

FREE



South Central Community Action Program

SCCAP

Empowering people to reach their potential

A social service publication about our community — Brought to you by the South Central Community Action Program

Safety~Net

October-December
2021

Building Houses and Building Community: Monroe County Habitat for Humanity.

By Eric Spears

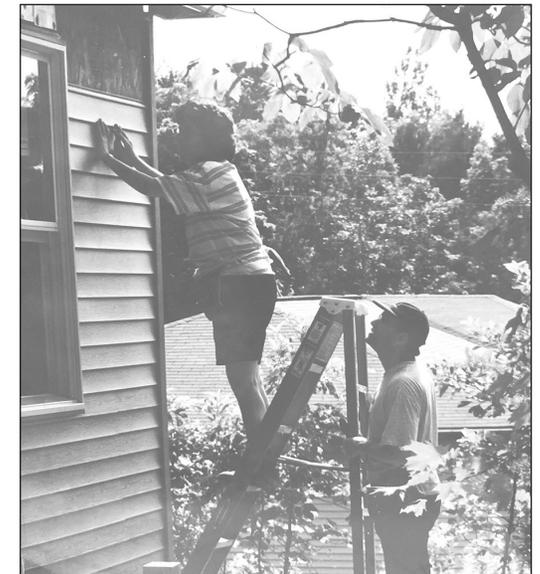
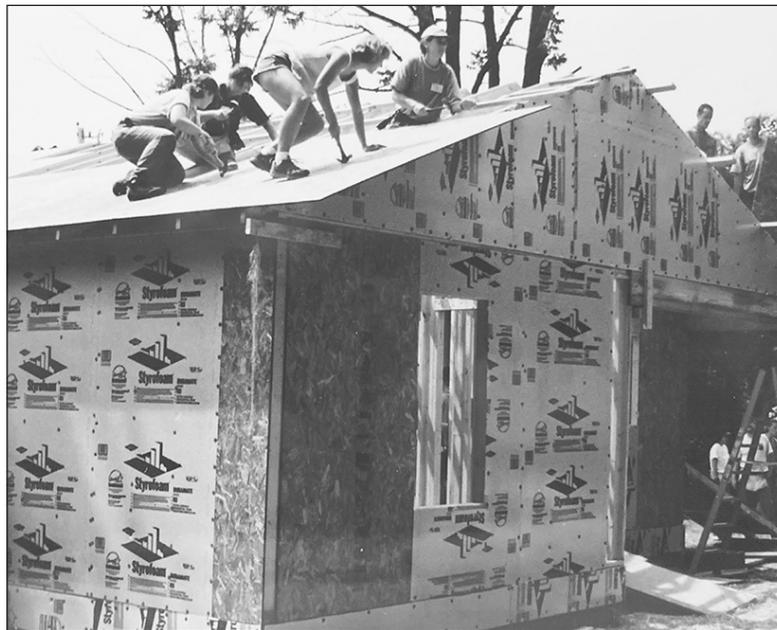
Since their inception in 1988, Monroe County Habitat for Humanity has built over 210 homes, providing affordable housing for more than 770 people, including nearly 450 children. Hermine Cohen has enjoyed living in her Habitat-built home since 1999. Like all Habitat homeowners, Hermine put in at least 200 hours of volunteer time and attended homeowner readiness classes in order to qualify. She also served on Habitat's Family Selection Committee, helping to bring in other housing recipients.

Hermine was single mom with two kids, 12 and 16 at the time. "I would not have gotten [my home] if it wasn't for [Habitat]," she says. She was able to put very little money down toward her low, no-interest mortgage, and slowly build up equity in her house - a house that she helped build with her own hands - and her children helped build their house as well.

The mortgage payments from homeowners like Hermine are funneled back into Habitat's mission to "bring people together to build homes, communities and hope." Along with grants and donations, local Habitat homes are also funded through Habitat's Restore, located at 850 South Auto Mall Road in Bloomington. The public can donate household items, and purchase goods at below regular retail prices.

Monroe County Habitat builds about 8-10 houses per year and is currently working on their third Habitat neighborhood, Osage Place, which will include nearly 70 homes.

To find out how to apply for a Habitat home, or to donate or volunteer, you can go to their website: monroecountyhabitat.org, or call (812) 331-4069.



Hermine Cohen working on her house with volunteer and Family Selection Committee member, Dan Price, holding the ladder

Left: Habitat for Humanity volunteers working on the roof of Hermine's house

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Editorial Comment

Our Guiding Principle is to reach out to others who are coping with practical and emotional crises, and to say, we are here as one community, interconnected with each other in a positive way. This means, among other things, providing shelter, food, medical care, opportunities to step out of poverty, peace, and mutual respect. This whole world would be a much better place for all people if everyone felt this way about our brothers and sisters. As individuals, we cannot change the world. However, we can all come together and help others in our own community. Let us show others, what we can do right here in Bloomington by reaching out to each other, and climbing that mountain together. To paraphrase Pete Seeger, We WILL Overcome.



Tabitha and Ray Start a Business

By Joan White

Tabitha Farmer and Donald Ray Vestal have started a business housecleaning and yard work.

They are a 19 and 20 year old couple who met at the youth shelter 3 years ago and have been supporting each other ever since.

Why are we writing about them?

They are young, have overcome considerable (and are still fighting) adversity, are DEMANDING a real living wage, and we want to celebrate as well as highlight their accomplishments.

Tabitha and Ray met at Monroe County Youth Services Bureau 3 years ago, became friends, and found role models as well as mentors there. They continued and strengthened their friend and partnership once they “aged out” of YSB.

They began working for at first, minimum wage and then slightly more than minimum wage, and found that they were not able to make ends meet even with

a combined income. So on the advice of their first client, they began charging more so that they could maintain a living wage. They now have 12-15 steady clients and wish to acquire at least 40 by the end of this year.

They are temporarily living with friends but are saving money to buy a truly mobile home as they intend to have a traveling business in the Midwest and live independent of a mortgage company or landlord; hoping to buy a used RV.

Tabitha feels she was supported “without fail” by an aunt, and encouraged to pursue her art by her “art mentor, Tara.” She and Ray felt supported by her mother “to a degree” as well.

Ray does not have a relationship with his biological parents but has had a very positive one with his stepfather.

Both of them say of their parents “We learned from their mistakes.” and “We feel we are old people in young bodies.”



They keep their spirits afloat with humor and the hope that they will one day be successful business and homeowners by their persistence and hard work.

T&D MultiHome Care can be reached at 812-340-5612.

Working Toward Self-sufficiency with Monroe County United Ministries

By: Erin Vaughn

Monroe County United Ministries offers many programs for community members. In the last couple of years, the agency has seen a lot of growth and changes. The main goal is to decrease barriers and make our services as accessible as possible.

Our basic needs services include our client-choice food pantry, full-size cleaning and hygiene supplies, sanitary products, diapers, wipes, and even clothing vouchers. We will often also have seasonal items to offer to clients as well, such as back to school kits, holiday items, and more! We try to offer our clients the items they need and can use. In the last year, the agency has even added online ordering for all basic needs services. When ordering online, clients can choose to pick-up their order at the SSC or opt for delivery directly to their home.

In addition to basic needs services, MCUM also offers financial programs for clients as well. Our longest-standing program is our emergency financial assistance. This program offers up-to one month’s rent or metered utility amount to clients once a year. Another program is our IDA (Individual Development Account) program. This is a 2-3 year program that stands as a way

to encourage saving and take steps towards financial security. In this program, saved funds are matched 3-1 by the partnered bank, rewarding clients for saving and taking these steps. Our newest financial program is our microloan program. MCUM created this program as a way to offer a small loan to help clients overcome a financial obstacle without having to take out a payday loan or other high-interest loan. This program is open for applications quarterly.

Our SSC has a third component of services that it offers clients. This area of services includes our mobility mentoring programs. Our current program is called Your Path. This program is for anyone and everyone who would like to make and meet goals that will increase their feeling of self-sufficiency. Participants meet with coaches to discuss goals, attain resources, and create plans to create their own journey, or path. Coaches are there to provide accountability and incentives, not make goals or push a participant in a direction they do not want to go. The program also uses unique methods to measure growth and progress that can be empowering to anyone involved.

About *Safety~Net*

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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.

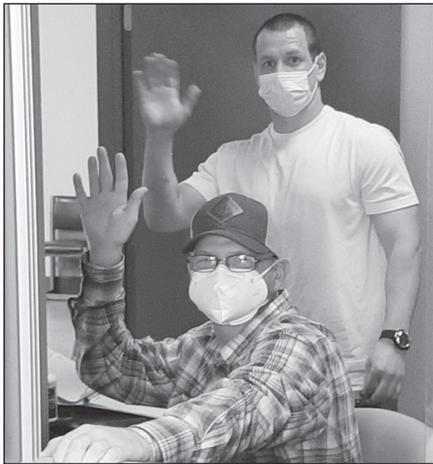
WE WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Please send these to the editor at white@indiana.edu. Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.

Wheeler Mission — Bloomington a Refuge to Many

By: Dana Jones

The term refuge is defined as a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble. Although the pandemic has prevented many of us from the normal comforts of travel and gatherings, our homeless neighbors were not only enduring the crisis of homelessness but also the uncertainty of a world engulfed in pandemic. Wheeler Mission-Bloomington took on the challenge to create a refuge for all those caught in this storm. Desiring to provide a safe space, our shelter staff trained in CDC protocols to provide prevention, certified with the state to provide testing, and coordinated with Monroe County Health and IU Community Health to make vaccines available. Due to these efforts nearly 70% of our guests have been vaccinated. Additionally, volunteers mobilized to create sack lunches from the safety of their homes and places of work and



worship, to assist in feeding the hungry of our community. Local organizations, individuals, churches, and businesses provided face masks, hand sanitizer, bedding, toiletry items, clothing, food items, and other donations needed. The Bloomington community tirelessly supported the efforts of Wheeler during 2020 and everyone's effort paid off by providing a refuge in the pandemic where 35,081 nights of lodging was provided to 698 individuals, 990 people received case management or other service, and 83,634 meals were served to the public.

But Wheeler did not stop there. Space for social distancing was added by the purchase of the Annex building located at the north part of our cul-de-sac which now houses our new dayroom with internet service, restrooms/showers, case management offices and our commercial washers and dryers. Also, to provide more room for our Emergency Shelter guests Wheeler purchased the building next to our current Center for Men which in the future will house our new spacious men's 84 bed Emergency Shelter replacing our current one. This facility will host a new dayroom, restrooms/showers, a courtyard with personal lockers for the guests, and office space for staff.

For women experiencing homelessness our Center for Women located at 400 Opportunity Lane continues to provide 30-40 safe, socially distanced beds.

All of Wheeler's shelters remain low barrier providing a safe, warm place



of shelter for those who may have no other option. While some shelters may require a homeless neighbor to be sober or pass a drug test, we do not. A neighbor experiencing homelessness can show up at our doors just as they are without the need for an ID, fear of a warrant check, or drug/alcohol screen.

This year in order to prevent homelessness Wheeler Mission—Bloomington also established our homeless intervention service which assists individuals from becoming homeless through intensive case management and limited financial assistance.

And as always Wheeler works diligently not only to remove barriers to shelter

but also to care and treatment by helping guests navigate the sometimes-confusing healthcare, and social service networks helping them connect to the resources they need. Thus, Wheeler Mission-Bloomington continues to act as a refuge providing critically needed goods and services to the homeless, poor, and needy of our community without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, creed, national origin, or religion.

Fundraiser Info

Wheeler Mission—Bloomington is excited to be organizing our first annual fun 5k run/walk on Saturday, October 30th. Proceeds will directly benefit Wheeler Mission—Bloomington's programs and services for men and women who are experiencing homelessness in Bloomington and in South-Central Indiana. Visit www.TheGreatPumkinDash.com to register. Let's move our feet so others can eat!



Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

By: Tina L. Wilde

It took everyone's help....

I've been here for a while now. Homeless and unemployed. And because I've had help with the community and Dana and Nicole I've had so much. Food stamps HealthCare and shelter. I honestly wouldn't have

made it if for everyone's help. Showers restrooms and supplies, the kitchen and people employed at Wheeler. And do not forget homeless disability have helped also. It took everyone's help in the details ways to help and I'm making it. Night shelter workers and days. Without this help. And Kovenant and Sholomes. I wouldn't have made it in detail (housing)

needs for homelessness. All this works together in needs. Appts. Rides to and from medical. It takes everyone in detail. Thank you Wheeler. I've the start I needed. Do not forget early social security. This to computers phones. The office management. Thank you Wheeler staff.



Pantry 279 has grown up and now serves thousands!

By: Cindy Chavez

Pantry 279, The Pantry with TLC, was originally conceived, built, and ran by 12 6th - 8th grade girls in Girl Scout troop 69-279 (Hence the name) of Edgewood Jr. High, to help their friends, whose family was experiencing food insecurity due to lack of employment. The Pantry also earned them their Silver Award in Girl Scouts. After 2 years of research and planning, the pantry opened on Nov. 2, 2015 in the bus bay of Trinity Lutheran Church. 25 people came to get food on that first day. From there, the pantry grew at an alarming rate, to 607 people in the first month, 1200 in the second, 1400 the third, and so on to reach 3500 people a month, representing 28 counties in Southern Indiana the Feb. 2020 before Covid-19 hit.

In March of 2020, Covid-19 hit and so did the lock down. As people lost jobs and hours, our lines grew. Within a month we were serving 5000 people, then 6000, and finally over 8000 a month in Dec 2020. Since then the numbers have dropped, but only to around 6000 a month. In 2020, we served over 75000 individuals representing now 32 counties, and handed out over 1,500,000 pounds of food. Monroe county remains are largest at around 60-65 % of the people we serve, Owen and Green are a fast second. While we have always offered delivery to the 100% homebound in Bloomington and Ellettsville, we went from 6-8 deliveries a week to 50-90 deliveries a week. We began partnering and

supplying food for Hotels for Homeless and Helping Hands. We began receiving calls from senior citizens needing help, homeless camps that were popping up everywhere and needing food, we began taking our van around to neighborhoods in need, and finally began a summer supplemental food program for children and brought it to Owen County and Lawrence, as well as Monroe.

People in need of food can come to the pantry once every 7 days to receive food and what toiletries and cleaning supplies we have in stock. We also try to keep baby products such as diapers and formula available, as well as feminine hygiene supplies. We are currently on a drive thru only, no contact method, but eagerly await the day we can return to indoor shopping choice. For those having dietary concerns or allergies, please feel free to ask about gluten free, Lactose free, vegetarian, vegan, or diabetic options. If we have them, we will happily get them for you. For those that are 100% home bound and located in Ellettsville or Bloomington, we offer contactless delivery. The schedule, please call, text, email or PM us before Wed. 6pm on the weeks you need food. We try to make sure everyone has a variety of items including Frozen Meat, Fresh Produce, Bread, Bakery, Dairy (if we have it), and many non-perishable from canned goods to cereals to boxed side and chips. If we have drinks, we give those out as well. We feel no one should go hungry and everyone has the right to many kinds of not only healthy food, but also sweets.



Pantry 279 is also known for its extra programs including 7 community gardens, Children's Summer Supplemental food program, and the School Supply program in August. As of Sept 1, we have been taking sign ups for Thanksgiving boxes on our website www.pantry279.org. Last year we distributed 2432 Thanksgiving boxes, which contain a menu of 14-16 items where a family can make a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner in their own home and be with family, without the embarrassment of not being able to afford food. A list of our menu is also on our website. The Thanksgiving box program also delivers to the homebound. This wildly popular program relies 100% on the community to provide the food items or cash to purchase the food items, as well as volunteers to help make the boxes and distribute them. We are very fortunate to live in such an awesome, loving and caring community to make this enormous miracle happen every year. To donate food, funds, or volunteer for this project, please sign up on our webpage or just call or email.

The final, and most fun extra program is the ELF Dispatch program in December. Similar to Angel Tree, the program individually and carefully matches children signed up with "Santas". The idea is "The Best Christmas Ever" for both the child and Santa. We want

the Santa to have as much fun getting the gifts, as the child will opening them on Christmas morning. Last year we helped 1397 children and 3 Senior Citizens have an amazing Christmas!

While we started small, from the desires of a handful of young Girl Scouts to help those in the community who were hungry, we have exploded onto the scene and become an integral and valuable part of this community and many others. We never planned any of this, but we stepped up to the challenge, and with the help of amazing volunteers, a fantastic community, and the church who houses us, we continue to make the impossible, possible. Now as we look to the future, we are in the process of finding a larger building to expand our mission even more. The future is bright and exciting!

Pantry 279 contact info:

www.pantry279.org
Email: pantry279@yahoo.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pantry279>
Phone: 812-606-1524
Location is the rear of Trinity Lutheran Church @ 501 E Temperance, Ellettsville, IN

DONATIONS can be sent via Paypal: Pantry279@yahoo.com, Venmo: @pantry279, or mailing address is P.O. Box 312, Ellettsville, IN 47429



Your Voices, Our Future: Transforming Community Health Decision-Making

By: Jill Joliff

An important project is underway in Monroe County. The Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM), in conjunction with the Bloomington Health Foundation (BHF), is now at the mid-way point in a comprehensive project to address inequities in community decision-making about issues that affect health. Participation by all segments of the community is critical to making sound decisions that benefit everyone. CJAM and the BHF recognize that many members of our community are left out of the process altogether.

To help address this imbalance, the organizations were jointly awarded a 30-month grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to analyze current practices, identify gaps, and develop a model for community engagement that is equitable and inclusive. Entitled Community Voices for Health in Monroe County (CVHMC), the project aims to reimagine how decisions are made in our community and to transform existing practices into ones that are meaningful, community-wide, and embrace varying perspectives.

Building on existing partnerships, resources, and community engagement practices, the CVH project seeks to develop a model that joins community members with leaders and decision makers in meaningful ways around topics that affect health. The intent is to go beyond the “3 minutes at the microphone” model of public meetings, to one that encourages authentic communication and understanding of all perspectives. “Bloomington and Monroe County are already ahead of the game in some ways when it comes to citizen involvement in decision-making, but the challenge comes from a lack of diversity of that involvement,” stated Liz Grenat, Executive Director of CJAM. “We see this initiative as a way to strengthen the voice of those who are often most impacted by health policy decisions.”

CVH began by collecting information from a broad spectrum of community members about what matters to them about health, with a particular eye toward reaching underrepresented groups. Through facilitated small group discussions, individual interviews and written stories, the project has gathered a great deal of information to help understand how people see matters affecting health, and why they see them the way they do. This data has been compiled and analyzed by



The Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute, with input from the CVHMC Advisory Council, and will inform the next phase of the project, which is just beginning.

Equipped with this information, the project is hosting a series of community conversations that bring community members together with decision-makers to develop mutual understanding and begin to move toward solutions. The conversations will be conducted by Zoom and are open to all. Accommodations, including childcare, are available to eliminate any barriers to participation. “I sincerely hope we have broad participation from a wide spectrum of perspectives, especially those that are rarely heard,” said Grenat.

To participate, visit <https://ejamcenter.org/community-voices/>.

*Grant project partners also include Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute, the I.U. O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, the I.U. Public and Civic Engagement Program (PACE) and the I.U. Center for Rural Engagement.

Amethyst House, Serving the Bloomington Community for over 41 Years

By: Gina Lovell

Amethyst House is a substance use disorder treatment program with three locations in Bloomington, Indiana: two transitional residential treatment programs (men’s & women’s) and an outpatient treatment facility. We prioritize pregnant women, women with dependent children, and IV drug users. Typical residential stays average 3 months. Our outpatient program provides assessments, groups, individual therapy, and family support. Amethyst House is entering its 42nd year in the Bloomington community. All of our locations are conveniently located within 5 blocks of the Courthouse.

To find out more about Amethyst House, visit our website at www.AmethystHouse.org. Residential applications can be found on our website or can be picked up at our outpatient office. Outpatient assessments can be scheduled by reaching the Outpatient office at (812) 336-3570. If you would like to talk with someone in person, please call our Outpatient office and ask for Mark. He is always open to meeting with family members, concerned friends, or potential applicants. Whether it is to provide support or to share more about our programs and community resources.



Your Voices, Our Future: Transforming Community Health Decision-Making

By: Alyssa Walls

LIFEDesigns is a non-profit agency that partners with & promotes independence for people with disabilities by providing a variety of support services. Their mission, vision, and values highlight the importance of people being able to access their community and participate in every-day life activities like grocery shopping, work, social lives, independent living and more. The services that LIFEDesigns provides brings opportunities for those they serve to learn, grow, and achieve independence.

Everyone deserves to live in a home that is nice, safe, and accessible to their community. It can be particularly difficult for people with disabilities to find housing that is both affordable and accessible. Someone living off of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays an average of 104% of their monthly income to housing. In more populated areas, such as Bloomington and Columbus, Indiana people with disabilities are often priced out of the housing market. It is essential for someone who cannot drive to have access to public transportation to access their community for work, groceries, recreation, and social lives. As Americans began to feel the recession

in about 2007, affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities was not going to become more available. LIFEDesigns became an affordable housing developer, and partnered with Milestone Ventures, and others to develop affordable housing projects. Since 2007, LIFEDesigns has successfully developed ADA accessible homes, apartments, duplexes, housing designed for supported living, a group home, and permanent supportive housing. As they developed housing, their employees and board members had to ask themselves “Is it good enough for me?”

LIFEDesigns takes great pride in developing high quality buildings that provide more than just a home to people. They want their clients who live there to be proud of their home, and make it their own. Their affordable housing uses HUD guidelines and standards for eligibility, and rents are based on income levels. LIFEDesigns values each person’s privacy, which is why their group homes and supported living developments each have their own bedroom and private bathroom.

Supported Living offers a more independent lifestyle for people who want to make more choices in their lives, such as where they live, who they live with, and when they want to go into the

community: shopping, eating out, friends, and more. Supported living services are individualized to meet people’s needs. Services can range from 24/7 to only a few hours per week. Residential or Group Home living offers more structure and support to people who prefer this type of environment. Independence is the goal of this service, working towards building life and employment skills and eventually moving into the community with less support. LIFEDesigns works to ensure people live where and with whom they want.

For more information about the services at LIFEDesigns, visit lifedesignsinc.org



Ommarie.



210 McKinley Court Exterior.



Jake and Ryan Moving.

Special Section: South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP)

Add HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org to your Employment Toolbox

A Brief Introduction to HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org

Are you looking for help purchasing diapers or over the counter medications? Clothing for an interview? The services of a notary public, or free legal assistance? HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org is an online database that connects users with the 2,150 programs serving Bloomington and Monroe County that might be able to assist!

HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org runs on the national findhelp.org and Aunt Bertha platforms. It is like an online version of 211. Local organizations can contribute to their listings and make updates as often as needed to ensure that information about the programs and services they are offering NOW can reach those who need it.

HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org is supported by the Bloomington Health Foundation, the Local Council of Women, and the City of Bloomington. Anyone in our community can use the website directly, anytime. Creating a free account makes the site even more powerful, as individual users can save searches for particular services and share what they find with others via text or email.

SCCAP-Thriving Connections Adding Tools for Sustainable Employment

Since 2009, South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) has offered families a long-term community building group to support their move out of poverty. SCCAP-

Thriving Connections (TC) meets weekly to build relationships, offer networking opportunities, and support participants as they set and work toward individual goals. TC community members had the opportunity to learn about HelpingBloomingtonMonroe and try their hand at searching for services at our August 19 weekly meeting on Zoom. City of Bloomington employee Lucy Schaich, director of the Bloomington Volunteer Network and an official Community Liaison for HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org, shared information about why this resource was created for our community and how to become a savvy user.

Both HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org and Thriving Connections recognize that individuals accessing community resources possess expert knowledge of those resources. To this end, we also learned how to suggest updates for existing services listed in the database.

TC community members have added HelpingBloomingtonMonroe.org to our professional toolkits as part of our larger Sustainable Employment initiative. Every TC participant is working toward professional and job-related goals. And in TC, we take a holistic view of employment, paying attention not only to job training and skills, job searches, and interviews, but to all the off-the-job details that can make the difference between success and failure in the workplace. Childcare, transportation, informal support networks, the ability to communicate needs and to understand employers' expectations are all crucial to finding a job that "fits" and keeping that



Connecting ALL people in need, to the programs that serve them... with dignity and ease.

Find Help. Share Help. Provide Help.

job once hired.

Sustainable Employment is safe; stable; fair; values employees' skills and talents; provides opportunities for growth or advancement; and pays enough to allow employees to provide for their families and be self-sufficient. Recent funding from the Anthem Foundation has allowed us to hire additional staff to bolster the employment training and coaching available to TC participants, to create new partnerships with local groups, and to increase our community's understanding of Sustainable Employment and its role in helping families thrive.

Want to learn more about HelpingBloomingtonMonroe? Contact the friendly HelpingBloomingtonMonroe

Community Liaisons in the City of Bloomington Family and Community Resources Department at 812-349-3430 or getconnected@bloomington.in.gov

MCPL librarians are also ready to assist you in real-time. Call (812) 349-3050 to speak directly with someone during normal library hours, text (812) 898-4003 to communicate via text message, or email mcplref@mcpl.info to get help locating local services.

You can dial 2-1-1 or visit IN211.org to connect with more resources.

Want to Learn More about SCCAP Thriving Connections and its Sustainable Employment Initiative?

To learn more about TC or get involved with Sustainable Employment training or partnerships, contact Coordinator Linda Patton at lindap@insccap.org



Special Section: South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP)

Energy Assistance Applications Available Now

South Central Community Action Program is happy to announce that the Energy Assistance Program Year 2021/2022 here! The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) provides a one-time benefit to families and individuals to help pay their winter heating bills. Last year, we applied Energy Assistance benefits to 3,366 households in our four counties. We awarded clients an average benefit of over \$600. We encourage any and all interested individuals and families to apply this season. We will not only have the regular EAP benefit going to qualifying applicants, but this year, thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), all approved applicants will also receive \$350 towards their utilities. There may even be a possibility of a larger benefit from ARPA funding if there are arrearages (past due amount) showing on a utility bill that is submitted as a part of your EAP application.

This EAP season there is also a water assistance program. If you have a past due amount of \$50 or more showing on your water/wastewater bill, please check the box on your energy assistance application for Water Assistance and submit your bill with your application. This is a one-time benefit, and only available when you apply for

energy assistance.

Qualifying for EAP benefits is based on household income. Please see below for this season's income guidelines based on household size.

1 Person.....	\$27,012
2 Persons.....	\$35,324
3 Persons.....	\$43,635
4 Persons.....	\$51,947

There are many ways to apply for the Energy Assistance Program. Applications are available on the SCCAP website (www.insccap.org), you may request an application be mailed to you by emailing eap@insccap.org or calling (812) 339-3447, or you can apply online at <https://ihcda.rhsconnect.com/>. If you choose to apply online please be sure you have the ability to upload supporting documents on the device you are on. If you have any questions or need copies made of supporting documents please reach out to your local SCCAP office. We have a walk-up window that can be used for in-person help during business hours, but masks are required.

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 <http://safety-net-newspaper.com/>. 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

Volunteer Contact: Gina Lovell ([812]336-3570 x10; 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

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

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

Adult Education

MCCSC Adult Education

Address: Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

Phone: (812) 330-7731

Web: www.adult.mccsc.edu

Volunteer Contact: Melanie Hunter (330-7731 x 52137; mhunter@mccsc.edu)

About: The Monroe County Community

School Corporation's Adult Education program at Broadview Learning Center offers free, individualized instruction and guidance to teen and adult learners. We offer support for successful preparation for the High School Equivalency and other work placement tests as well as Adult Basic Education. Are you looking to improve your basic job and literacy skills or learn new ones, we can help. English as a Second Language course and supportive tutoring for students to create better opportunities of themselves and their families. Call 812-330-7731 to register for orientation and also visit our website www.mccsc.edu/adulted. Located on Coolidge between Rogers and Rockport Road, on the #2 South Bloomington Transit Route.

AIDS/HIV Services

Bloomington Hospital Positive Link

Address: 333 E. Miller Dr.

Phone: (812) 353-9150

Web: www.bloomingtonhospital.org

About: HIV testing and extensive care coordination for those living with HIV/AIDS. Serve as a community resource regarding HIV/

AIDS education and awareness. Also offer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis testing.

Clothing, furniture, housewares

Monroe County United Ministries

Address: 827 W. 14 Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

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

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.

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My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.
See Employment resources and job counseling.

Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Volunteer Contact: Monica Clemons ([812] 336-4310 x100; monica_clemons@usc.salvationarmy.org)

About: Provides a variety of services, including: food pantry, food vouchers, seasonal assistance, clothing and clothing vouchers, appliances, household items, hygiene items, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief, after school programs, summer residential camps, adult programs, nursing home visitation, bus tickets, a place of worship, and a thrift store.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Address: 4607 West State Road 46

Phone: (812) 961-1510

Web: www.bloomingtonsvdp.org

Volunteer Contact: Scott Alber, ([812]335-1280 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

LifeDesigns, Inc.

Address: 200 East Winslow Rd.

Phone: (812) 332-9615

Web: www.lifedesignsinc.org

Volunteer Contact: Cindy Fleetwood

About: LifeDesigns, Inc. offers comprehensive services for people with disabilities in south central Indiana including education, housing and employment assistance. We offer services for every stage of life from childhood through adulthood. Our mission to partner with people with disabilities and the community to bring about self-directed and enriched lives through education, information and support. LifeDesigns is a grassroots organization formed by the merger of two well-known agencies, Christole and Options, who have provided leading-edge programs for over three decades.

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS)

Facility Address: 7644 W Elwren Rd,

Bloomington,

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1033, Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: 812-336-2798

Web: www.palstherapy.org

Volunteer Contact: Jennylynn Vidas, (812-336-2798 ext. 15, jennylynn@palstherapy.org)

About: PALS provides therapeutic Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) to individuals with disabilities, veterans and at-risk youth in South Central Indiana. PALS programs are designed by professionals and aim to develop and restore functional skills, enhance well-being and improve quality of life. Services are available to individuals ages three and up. PALS is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl) Premier-Accredited Center and United Way of Monroe County Member Agency.

Stone Belt

Address: 2815 E. 10 St.

Phone: (812) 332-2168

Web: www.stonebelt.org

Volunteer Contact: Amy Jackson (332-2168 x314; 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

My Sister's Closet of Monroe County, Inc.

Address: 414 S. College Ave.

Web: www.SistersCloset.org

Volunteer Contact: Julie Tobin, (812) 333-7710; Info@SistersCloset.org

About: Provides women facing issues of poverty, homelessness and domestic violence—who are looking for employment, with free interview and/or workforce attire, interview skills training & coaching through job mentors, image consulting, and life skills training through workshops with the Success Institute. All services assist women to overcome the hurdles they face on the road to independence & family self-sufficiency. All new and gently-used Clothing & Accessories, Undergarments, New Make-up, and Personal Hygiene items are provided free to those with vouchers from referral agencies, and for sale to the general public.

WorkOne

Address: 450 Landmark Ave.

Phone: (812) 331-6000

About: Assists individuals and businesses in meeting their employment and training needs. WorkOne provides employment services, job counseling and assessment services, training services through WIA, vocational rehabilitation services through Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation, veteran services and unemployment insurance benefits.

Stone Belt

See disabilities assistance programs.

Family Services

El Centro Comunal Latino

Address: 303 E Kirkwood Avenue, Room 11

Phone: (812) 355-7513

Web: 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.

SCCAP Head Start

Address: 1520 W. 15th St.

Phone: (812) 334-8350

Web: 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: 1711 N. College Ave.

Phone: 1-(800)-403-0864

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

Programas de Alcance a Latinos Latino Programs and Outreach Division

Address: 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260,

Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: (812) 349-3430

Web: https://bloomington.in.gov/

Contact: Araceli Gómez-Aldana, latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov

Acerca: El Departamento de Recursos Comunitarios y Familiares de la Ciudad de Bloomington ha enfocado sus esfuerzos para alcanzar a la comunidad Hispana ofreciendo una gran variedad de programas. Eventos culturales, educación cívica, servicios directos y traducciones, El programa de radio Hola Bloomington en WFHB y la publicación Del Boletín Comunitario.

About: The City of Bloomington's Community

and Family Resources Department has focused its outreach efforts on the Hispanic and Latino community by offering a variety of programs. Cultural events, civic education, direct service and translations, The Hola Bloomington Radio Show on WFHB and The Boletín Comunitario.

Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM)

Address: 827 W. 14th Court

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: 6:30am-5:30pm

About: Full-time care for children ages 2-6 on a sliding fee scale, parents must be employed or attending school, NAEYC-accredited center

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.

See "DIRECTORY", page 10

Local Health Care Enrollment Assistance

All U.S. residents are required by law to have health insurance. If you are uninsured, there are coverage options that meet your needs and fit your budget:

- Affordable Care Act "Health Insurance Marketplace"
- Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP 2.0)
- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (Hoosier Healthwise)

There are several free local resources that can guide you through the process, explain coverage options, answer questions, and help you enroll. Indiana Navigators provide free unbiased assistance and can work with you one-on-one to enroll in health care plans.

ASPIN Health Navigators:

Call (877) 313-7215 for Navigator assistance.

City of Bloomington:

Call (812) 349-3851 for enrollment assistance. Para Español, (812) 349-3860 o latinoprograms@bloomington.in.gov

Individual Solutions-IU Health:

Call 1-888-531-3004 to make an appointment to see a certified Navigator, or visit iuhealth.org/individual-solutions

Monroe County Health Department:

Call Scott Stowers at (812) 349-2075 or e-mail ssowers@co.monroe.in.us

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Food stamps

Division of Family Resources

See family services.

Health care Services

Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Service – Community Health

Indiana University Health Bloomington

Phone: 812-353-9299

Contact Person: Dayna A. Thompson M.S., CDP, LMHC, PAC Trainer

Email: DThompson6@iuhealth.org

Web: www.AlzResourceIndiana.org

About: The Alzheimer's Resource Service (ARS) is a service of IU Health Bloomington Community Health. We seek to provide support, resources and assistance to those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families. We also work with professional staff who support those with a diagnosis. All services are offered to the community at NO CHARGE, thanks to the Bloomington Hospital Foundation and IU Health Bloomington Hospital.

Futures Family Health Clinic

Address: 119 W. 7th 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

Volunteer Contact: Melanie Miller (812-353-9818; 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.

Monroe County Public Health Clinic

Address: 333 East Miller Drive

Phone: (812) 353-3244

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

Planned Parenthood

Address: 421 S. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 336-0219

Web: www.ppin.org

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.

Housing (abused people)

Middle Way House

Address: 338 S. Washington St.

Phone: (812) 333-7404 (admin phone), (812) 336-0846 (crisis line)

Web: www.middlewayhouse.org

About: Middle Way House is an emergency shelter that provides services to protect and help all survivors who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and those 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.

Housing (emergency, for adults)

Friend's Place

Address: 919 S. Rogers (Shelter)

Phone: (812) 332-1444

About: An emergency shelter with 40 beds (18 for men and 12 for women). Services provided include case management, food, and clothing. Opens at 6:15 p.m.

Wheeler Mission

Phone: (812) 332-2452

Center for Men

Address: 215 S Westplex Ave

Programs and services:

Emergency Low Barrier Shelter
Orientation to addictions recovery program
Long term supportive housing
Working guest program
Public meals

Center for Women and Children

Address: 100 S Opportunity Lane

Programs and services:

Emergency Low Barrier Shelter
Referral Service to other agencies (connect to care)
Long term supportive housing

Housing (Family Shelter)

New Hope Family Shelter

Phone: (812) 334-9840

E-mail: newhope@nhfsinc.org

About: The mission of the New Hope Family Shelter (NHFS) is to provide temporary shelter for homeless families in Bloomington and Monroe County and, in collaboration with other agencies, to help those families regain

housing by addressing the problems that led to homelessness.

Housing (Intact Families/Adults)

Bloomington Catholic Worker

Address: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

About: We offer short-term, home-based hospitality to people facing homelessness.

Housing (Pregnant women)

Hannah House Maternity Home

Address: 808 N. College Ave.

Phone: (812) 334-2662

Web: 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

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.

Housing4Hoosiers

Website: Housing4Hoosiers.org

Email: info@housing4hoosiers.org

Phone: 812-335-2200

About: Housing4Hoosiers.org is a one-stop website for renters and landlords in Indiana seeking resources on finding, renting, and keeping a stable and affordable rental home. Housing4Hoosiers offers guidance on where to find an affordable place to live, understanding your lease, and rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords. The site also includes a Google map of 150 rental properties in Bloomington/Monroe County with details on rental costs, unit sizes, and those accepting Section 8 vouchers.

Housing (homeless youth)

Stepping Stones

Address: PO Box 1366

Phone: (812) 339-9771

Web: 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

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: 205 S. Walnut Suite 16

Phone: (812) 336-8677

Web: www.cjamcenter.org

Email: cjam@cjamcenter.org

Volunteer Contact: Amanda Nickey ([812] 336-8677; vorpcm@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.

District 10 Pro Bono Project

Address: P.O. Box 8382

Bloomington, IN 47407

Phone: (812)-339-3610

About: Purpose is to match income eligible clients with an attorney who will take their case for free. Potential clients must apply by phone on Monday from 10 AM to 12 PM, and Thursday from 2 PM to 5 PM. Please, no walk-ins, by phone only.

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).

DIRECTORY

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Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Address: 201 N. Morton Street
Phone: (812) 333-2272

Web: www.monroecountycasa.org

Volunteer Contact: Kelli Shannon

([812] 333-2272, ext. 11; kelli.shannon@monroecountycasa.org)

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

Volunteer Contact: Sarah Lanman ([812]349-2670; 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: 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

About: Area 10 Agency on Aging offers 5 main nutrition and food services for senior citizens.

Congregate Meals—We offer congregated meals at the following times and locations: Maple Shades Apts., Ellettsville, 10:30 am; Cambridge Square Apts., Bloomington, 11 am; Spencer Senior Center, 11:30 am; Unionville Senior Center, 11:30 am. Seniors must be 60+ and can complete a brief application at the meal site of their choosing. A \$2 donation is requested.

Mobile Meals—We deliver meals to homebound seniors who are 60+ and who are unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or disability. An application to determine eligibility is required and a \$2 donation is requested. Contact Area 10 at (812) 876-3383 for more information.

Food Pantry—We provide homebound seniors with two bags of groceries and frozen food each month. Seniors must be 60+ and meet eligibility requirements. Call Area 10 at (812) 876-3383 to request an application

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Address: 727 W. 1st Street

Phone: (812) 323-4982

Web: www.bloomingtonmealsonwheels.org

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: 821 North Blair Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Phone: (812) 339-4456

About: We share a home-based dinner every night of the week at 6:00 on the southside to which all are welcome. Thursday nights have the largest feast. Please call so we can direct you to the correct house.

City Church Food Outreach

Address: 1200 N Russell Rd. Bloomington IN 47404

Phone: 812-336-5958

Web: citychurchfamily.org

Email: info@citychurchfamily.org

Phone: (812) 272-2515

About: City Food Outreach gives a bag of groceries to those in need. To receive a bag of groceries please call our Healing Hands ministry to set up an appointment.

Community Kitchen

Address: 1515 S. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 332-0999

Web: www.monroecommunitykitchen.com

Volunteer Contact: Annie Brookshire

([812] 332-0999; 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: 1100 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.

First Presbyterian Church

Address: Corner of Lincoln and 7th Streets

Saturday: Breakfast: 7:30-9:00 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: 620 South Walnut Street

Phone: (812) 334-5728

Web: www.shalomcommunitycenter.org

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 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. 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

Volunteer Contact: Kai Westerfield (334-8374; 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 Self-Sufficiency Center

Address: 827 W. 14th Ct.

Phone: (812) 339-3429

Web: www.mcum.org

Hours: M, T, Th, and F from 12-4 p.m.

About: Distributes non-perishable food, three days' supply provided. Must be Monroe County resident and complete a brief intake form. We also offer online ordering where individuals can place an order online at mcum.org for pick-up or delivery

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Address: 1100 Allen Street

Phone: (812) 355-6843

Web: www.mhcfoodpantry.org

Hours: Monday-Friday 12-6 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.

Pantry 279

Address: 501 W. Temperance, Ellettsville, IN 47420

Phone: (812) 606-1524

Web: https://pantry279.org

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 3-6pm, Saturday p.m.

About: We are a low barrier pantry, meaning anyone in need of food can come. You may

also pick up for other families as well, but we will need a name, address, and how many in household. Boxes of food vary depending on donations, but there is always a meat, canned food, dry goods, and produce is unlimited. We try to provide food for between 4-7 days. We are currently doing drive thru style distribution due to COVID. We post all updates immediately on our Facebook page.

'Salvation Army

Address: 111 N. Rogers St.

Phone: (812) 336-4310

Hours: Tue, Thurs 1-3:30 and Wed, Fri 9-11:30

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.

First United Methodist Church

Address: 219 E. 4th Street

Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30 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: 631 W. Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville, Indiana 47429

Phone: (812) 876-3383

Web: www.area10agency.org

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 the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 2-1-1 Infolink, in-home health-related services and referrals, home-delivered meals, food pantry, congregated meal sites, support groups, education for family caregivers, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman

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program for residents of area nursing homes, RSVP 55+ Volunteer Program, recreational and arts programs at Area 10's Endwright Center in Ellettsville, and Rural Transit bus service.

Pregnancy testing, counseling, education

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 (339-6593), 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: 807 N. College Avenue

Phone: (812) 334-2828

Web: www.bigsindiana.org

Volunteer Contact: Mark Volland, mvolland@bigsindiana.org, 812-334-2828, ext. 227.

About: Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana helps children in Monroe and Owen counties reach their potential through professionally supported, one to one relationships with measurable impact.

Bloomington Boys and Girls Club

Address: 311 S. Lincoln St.

Phone: (812) 332-5311

Web: www.bgcbloomington.org

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: Lucy Berger, Director of Operations ([812] 336-7313; lberger@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

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.

WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology

Address: 308 W. 4th St.

Phone: (812) 337-1337

Web: www.wonderlab.org

Volunteer Program: (812) 337-1337 ext. 20 or volunteer@wonderlab.org

About: WonderLab is an award-winning science museum with hands-on exhibits and programs for children and their families. WonderLab offers a free Teen Night monthly during the school year. WonderLab also participates in the Access Pass Program, which provides reduced admission of \$1 per family member per visit for eligible families. The museum also offers many half-price admission events. Volunteering is a natural next step for teens. Those entering grade 7 are eligible to become volunteers at the museum. Additionally, high school students are eligible to apply for summer internships at WonderCamp, the museum's summer science day camp.

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.

Additional services

Catholic Charities-Bloomington

Address: 803 N. Monroes St, Bloomington

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. Do not currently have anyone on staff who speaks Spanish, so they provide only English language mental health counseling.

City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

Address: 401 N. Morton St. Suite 260

Phone: 812-349-3433

Web: www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer

About: The Volunteer Network, which has over 200 local partner nonprofit and governmental organizations, is your one-stop source for

volunteer information in Bloomington and Monroe County. Member organizations post their volunteer needs on the Network's online database so potential volunteers can see what community needs they can meet. The Volunteer Network also offers training in volunteer management to new volunteer coordinators and training in nonprofit board service to new and continuing board members. The Network partners with the Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Commission in the organization of the 'A Day On, Not a Day Off' day of service, in which thousands of Bloomingtonians participate. In addition, the Network matches the material needs of local nonprofit organizations with community members and businesses who can meet those needs through our partnership with the Herald-Times on the Community Wish List.

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 free books, magazines, music CDs, and movies to check out; public Internet computers; downloadable audiobooks and ebooks; and free programs for all ages. It serves the county through facilities in Bloomington and Ellettsville, the Bookmobile, the Outreach Van, and Homebound service. 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 conversation groups. During the school year, the library offers homework help to elementary

students and math and reading/writing homework help to teens. During income tax season, volunteers offer free tax help. The library also has public meeting rooms for use by nonprofit groups. Anyone in the community can produce a program through Community Access TV (CATS) for the Public Access Channel.

New Leaf–New Life, Inc.

Address: 1010 S. Walnut St., Suite F

Phone: (812) 355-6842

Email: newleaf1010@gmail.com

Web: www.newleaf-newlife.org

About: New Leaf–New Life runs therapeutic programs in the Monroe County jail, and provides products and services to ex-offenders at our office at 1010 South Walnut, Suite F. Services offered include: assistance in obtaining a birth certificate or social security card, employment help, support groups, family support, community referrals, clothing, bus tickets, hygiene products, and funding for GED testing. Volunteer opportunities can include: mentoring, transition services, office work, family outreach, and programming in the Jail. Check our Facebook page for news and updates.

Reach High Consulting & Therapy LLC.

Autism ABA and Diagnostic Clinic

Address: 2101 W Tapp Rd. Bloomington IN 47403

Website: reachhighconsulting.org

Phone: 812-330-4460

Fax: 812-330-4461

Email: aba@reachhighconsulting.org

About RHC: Reach High is Bloomington's first ABA clinic. Reach High was birthed out of a growing need in the City of Bloomington. Providing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) has meant families and clients are equipped with the tools to reach their maximum potential. Reach High strives to have clients in multiple environments within the community, this allows for skill sets to be strengthened and become more natural overtime.