from Third Street Park in Bloomington to walk five kilometers, raising awareness about local homelessness and raising money for the agencies addressing this problem. The 2010 Homeward Bound Walk attracted a record-breaking number of walkers and raised more than \$45,000 to address homelessness in Monroe County.

The success of this walk is an illustration of this community's commitment to helping our most vulnerable citizens and the agencies that serve them. Walkers of all types joined together to take action on this day: students and seniors, children and parents, friends and co-workers, agency volunteers and agency service recipients. Although there is much more work to be done before we can eliminate homelessness from our community, the strength of our caring was evident at the Homeward Bound Walk.

The Homeward Bound Walk Organizing Committee would like to thank all the walkers, donors, volunteers and entertainers who helped to make this event a success. Special recognition goes to the top fundraising teams: Centerstone Residential (\$4,531) and the HUB Team - MHC (\$2,356). Top individual fundraisers were:

Denise Jackson (\$3,711) and Bobbie Summers (\$2,105). The Golden Shoe Awards for the teams with the most walkers went to Alpha Chi Omega (99 walkers), St. Charles Track and Field (63), and Team CARE (48). The Dream Team Award Winners for best team themes were the Shalom Community Center and Calvary Kids.

This event was made possible by these sponsors: Indiana Association for Community Economic Development, City of Bloomington, Indiana University, Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, United Way of Monroe County, WTIU, WFHB, B97, Bloomington Central Lions Club, Mallor Clendening Grodner & Bohrer LLP, Tree of Life, Baugh Enterprises, and Troyer.

Donations to the walk will be accepted until May 18th online at <http://www.homewardboundindiana.org/bloomington>. Donations can also be mailed to:

Homeward Bound - Bloomington  
P.O. Box 3126  
Bloomington, IN 47402

If you are interested in helping to make next year's walk even better, contact Kathy Mayer, Walk Chair, at (812) 349-3430 or [mayerk@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mayerk@bloomington.in.gov).

## Amethyst House

*Continued from page nine*

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.

## MCPL

*Continued from page nine*

Bookmobile this summer. Call 349-3100 to learn more, or visit [www.mcpl.info/childrens](http://www.mcpl.info/childrens). Teens can participate in their own Summer Reading Program, earning prizes while learning more about their community. Check out the library's teen opportunities on Facebook.

This summer's adult movie series features **Depression Era** films from and

about the 1930s in America. MCPL also will have a **Legal Aid** educational series, Job Search programs running June, July, and August, and "**Lawyers in the Library**," a first-come-first-served service offering help with court documents for civil cases on Tuesdays in June.

All library programs are free. Experience your public library this summer.



# Martha's House provides for the homeless

By Bobbie Summers, Executive Director of Martha's House, Inc.

## Martha's House provides temporary housing and case management

Martha's House is an emergency shelter providing temporary housing for adults experiencing homelessness. The organization's twenty-eight bed facility shares a building with Community Kitchen and is located at South Rogers. In addition to emergency housing, the shelter provides case management designed to support clients as they identify their needs and develop strategies for stabilizing their lives. Because many of the residents staying in the shelter work, weekly case management is offered during the afternoon and evening to eliminate possible schedule conflicts that could disrupt work commitments and compromise clients' employment.

## Circumstances leading to homelessness vary

Since Martha's house opened in 2004, the shelter has provided over 35000 nights of stay to 1600 unduplicated men and women living in Monroe, Owen, and Lawrence counties. Who are these people finding their way to Martha's House? There is sometimes a misconception that those experiencing homelessness are in fact part

of a homogenous group with a simple, manageable solution to fix their plight... employment. Those staying in shelter were not always unemployed, but were often underemployed and vulnerable to the slightest changes in their circumstances to find themselves in crisis. In fact, the circumstances leading to their stays at Martha's House were unique to each person served and included veterans, women, individuals recovering from debilitating illnesses and surgery, with mental illness, physical disabilities, or recovering from substance abuse or on probation after being released from jail. Many of the women and men living in shelter face multiple issues as they work to rebuild their lives.

## Permanent housing for homeless individuals and families through Bridge Program

In addition to emergency shelter, Martha's House now provides permanent supportive housing through its Bridges program. The program began providing services in 2006 after the agency received HUD funds. The Bridges program includes extended housing support and case management for families vulnerable to

becoming homeless and for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

For families to be eligible for the program the head-of-household must have a disabling condition that has disrupted employment. Families participating may choose to remain in their existing neighborhoods as long as their housing does not exceed rent-cost guidelines established by HUD. This flexibility in location helps families through a difficult transition with minimal disruption to school age children. Parents participate in weekly case management meetings to identify the needs of their family and to develop strategies to support financial stability.

Adults eligible for the program must be chronically homeless as defined by HUD i.e. have been homeless for twelve months or have been homeless at least four times in a three-year period and have a chronic condition that limits employment. The Bridges program helps transition individuals into their own housing while still maintaining needed support systems.

Martha's House adheres to HUD formulated benchmarks designed to determine program effectiveness in stabilizing the

lives of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

These benchmarks include:

- Forty percent of those completing the program should transition to transitional or permanent housing. In 2009 Martha's House moved 62 two percent of those in the program for at least 30 days to stable housing.
- Eighty per cent of those served for at least seven days should receive case management at least once.
- Ninety-one percent of Martha's House participants receive case management.
- Fifty percent of those served should find or improve employment or increase wages.
- In 2009 53 percent of Martha's House participants found or improved employment.

### Martha's House

919 S. Rogers St.  
(812) 332-1444

## 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 participate 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 initiatives, 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).

Reprinted from the February 2010 issue of *Safety-Net*.



Children playing at the Circles program. See story on page 6.

# Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

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

## SNOW ODYSSEY

*By Kyle L.*

Windows fringed with snow cone dust are the tears of brisk winter skies  
Nature at its best, battling humanity for its dominance,  
violently it lays a calm blanket of frozen cotton over the horizon  
My hands like the cotton gin separate bushels  
upon bushels while my heart sings ol' Negro spirituals  
Drifting across a tasteless layout in search of fortitude  
from the luminous backdrop, my eyes strain to focus  
Broached trails hint at possible existence of colossus snow bunnies  
A winter breeze dances over and under a weeping willow tree, tear frozen veins  
How depressing it must be to feel sunshine and not  
reach for its photosynthesis induced rays  
A lake cringes at the approaching frigid zone, frightful  
mallards fight for their shivering pool  
The ice is not safe, don't walk on it  
It's like paper mache is my mental note as I progress across the tasteless cuisine  
The time of the year angels come out to dance  
You can see their imprints  
Do they waltz, tango, or favor the famous jitterbug dance?  
They seem to hang around well after Christmas has come  
Snow huts clutter the white romaine  
Snow people out running amok  
Hostile behavior threatens my approach  
A light snack before lunch seems more efficient, there's only one flavor – bland  
Mini icebergs floating, the Titanic is yesterday's news  
It's like my grandmother is hugging my insides,  
Campbell's Noodle Soup melting the cold away with each sip  
I saved a bit of my snack, too bad it melted before it reached my lips

## NOURISHMENT OF RAPTURE

*T. Strother*

I could be no better without you  
Your eyes hit my face like a sergeant  
I salute  
Attention...  
I'm admired by a smile that  
Raisin in the sun 'n I'm not talkin' about any ol' dried up fruit  
But I catch a vision...  
Vision of us bein' each other's completeness with just one touch  
Love is in the air just watch it rise up  
Smooth but intense never justified without prosecution  
Just wonderin' how not to judge this passion of an inmate  
Prisoned from your heart to escape to ecstasy of satisfaction  
A mountain to Rushmore  
We were made  
made...made...  
To capture this face to get to higher peaks  
Pleasure in more than your hands, body, even down to your feet  
Lovin' the mind even without closeness  
I'm shipping to sail our line for a moment in the ocean  
...with you...

## The Innocent

*By Sierra Launer 1/23/2110*

Innocent children need a mom, Dad or even a Friend,  
someone to show them the right way and treat them safely and tell them it's okay,  
our hand on a heart of a child's could be remembered Miles for Miles,  
not having a clue of what these innocent children go through,  
pain, sadness and abuse teach the children ways to reduce the child abuse.  
Let them smile, giggle and laugh showing them steps of a right path.  
Play with them outside tell them they shall never have to hide.  
Tickle them till they say Stop.  
Walk them to the gas station to get a Big Juice or a pop.  
Take them to the library to learn Education.  
Physically, Emotionally, getting the children to be appreciative as their little innocent  
hands and fingers are participating and making their life very creative.  
In a little child's mind they're hoping to not be left behind.  
Tell them they are fine cause now you're now and finally mine.  
My new daughter or son I wish you the best like a uprising Sun,  
I look straight into your eyes with me showing you I will always love and be  
there for you even though I am not your Birth Mother or Father,  
take me as a guideline to wait for the right time for you and me to socialize together,  
as I treat you as a feather wanting to work together to plan a wonderful upcoming future.  
I have love for all children even those who own no clothes, socks or shoes.  
When we take you out you buy things you'll appreciate as  
if this New family welcomed you to a New Side of a locked gate,  
You will one day be open minded and say  
Where are my Birth Parents, are they okay?  
As we answer the very hard question hoping we have created more satisfaction,  
Telling them their Birth Parents are okay including hoping they could one day  
tell us apart but look at the given support as we pray and wish that the children  
know their Birth Mother and father chose to go leave.  
We will always be here and they will be near showing their love to their birth  
Daughter or Son thinking about what the Birth Parents have done.  
As we all work together and help all the innocent children  
be able to define the right path as their life should successfully last.  
Day by Day, night by night, all the light, a smile which brings All innocent children.

## What Ifs

*By Jason Gard, 4/10*

As my mind drifts away  
layin' in my bed at night  
what ifs try to break my  
soul with all their might.  
They conquer my sanity, too, within a New York minute  
when I can't control the lies within it.  
Like termites to the mind they continue to eat.  
They won't even stop if I admit defeat.  
But if I can find that peace inside  
truly that is where my victory will lie.



# Special Section: Public Comment

## Against Economic Violence

By the Patti-Lee writing group

*This writing is contradictory, and this writing expresses a common voice, a conversation that is open ended.*

### Divergent Directions

It has become clear that Bloomington is moving along multiple paths, some hostile to many, and some supportive of all. Organizations, social forces and individuals are pushing both for and against these paths.

The facts that face Bloomington are common facts of all who inhabit this place. Bloomington markets itself to appear to be a progressive and liberal place. Though many people who live in this city may pride themselves on forward-thinking ways of life, we have a long way to go.

We must recognize and value our successes. The fact that we can and do gather together despite our different struggles, cultures and ways of life is the growing community dedicated to living our lives collectively and respectfully. We come together out of discontent and joy, and for some so much as rage.

### Judgment, Crime and Organic Community

Our lives as producers resemble commodities rather than living beings. We are judged literally by what we can produce for an economy which less and less benefits life in any way.

There are many who do not have the proper documents, for them their entire existence has become illegal, facing detention and deportation.

There are many people in our commu-

nity who do not have a place to sleep. The best they can hope for is a couple hours of sleep before the police tell them to move. In Bloomington, sleeping is a criminal act for many of our friends.

People gather together in clusters of tents, in a supporters' back yard, or on the margins of development, taking turns looking after each other. Some reach out to others for help, for defense against the hostilities of the media and police. We see large shows of protest during city council meetings. Facing oppression our community grows.

87% of the people in Monroe County Jail are awaiting trial, and unable to pay bail. Noting this does not at all condone the inhumane detention of those found guilty, but this is unacceptable and provides an easy solution to overcrowding, stop the judges from setting bail people cannot afford.

No matter what is our current standing in life, none of us has the capacity to fairly judge the standing of another individual. Unfortunately, people within our community do so. And those whose basic needs are not met often happen to be the object of judgment.

Is it a coincidence that the majority of those imprisoned look not like college students or consumers, or have no homes? This violence we see as the method to keep us at the foundation of the economy. Our coming together is the method to eliminate economic violence.

### Representation

We have the ability to elect officials who are going to carry forth the policies we want. As our elected officials, their duty is to pass laws and ordinances that are created and approved by the people.

The electorate makes decisions about our lives. They don't ask us and when we tell them they don't listen or don't care. We don't participate in politics because we think this does not work for us who don't have connections, money or privilege.

The county commissioners have decided to implement audio-visual booths to replace actual visitation. Inmates will no longer be allowed to visit their families.

We can stop them. An atmosphere of common struggle and solidarity is taking shape. Hundreds of people have signed a petition against video visitation. Many eloquent, passionate and rational arguments made to the commissioners during their own meetings. We see festive atmospheres behind the jail during visiting hours, shar-

See "Violence", page 14

## Wanting To Stay, Needing To Go

By J. H. 2010

I have absolutely and thoroughly enjoyed this 'adventure' of being part of the local homeless community for the last several months. I have gotten to know some special people, people with whom I want to stay in touch. I have gained an entire 'family' in every way except biological. I have found several niches for myself within this community doing needed services, and am considered affectionately by the community in general. I have been also providing an ear to several homeless young men, as an older woman, almost a parent figure, which helps me with my own ongoing grief during this time of being separated from my own son and daughter, who are grown and living in other states. In spite of all this, I am considered as only temporary, as obviously a person who will move on permanently soon. Do you wonder why? Two examples can explain it: I set my place at the table, and I use my spoon to twirl the spaghetti onto the fork. First example: Every meal, I put my plate, glasses, extra bowls, and silverware in a place setting at my seat. I place the silverware in the continental arrangement, the fork on the left. I always get fork, spoon, and knife if possible. I also use a napkin. I do not fuss about it, in fact it came as a surprise to me when I realized that many in the community had noticed what I do. Like I'm an exotic bird or something equally interesting for them, but set apart from them. Out of probably 45 people in the room, I believe that I am the only person who does this. I come from a background where out of 45 diners, 45 would do this. Second example:

When spaghetti is served, which happens frequently since it's a real favorite, I use my spoon to twirl the spaghetti onto the fork. Once again, it is natural for me to do this, I always have, I just do. I am not self conscious about it, but have become aware that I am universally watched by the other diners, once again the ONLY person who eats this way. There have been lots of others who try doing it themselves, calling it a "classy" habit, but I am not aware that anyone has taken it up as a habit themselves. (Watching them try is entertaining.) Out of 45 diners I am the only one who has this habit. I was taught the habit as a child because it was the norm with the upper middle class people my parents were around. I am NOT upper middle class, though. I am not even middle class. My life just has not unfolded that way.

I do not expect to be an active part of this homeless community for very much longer, true. But being treated as a square peg in a round hole simply because there are vestiges of a past that is no longer applicable to me is not particularly an accurate way to treat me, although I am not treated this way out of any sort of malice.

I try to let my homeless family and friends know that these (and other habits that they have observed being so close to me as we have lived together for months) are simply habits. They look very knowing and indicate that there is more to it – there is more to me—than that. And whatever the 'more' is, they tell me it will take me fully away from them.

I hope they are mistaken.

## Being Homeless

By Joshua D. Morales

Being homeless is not a joke so to the people who think it's funny you need to stop and think what if that was me? Anything could happen. Look at what happened to all the people in Louisiana any one to lose what they have, to fire, flood, or anything. Anything can happen so have some respect for the homeless people and think what would happen if this happened to me? Homeless people are just like every one else. We have feelings. Just because we don't have a home we are just like everyone else!!!!

## Being Homeless

By Abraham Morales III, "Abraham the Harmonica Man"

Being homeless isn't any fun. Being homeless doesn't mean you're a drunken lazy bum. Sometimes people are homeless because of disasters like Hurricane Katrina or fires, or earthquakes. Some people have homes but they look like bums. Sometimes people walk by and look at you in disgust. Get a job you lazy bum! And some times they call you vulgar names. You could see a man dressed in a suit and a shirt and he could be homeless. You could see a man dressed in dirty clothes and he could live in a mansion. Anybody can become homeless at one time or another. How would people feel if they couldn't get into a shelter because they are all filled up? How would they feel if they had to walk the streets at night or sleep in a tent on a cold winter night; sleeping in a sleeping bag and blankets trying to keep warm. People need to stop and think that being homeless isn't any fun. Being homeless is something that could happen to anybody. So people wake up! The way the economy is going there's going to be a lot more homeless people. So don't laugh at the homeless or look at them in disgust. Being homeless isn't fun. And just because you are homeless doesn't mean you're a dirty drunken bum.

# Special Section: Public Comment

## From the Frying Pan Into the Fire: One Mother's Story

by Joan Foor White

The story I am going to tell is true and one that illustrates the failure of the system, the success of the system, and the redemption of an individual.

I came to know Theresa Ladd and her four children in the fall of 2008. My husband and I were paired as "Bigs" with her second child, Donnell. We sometimes did things with the whole family; for example, Theresa and I and all of the kids (and one friend of the children, as Cardinal Theater was kind enough to give us a substantial cost reduction as a BBBS benefit) went to see "Treasure Island" that winter. Then, that spring, Theresa and I spent some time together talking about her job prospects and attending Broadview School to work toward attaining her GED. However, before she was able to do that, in an attempt to make some sorely needed money, Theresa made a mistake that landed her in prison for one year. Her mistake: trying to smuggle a cell phone and some marijuana into a prison, known as trafficking. She had been

in trouble prior to that, about a year before; again, in an equally desperate situation.

Her structured life had ended at the age of 12, when her grandmother, who had raised her, died. "All I ever wanted was a family life with my husband and our children," she has said to me more than once. Theresa had come to Bloomington to escape from a 12-year relationship that had gone sour. Although work was no stranger to her as she had worked since she was 16 at menial jobs in Indianapolis where she grew up, she couldn't find a job in Bloomington. No job, no income, poor neighborhood, the rest of the story could have written itself.

Her children made it through this past year with the help of Theresa's maternal uncle, her step-father who came from out of town to care for the children, Fairview School and SCCAP. The teachers at Fairview were wonderfully supportive and caring and I am giving them special mention here.

The children are supportive of each other and care for each other in a way that I have never seen before and I attribute this to their mother. For example, on David's birthday this last February (David is # 3 child) I picked up both boys from school and told David it was his choice of what we would do, as it was his special day. His first choice was to feed Donnell, who was hungry, even though he, David was not. They are consistently thoughtful and considerate of one another even though they are eight and nine years old. The oldest child, Da'anna has been a peer mediator to others in her class and the youngest, Done-sha was recently featured on the front page of the Herald-Times recently as she played the violin with her classmates at IU.

Theresa was released and has turned her year in prison into a positive experience. Even though she didn't quite reach the goal of getting her GED, she did take GED classes and is much closer. She also learned to crochet, took a class called "Thinking

For a Change" and indeed, spent a lot of time thinking about her life as well as her goals, during that year. She missed and worried terribly about her children and has vowed to "never put them in that position again. I have learned a lesson."

Prison life, by the way, was not pleasant. Long waiting lines to the microwave to heat water for your tea or noodles, three issued rolls of toilet paper per month, one hour out of doors on special days. And rules upon rules, such as "no sitting on your roommate's bed." To her credit, she made the best of it and has vowed "never to return". Her children literally counted the days till her release.

Hopefully she will be able to stay in Bloomington as her children love their school and I think there are many opportunities here for her also, once she has secured a job and housing. Let us hope that the help she needs, (and finally can ask for) will emerge and allow her and her children to remain a part of this community.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**June 3:**

**The eBus will be coming to Bloomington.**

*See the article by Doug Wilson on p. 2.*

**June 12:**

**Homelessness:**

**A Community Response.**

This will take place at City Hall, city council chambers, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Open to the public.

*See the article about the Interfaith Winter Shelter on p. 4.*



Children playing at the Circles program. **See story on page 6.**

### Violence

*Continued from page thirteen*

ing coffee and donuts, sign making and activities for children. The community grows in the face of isolating pressures.

How else do we act? We can join our struggles, and act together in ways that make us unavoidable. Which bring out into the open the hidden conflicts we are experiencing. We want to act in ways that

completely express our frustration and fully satisfy our desire to take steps out of exploitation. Look for and greet each other.

*1*  
2009 Daily Population Sheet (the jail does not keep current records of who is in the jail at any given time, this was the last time this information was made public)



# 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*

## Girls Inc. of Monroe County- Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold!

*By Rachel Dotson, Director of Operations Girls Incorporated of Monroe County • [www.girlsinc-monroe.org](http://www.girlsinc-monroe.org) • 812-336-7313*

Our community is facing some difficult decisions. School systems are forced to drastically reduce expenditures, other educational programs are also struggling, and the outlook is disheartening. We know that these and future cuts will drastically affect our schools and our students – lost opportunities in our classrooms and beyond. We know that attendance at after school programs prepares students for school and increases their likelihood to succeed in school. Participation in extracurricular activities increases self-confidence, decreases risky behaviors, and leads to an all around balanced and healthy lifestyle - things that will in turn increase a child's chances for success in school.

Girls Inc. provides after school, summer and full day camp, and sports programs for girls ages 6-18 in Monroe County. Our programming is designed to meet the unique needs of girls, and to allow girls to have fun, learn new skills, and challenge themselves in a supportive, all-girl environment.

At Girls Inc., we believe that all girls should have the opportunity to participate in sports. Research shows that girls who play sports are more likely to stay in school, report a high level of self-confidence, avoid risky behavior, and stay

active as adults. Through participating in sports programs, girls also make new friends and form healthy relationships with supportive adults, challenge themselves and learn new skills, and expand their own sense of what they are capable of. Girls Inc. offers volleyball, basketball, and dance leagues that are affordable and open to girls of all skill and experience levels. In the summer, Girls Inc. will be running a dance program that will include ballet for 6-8's, jazz for 9-11's, and hip hop for teens. Our end-of-season recital is open to the community. You can look for more information at [www.girlsinc-monroe.org](http://www.girlsinc-monroe.org).

Along with our summer dance program, Girls Inc. will provide a full day summer camp for more than 80 girls this summer. This is an essential service for families that work full time and need a safe, fun, and educational environment for their daughters during the summer months. At summer camp, girls will hike, swim, participate in art programs, conduct science experiments, work in the community gardens, participate in theater programs, volunteer, and much more! They will also be taking field trips to the Indianapolis Children's Museum, Wonderlab, the Monroe County Fair, and Big Splash Adventure water park.

Throughout the summer we will be taking registrations for our fall semester after school program. Girls Inc. provides transportation from most MCCSC schools, a snack, help with homework, and structured programming for girls. Every afternoon nearly 55 girls come to the Girls Inc. center to participate in programs related to art, theater, sports, nutrition, leadership, dance, chemistry, and much more. Additionally, Girls Inc. is open for full day program on many of the days that MCCSC schools are closed, including winter break and spring break, ensuring that working parents have a safe, fun, and affordable option for their daughters.

At this time youth programs are more important than ever, and we need your help to ensure that all girls in Monroe County have access to affordable, high quality programs. There are many ways that you can contribute to our mission of inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. You can make a donation, volunteer, or encourage the girls you know to participate in Girls Inc. after school, camp, and sports programs. To find out more about our programs and how you can get involved, please contact Lucy Berger at [lberger@monroe.girls-inc.org](mailto:lberger@monroe.girls-inc.org) or 336-7313.

### A Family's Perspective on Girls Inc. Programs

Girls Inc. has had a profound impact on the life of our daughter, and truly on the life of our entire family. We feel so grateful to know that our daughter spends her afternoons (as well as vacation days!) in an environment that is so rich with quality programming and substantive values. Our daughter has truly internalized the message of Girls Inc., and it's incredible to listen to her tell people she meets that she is a strong, smart and bold girl. She's proud of her association with Girls Inc., and even at seven years old she understands the significance of being part of a movement to celebrate the power and achievements of young women. I truly believe that her experiences at Girls Inc. will impact her for the rest of her life, and will influence both her professional and personal choices. We thank Girls Inc. for helping her to recognize her own value and her ability to contribute to making the world a better and more just place for everyone.

*Family of a Girls Inc. member*



*Children playing at the Circles program. See story on page 6.*

# Special Section: Volunteer Network

*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/>.*

## Leading Volunteers Recognized Be More Awards honor outstanding community service

*By Elizabeth D. Savich, Director City of Bloomington Volunteer Network • [savichb@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:savichb@bloomington.in.gov)*

The Be More Awards, honoring local volunteers for outstanding community service, were presented on April 27 in the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. Eighty-three individuals and groups, all of whom had been nominated by community members, were recognized for their generous commitment to the community in the past year. The Awards program is sponsored by the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, IU Credit Union, United Way of Monroe County and WTIU Public Television.

Award recipients in nine categories were selected by an independent panel of judges. Mayor Mark Krusan presented each honoree with a commemorative plaque and Community Foundation President Shari Woodbury presented each with a \$500 check for the organization for which the recipient volunteered. The Be More Awards are selected by a panel of independent judges.

New this year was the People's Choice Award, which was decided by individuals who voted online for their favorite place to volunteer. All organizations listed on a Be More Award volunteer nomination were eligible. Over 27,000 votes were tabulated, with WonderLab coming in first with almost 1/3 of the votes.

A total of \$5000 was presented by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County to community organizations through the Be More Awards.

Presenters included Mayor Mark Krusan, Shari Woodbury (Community Foundation), Bryan Price (President and CEO of IU Credit Union), Phil Meyer (Station Manager, WTIU), Barry Lessow (Executive Director of United Way of Monroe County), Harold "Pete" Goldsmith (IU Dean of Students), Juan Carlos Carrasquel (Realtor and President, Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs), Talisha Coppock (Executive Director, Downtown Bloomington, Inc.), Mary Turner (Associate Director for Diversity, IU Office of Admission), and Bet Savich, Director of the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network.

### Recipient Summaries:

The recipients of the **Be More Collaborative Award**, which recognizes a family or a group who demonstrate outstanding volunteer engagement, is the Bloomington

Amateur Radio Club. With more than 100 members, the Club gives countless hours of support to many local events and organizations, including the Red Eye Relay, which nominated them.

The recipient of the **Be More Involved Award**, which recognizes a student or student group who demonstrates exceptional effort and vision in their community volunteer activities, is Brittney Paulk. Paulk, a Resident Assistant in the IU Teter Quad, developed the "Adopt a Non-Profit" Program 15 months ago. The program matches each of the 11 residence centers (totaling 10,000 students) with a particular non-profit organization in the Bloomington area. In addition, as the Community Events organizer for the IU Groups Program, she influenced more than 100 students to volunteer and benefitted more than 15 local organizations.

The recipient of the **Be More Creative award**, which is presented for exceptional efforts within an arts or culture-based organization, endeavor or issue, is the Bloomington Community Band. Since 1978, the Band has provided hundreds of free concerts for countless people in Monroe and surrounding counties, including numerous civic events, such as Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations as well as concerts in area retirement homes.

The recipient of the **Be More Phenomenal award**, which honors dedicated effort to fulfill the mission of a nonprofit or governmental organization through board or committee leadership, is Tara Darcy-Hall. Darcy-Hall has re-defined the role of Board President for Bloomington Area Birth Services, providing both clear leadership and the ability to assume a supporting role. She has grown their operating budget from \$6,000 to \$300,000 and led a fundraising gala that increased overall contributions by 500%.

The recipient of the **Be More Knowledgeable award**, which spotlights excellence in the area of education or literacy, is the WonderLab Volunteer Team. Last year 864 individuals donated more than 15,000 hours in many different capacities. The Wonderlab staff attests that the volunteers bring passion, inspiration and incredible energy to the museum, and are considered the heart and soul of WonderLab.

The **Be More Energized award** is presented to an exceptional child or teenage



volunteer or to a youth group. The recipient, Lily Kinder headed the Bloomington High School North Best Buddies chapter in the summer of 2009. She has been matched with her Buddy Zach for the past three years and has exemplified the mission of Best Buddies Indiana, promoting social inclusion through one-to-one friendships between people with intellectual disabilities and people without disabilities.

The **Be More Sustainable award** honors innovation, leadership or positive impact in promoting the principles of sustainability in the environmental or animal welfare sectors. The recipient, Art Woodruff, DVM, was nominated by City of Bloomington Animal Care & Control. Since 2000, Woodruff has been visiting the shelter weekly, examining animals, running tests, making diagnoses and prescribing treatments. He regularly sees 10 to 20 animals in one visit and is always patient and gentle.

The **Be More Bloomington award** is selected from all of the submitted nominations. Criteria include overall excellence, level of community impact and embodiment of community goodwill. The recipient, Dawna Petersen, has served Middle Way House clients for more than 20 years, providing crisis intervention services for women and children experiencing violence. Her passion for ending domestic and sexual violence has been an inspiration to fellow volunteers. Her actions remind caretakers of the power of a calming voice and determined spirit.

The **Be More Dedicated award** honors life long volunteers who have had a major impact on the community. The recipients, Joe and Joyce Peden, were honored for

their 50-year commitment to the Monroe County Children's Farm Festival. The Farm Festival has been one of the premier educational events for preschool and elementary school youth in Monroe County to learn about farm life and the value of farming to a sustainable community.

"The Volunteer Network was started in 1980", said Bet Savich, Director. "In that 30 year span, our volunteer awards program has had a variety of names, depending on sponsorship, including the Golden Rule Awards, the Heart and Hand Awards and now, the Be More Awards. But its overall purpose, to provide a platform, an ongoing campaign, to recognize extraordinary volunteer contributions to the community has been the same. Hats off to this year's Be More Award nominees and recipients!"

*For information about how your time and talents can be harnessed as a volunteer, visit the Bloomington Volunteer Network website at [www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer) or contact Bet or Lucy at 349-3433 or [volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov)*

### City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

401 N. Morton Street, Suite 260  
PO Box 100

Bloomington IN 47402

812-349-3472

fax: 812-349-3483

[volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov)

[savichb@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:savichb@bloomington.in.gov)

[www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Bloomington-Volunteer-Network/56202931201?ref=ts>



# 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.

## 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

### Backstreet Missions Thrift Store

**Address:** 1911 S. Walnut St.

**Phone:** (812) 333-3341

### Monroe County United Ministries

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

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Rebecca Gordan ([812]353-9150; [mcmuhelp@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mcmuhelp@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]335-1280 [volunteer@bloomingtonsvdp.org](mailto:volunteer@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.

### 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 train-

ing 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

#### El Centro Comunal Latino

**Address:** 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11  
**Phone:** (812) 355-7513

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

**About:** CCL is a grassroots, community-based organization that seeks to provide an accessible and safe space for all Latinos, with a focus on Spanish-speaking people, to find information, access to resources and a place to hold community events. CCL's work includes tutoring services for all ages, the medical interpretation network, direct service, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, the Legal Advice Project, Informate—series of educational presentations, health programming, and the Bienvenidos program; a support group that helps immigrants acculturate to life in the United States.

#### 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.pp.in.org](http://www.pp.in.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)  
**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.

#### 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*

### Hoosier Hills Food Bank

**Address:** 2333 W. Industrial Park Drive  
**Phone:** (812) 334-8374  
**Web:** [www.hhfoodbank.org](http://www.hhfoodbank.org)  
**Volunteer Contact:** Kai Westerfield (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.mhfoodpantry.org](http://www.mhfoodpantry.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

**(Location soon to move. See article by Patricia Andrews on page 5.)**  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**Volunteer Contact:** Andrea Smith ([812] 334-2828; 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  
**Volunteer Contact:** Donnie Morgan ([812] 332-5311; 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  
**Volunteer Contact:** Rachel Dotson, Director of Operations ([812] 336-7313; 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  
**Volunteer Contact:** Libby Gwynn ([812] 334-8349; 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.rhinosyouthcenter.org  
**Volunteer Contact:** Brad Wilhelm ([812] 333-3430; 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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**Volunteer Contact:** Tess Hannah (339-8710; 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  
**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  
**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.