

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

March-May 2021

## A Beacon for Our Community

**I**t was a cold day in January 2000 when the basement of First United Methodist Church opened to people without homes. Guests were offered coffee, a few newspapers, a single telephone, and a warm, safe, loving place to be. It was named “Shalom,” which means “welcome” and “peace be upon you.”



Twenty years later that spark of welcome has blazed into one of the largest social service agencies in South Central Indiana with forty-five employees and six major programs. Phil’s Kitchen at Shalom has provided more than 1.2 million meals to those in need in Bloomington over those two decades. Our fifty-bed emergency shelter (“Friend’s Place,” formerly “Martha’s House”) provided more than 14,000 nights of shelter last year. Crawford Homes provides 110 apartments of permanent supportive housing for adults and children once struggling with long-term homelessness due to disabilities. Our Street Outreach team extends into the woods and alleyways to engage those so hard to reach and the

Rapid Re-Housing program lifts hundreds of working families up as they move out of shelter and back into homes. Shalom Center continues to serve as a hub for day-to-day services, seven days a week.

These programs now house or prevent homelessness for more than 700 people per year and continue to expand their reach. The spark has grown into a beacon of hope and hospitality in Bloomington, and so the name “Beacon” was chosen to represent this organization and its many programs.

“Our capacity to care has grown so significantly that we needed a new way to

express that,” says executive director Rev. Forrest Gilmore, “Once, a Day Center provided the basic needs, now we’ve added so much more to help people not only to survive but get back home. In addition to emergency supports, Beacon provides solutions for people in poverty. All our efforts work together to be the light that guides you home.”



Like an umbrella, “Beacon” names all the efforts together: the Shalom Center, Friend’s Place, Rapid Rehousing, Phil’s Kitchen, Street Outreach, and Crawford Homes, plus through the duration of COVID, the Monroe County Isolation Shelter and the COVID-19 Homeless Prevention Project.



“I like it,” says Kenny Garrison, who used to receive services at Shalom and now returns to volunteer in a variety of capacities, “Beacon means hope. And that’s a way home.”

The national crisis caused by COVID-19, both the illness and the recession, has directly affected the struggling poor of South Central Indiana. Those who wish to support the work of Beacon are encouraged to visit [www.beaconinc.org](http://www.beaconinc.org)



Address:  
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812.334.5728

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

*Editorial Comment*

**O**ur 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.



# MCHD Harm Reduction

By: *Melanie Vehslage, MPH, CHES - Harm Reduction Health Educator  
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Office phone: 812.349.7346  
<http://co.monroe.in.us/harmreductionprogram>*

**T**he mission of the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) is to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Monroe County. This includes community members who use substances, including but not limited to injecting drugs.

The MCHD Harm Reduction program acts as an umbrella for services that support the health and well being of people who use drugs (PWUD) in the community through the Monroe County Syringe Service Program (in contract with the Indiana Recovery Alliance), HIV and Hepatitis C rapid testing, narcain/naloxone distribution, safe sharps disposal and connecting folks to resources for recovery. We aim to support community members using substances by providing tools and guidance to make ANY positive changes towards whatever recovery means to that person, which may include but is not limited to abstinence.

The focus of harm reduction services provided centers around acknowledging that substance use is a reality in Monroe County and seeking to develop strategies to reduce associated harms for community members.

One of the most well-known of MCHD harm reduction services provided is the Monroe County Syringe Service Program (MCSSP). MCHD Harm Reduction staff provides staffing for MCSSP mobile outreach 3 days a week where participants are able to receive disease prevention supplies, sharps containers, naloxone, as well as referrals to services.

The MCSSP is open for the remainder of the week at the Indiana Recovery Alliance storefront. HIV and Hep C rapid testing are intended to resume during mobile outreach as soon as able to do so safely for participants and staff/volunteers. Due to COVID restrictions, HIV and Hep C testing is currently offered by appointment with Harm Reduction Educator, Melanie Vehslage at the MCHD office.

Naloxone distribution does not only take place during MCSSP outreach. Pickup can be arranged at MCHD (thanks to an IDOH grant, as doses are available) by contacting Health Educators, Melanie Vehslage or Kathy Hewett. MCHD staff will provide a brief training on how to administer the naran as well as provide information on substance use treatment programs. Larger group trainings can also be arranged by contacting Melanie or Kathy. At this time, all group trainings are conducted over Zoom.

Harm Reduction staff seeks to provide opportunities for safe syringe disposal for both individuals and businesses through education, retrieval of sharps and providing options for sharps containers. Based on availability of grant funding, MCHD staff can provide sharps containers for community members and non-medical businesses who do not otherwise have the means to purchase containers. Should a community member come across a discarded syringe, information about how to pick up and dispose, as well as a map of some publicly available sharps containers is available at the following link: <https://www.co.monroe.in.us/topic/subtopic.php?topicid=168&structureid=12>

Please reach out if you or anyone you know would like more information about these essential health services, or ways that we can improve service provision

## About *Safety~Net*

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Editor-in-Chief

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### AGENCY REPORTS

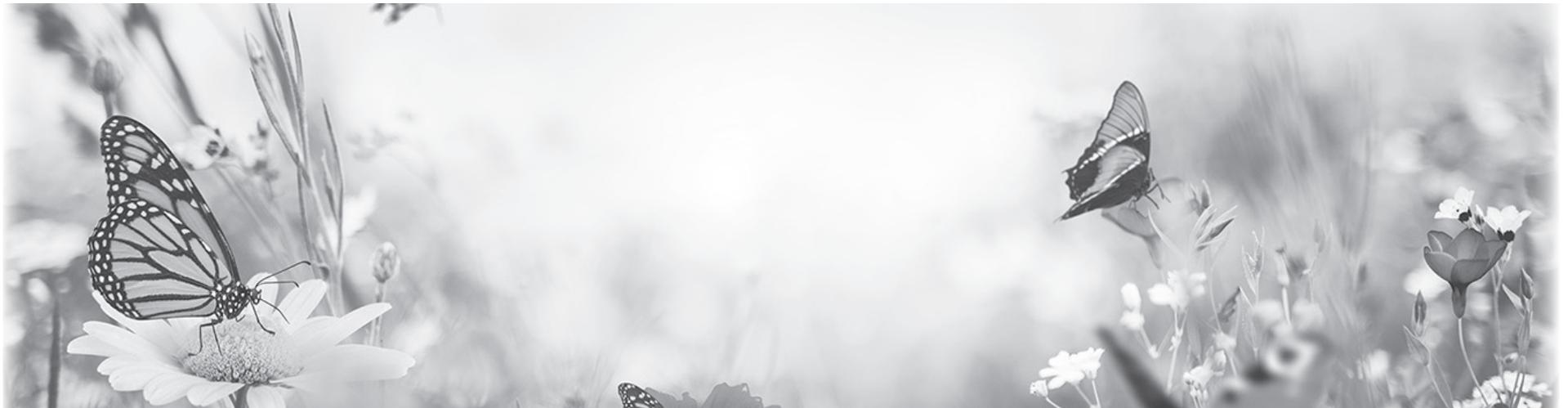
Each issue of *Safety~Net* has articles contributed from the many non-profit/social service agencies in the Bloomington area about programs and services that they provide, as well as volunteer opportunities.

### 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](mailto:white@indiana.edu). Sign your name, and indicate whether you would like for your comments to be published.



## THERE WILL BE BLOOD!

By: Joan Foor White/

**D**riven by a desire to help in this time of need like no other that I have personally experienced, I inadvertently discovered a way in which I could contribute in a meaningful way, and this one did not even require much work on my part. AND I received a Covid-19 antibody test in return.

Contacting the American Red Cross was an easy phone call and they gave me an appointment to participate in a blood drive within a mile from my home. I own an iPhone so was able to download their app, which is free from the App Store and completed the registration, which involved a few questions, quickly and easily. If you don't have a Smart Phone, they will do it for you upon arrival to the blood drive.

Once I arrived at the designated location, I was checked in; my temperature, pulse and blood pressure taken and a quick hemoglobin test via finger stick. The hemoglobin cannot be below a certain level and if it is, they will not proceed further. Then I was escorted to a lounge chair and a lovely young woman very deftly

placed an iv catheter in my arm and in 5! minutes the requisite amount of blood was drawn. However, the nurse checking me in had told me to expect it to take 8-15 minutes, so I think I was lucky.

Without my notice (okay, I did turn my head) she had the catheter out and I was good to go, although they do ask that you stay for 15 minutes and entice you with juice and cookies. So, I arrived at the blood drive site at 2:50 and was home by 4:00.

The following information is from the website of the American Red Cross and I hope some of you will consider giving of yourself; literally. It's needed!

### **APPROXIMATELY 36,000 UNITS OF RED BLOOD CELLS ARE NEEDED EVERY DAY IN THE U.S.**

- Nearly 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
- Nearly 21 million blood components are transfused



each year in the U.S.

- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 units.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- Sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. About 1000 babies are born with the disease each year. Sickle cell patients can require blood transfusions throughout their lives.
- According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1.8 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2021. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.

It certainly is a lot to consider, and there is much more information to be had on the website.  
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

## Public Library Eliminates Overdue Fines

By Mandy Hussey, MCPL Communications & Marketing Manager

**M**otIn order to reduce barriers and promote equitable access for all members of the community, the Monroe County Public Library no longer charges fines for late returns, effective March 1, 2020.

The new policy waived all unpaid overdue fines and collection agency fees charged prior to implementation, and eliminated fines for all late returns moving forward.

Libraries have long charged overdue fines to promote responsible borrowing and as a modest source of revenue. Recent national trends have shifted to focus on the negative impacts of fines as a deterrent to library use, especially among disadvantaged individuals. Consequently, a growing number of public libraries have eliminated overdue fines in an effort to support all members of their communities, and the American Library Association passed a resolution stating that fines constitute a barrier to service and urging their elimination nationwide.

"Discussions about eliminating fines have been taking place in libraries across the country for many years," said Marilyn Wood, Library Director. "Some of our peer libraries, such as Tippecanoe County Public Library, as well as many larger libraries like Chicago Public Library have eliminated late fines. Their experiences have been very positive—people came back, circulation rates increased, and books once thought lost, were returned. It's a great way to celebrate the Library's bicentennial."

Here in Monroe County, there are significant socio-economic disparities among Library patrons. The Library has tried to address access barriers for specific user groups by not charging overdue fines for children's materials or at outreach service points.

In 2016, it took another important step by implementing automatic renewals, thereby forestalling overdue fines in many circumstances.

"A lot of things can get in the way of people returning Library materials when they intend to, including health issues, vehicle breakdowns, and unanticipated demands of work, school, or family," said Chris Jackson, Special Audiences Strategist. "Our goal is to provide free, equitable, and convenient access for all residents of Monroe County. Penalizing late returns of Library materials has a disproportionate effect on community members with limited financial means who have fewer alternatives for books, films, and educational media to begin with."

While overdue fines and collection agency fees have been waived, patrons owing the replacement cost of a lost or damaged item continue to be billed accordingly. Items that are 21 days overdue are assumed to be lost and patrons will be billed for them, however, if the items are returned in good condition, regardless when, the charges will be removed and the account will resume good standing.

Additionally, those who owe the replacement cost of a lost or damaged item can enroll in the Library's Care Fee Option Program to remove fees simply by checking out materials. Just ask a librarian how to get started.

Libraries across the country that eliminated overdue fines report that patrons still return items on time, that more items are checked out, and that interactions between staff and patrons are positive. Additionally, studies have shown that because of costs associated with tracking and collecting the money, overdue fines are close to cost-neutral. Overdue fine revenue constitutes less than 1% of the Library's annual operating budget. For more information, visit [mcpl.info/nofines](http://mcpl.info/nofines).

## Special Section: South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP)

**S**outh Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) continues to provide services for all of Monroe County with some of our services being offered in Brown, Morgan, and Owen Counties as well. We strive to provide opportunities to low-income people whether it pertains to housing, utility assistance, home efficiency and safety, early childhood education, community building, or many other aspects of life. Please contact our office by calling (812) 339-3447 or email [info@insccap.org](mailto:info@insccap.org) with any questions on how we might help you. To encourage social distancing all SCCAP offices are currently closed to the public.

Our Energy Assistance Program is still accepting applications for the 2020-2021 season for Brown, Monroe, Morgan, and Owen counties. If you qualify, a one-time benefit will be applied to your heat source bill. Ways to apply include: dropping off your application at your local SCCAP office, mailing it to SCCAP, faxing it to 812-334-8366, emailing it to [eap@insccap.org](mailto:eap@insccap.org), or you can apply online at <https://ihcda.rhsconnect.com/>

Eligibility for the Energy Assistance program is based on gross household income. Households of one can have a maximum annual income of \$21,961; households of two can have a maximum annual income of \$33,949; households of three can have a maximum annual income

of \$41,937; households of four can have a maximum annual income of \$49,925; and households of five can have a maximum annual income of \$57,913. For anyone currently in crisis, we suggest you call your utility vendor to let them know you are applying for the program, and to discuss a payment plan.

SCCAP's Weatherization Program can help reduce energy consumption in low-income households and insure that each client has a safe, operating heat source. Clients receive a furnace inspection and an energy audit, after which, a team of contractors will come out to repair or replace heat sources, install insulation, and seal the home. Weatherizing your home can help save on bills, make your home safer, and save energy. If you are interested in or have any questions about Weatherization please give Cherly Ann, our housing program assistant, a call at (812) 339-3447 Ext. 702 and she will be glad to help.

Head Start and Early Head Start are also programs of SCCAP's here in Monroe County. Head Start is a family-centered program that supports the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5.

### SCCAP is Still Here to Serve



If your family is in need of early childhood education for your little ones please consider call our Head Start office to learn more at (812) 334-8350.

SCCAP has a few other programs and so we encourage you to connect with us on Facebook at [@insccap](https://www.facebook.com/insccap) to keep up with us and learn more about what we do in the community. For instance, you can check out what our Thriving Connections group has been up to in other articles in this paper.

All SCCAP services are provided without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry or status as a veteran.

## The Plant Truck Project - Food Justice for Bloomington

By: Rebecca Mueller

**S**outh Plant Truck Project is an emerging food justice initiative led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color that is focused on growing plants, sharing seeds making local produce accessible for communities that have historically been denied. Throughout 2020, The Plant Truck has offered pop-up markets on Fridays at Rainbow Bakery at 201 S Rogers St and Saturdays at People's Market. Our volunteer run project spent hours in the garden starting seeds, cultivating transplants,



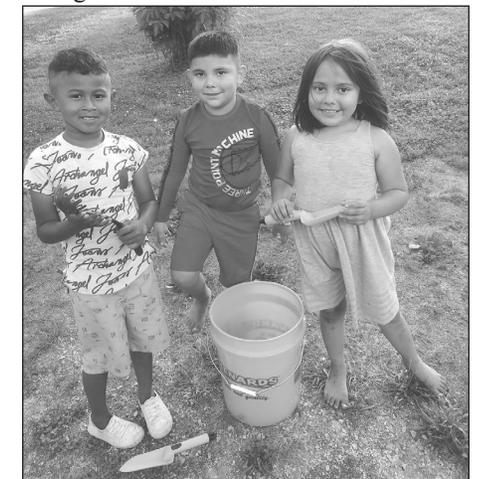
and learning about restorative justice. Our flat structured organization seeks to invigorate our community members to grow their own food no matter where they live.

The Plant Truck project aims to invite our community to participate in the food system of southern Indiana. One partnership promoting community food security was "planted" when SCCAP-Thriving Connections families were gifted 70+ tomato plants grown in the

summer and given education about growing food (tomatoes, peppers, and basil) in 5-gallon buckets at one of the community's weekly Zoom meetings. The Plant Truck returned to TC in the fall, when families received glass jars and freshly harvested vegetables and Lauren from the project instructed the community in refrigerator salsa making. The partnership continued in November, when a pre-Thanksgiving weekly meeting included the delivery of cookbooks, winter greens from the SCCAP-Growing Opportunities greenhouse, and a greens recipe presented by Lauren. TC community members of all ages have been delighted at the chance to harvest and use home-grown veggies—and to share their some of their own time-honored recipes as well!

The Plant Truck project's pop-up markets provide a sliding scale to our community to practice and build trust. For example, tomatoes cost \$1-3.

Monetary donations allow for those who are experiencing food insecurity to pay what they can. Currently, The Plant Truck Project products can be found at [peoplesmarketbtown.org](https://www.peoplesmarketbtown.org) by ordering through the online store and picking up on Saturdays at Harmony School, 909 E 2nd Street. Check out the pop up locations and join opportunities to grow with The Plant Truck on Facebook and Instagram

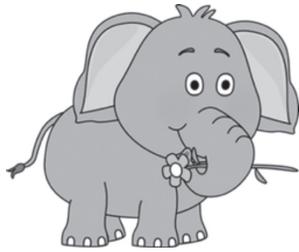


## Special Section: South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP)

By Amy Thomas, retired teacher and  
SCCAP Thriving Connections Volunteer

**H**ow do you eat an elephant...? One bite at a time! That's what Thriving Connections Coordinator Linda Patton told us as we decided to launch a brand new idea that later came to be known as Story Buddies.

Thriving Connections (TC) offers a warm, caring community for those "Captains" who are struggling to become more financially stable. Captains are matched with "Allies" as they build a relationship of friendship and support. Those relationships are what TC is all about. In the good old days (pre-Covid) we were able to meet at St. Mark's Methodist Church to share a meal, talk together, and build those ever important relationships. It's harder now to do that on Zoom, but we're making it work. We still have fun being together, even if it's in small pictures on a screen. But



It was time to take a bite out of the elephant! We needed to find a way for the kids to develop their own relationships. One wise person suggested we match the kids with Service Learners from IU. The idea was that they could meet once a week on Zoom to share books and their own life stories. Story Buddies was ready to become real.

After a short training session, the fifty Service Learners were anxious to begin. On October 20, 2020, the big Buddies and little Buddies met for the first time in Breakout rooms on Zoom. There were computer glitches, of course; that's to be expected,

but there were successes, too, as pairs of buddies were able to talk and share their own stories. Every Tuesday evening, through the end of the semester, big buddies met with little buddies, reading books like *The Magic Treehouse* and *Pete the Cat* or even "A Telltale Heart" with one of the teens. Sometimes an online game of Pictionary was a good ice breaker and popular with both the big and little buddies. Afterward, many of the service learners stayed on Zoom for "Reflections". They shared their enthusiasm for the time spent with their little buddies, but they also offered valuable and insightful suggestions for making the program more successful.

In talking with families at the end of the semester, we learned that the service learners weren't the only ones who were enthusiastic. Many parents told us about the positive impact that Story Buddies had on their kids. "I never once had to make my kids go," one parent told us. "They both really enjoyed talking with the college kids. I hope it will help encourage my (sixteen-year-old) daughter to go to college." Another parent said, "My kids loved it! It



it's not as good for the captains' kids, who used to be able to spend time with some IU friends every Thursday night at St. Mark's. When Covid hit, they could no longer look forward to sharing conversation and doing fun activities with the college students. They felt left out, and it was a concern for all of us.



was a good opportunity for them to meet cool IU students." One of the teens said, "I like poetry, and my buddy and I found a good poem to read and talk about together."

As we look forward to starting Story Buddies again next semester, we're eager to see the kids from Thriving Connections develop meaningful relationships with

their new story buddies from IU. We are grateful for the partnerships between the service learners, the little buddies, and their parents. These partnerships will continue to be key in making Story Buddies a big success; one that we hope will have an impact on the big buddies and little buddies for perhaps years to come.



# Adjusting to the new normal, but always supporting survivors

*Amalia Shiffriss, Outreach and Communications  
Coordinator  
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www.middlewayhouse.org*

Things have been busy around Middle Way House during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have, of course, had to make many changes to the way we operate so keep everyone safe, while still remaining open 24/7/365 to support survivors. For those who don't know about us, we provide programs and services to those fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. We have an emergency shelter, support groups, on-scene advocacy, legal advocacy, transitional housing, prevention programming, safety planning, and more. We want to help survivors empower themselves to rebuild their lives, free from violence.

Much of our prevention education and support groups have switched over to virtual meetings (via Zoom or Google Classroom) for the time being, and safety planning can also be done via phone or video during this

time. Our legal advocacy services are still in-person, but court dates are sometimes done via Zoom. As soon as shutdowns began we knew that there would be a large danger of people being quarantined with their abuser, and so perhaps they would be unable to call our help & crisis line if they needed to. So we added online support chat, which can be accessed via the front page of our website at [www.middlewayhouse.org](http://www.middlewayhouse.org).

We have upped the safety precautions at the office, the shelter and The RISE! Transitional housing building as well, including mandatory masks, temp checks, regular sanitizing of common surfaces, hand sanitizer throughout the buildings, and social distancing. We have had to limit our shelter capacity to adhere to social distancing, and we have an isolation room, should the need arise. Our goal is to keep our staff, supporters, clients and residents safe and healthy. But rest assured, our services are all still available, while possibly modified to achieve that goal. Many folks believe we are a shelter for women and children only, but that is not the case, we serve survivors

of all gender identities. We know that, sadly, violence reaches people of all backgrounds, and we support them all with our services.

You can follow our social media (twitter, instagram & facebook) at @MiddleWayHouse. We post regular updates about some of our programming, including our Letting Writing Night to Incarcerated Survivors and Queer Talk Book Club, and much more. We share from many other wonderful survivor resources like the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. If you are a survivor and need support, you can chat 24/7 at [www.middlewayhouse.org](http://www.middlewayhouse.org) or call our help & crisis line 812.336.0846, any time, day or night. This pandemic is hard on everyone, and it's our goal to help relieve some of the burden and assist in empowering survivors as much as we can during this journey.

## Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

### My Story

*By Mark Sturdivant*

I suffer from severe bipolar disorder. When I first went to Centerstone Bloomington, Indiana. I was given an intern to talk to for about year. She was alright, but didn't know what she was doing. My mental health went downhill. Then I had the A.C.T team lead as a therapist. She was awful. I see her for just seven months. She would no call no show. She did this five times. I was driving 60 miles round trip. I lost my first job I held i down for 15 years due to this. I would have a series of panic attacks, wondering if she was going to show up. I would sleep in my vehicle because I had no money to get home. Once I said to her that since you no-call no showed you should give me gas money. She lectures me on ethics and tells me I should grab a gas jug and beg for fuel. They were making me come in every week. I was court ordered. Her excuses for no-call no showed was once an ankle sprain, which was a lie. One time she said she had Crones disease. That was a lie. I believe one time she was meth? She had meth mosquito bites on face. Can't confirm that. That therapist would laugh at my mental health symptoms would refer to me as the weirdo. She would over step her boundaries. Once she talked the whole session on how mad she was that her exboy found a new girl. This really confused me? Once we talked about beer. I didn't know if she was trying to be my friend. I have suicidal ideations every day. She was so bad I would call my mother so she could talk me out of suicide after every session. My mother wanted to talk to her. I ask if I could sign a release she says, I don't talk to mothers. One day I was having a bad day. She calls the police on me after we had a verbal contract that the police would never be called. She drunkenly calls the police on me at 1130pm. She calls me to tell me this. I hang up on her. I

knew my life would get difficult. I get kicked out the commune I lived in. I was shunned. I lost all my friends; they were like family for me. They really wanted to see the best of me. Six state troopers do a welfare check, then proceed to totally mess up my house looking for drugs that weren't there. Luckily, I wasn't home. That devastated me. I knew my life was destroyed. I had a nervous breakdown. I was literally walking around Bloomington crying and yelling and screaming at nobody. I call this therapist to tell her what's going on. I'm literally 24 hrs from a complete breakdown. She laughs. And tells me how I scare people. I'm homeless now. I sit with her for another appointment. She lies to me about a govt program that didn't exist. She continued to laugh at me. She literally told me that if I wasn't a weirdo, I wouldn't be homeless. That was really humiliating. She quit the next day without a notice. She quit before she got fired. Another thing almost monthly I would asked her for a new provider. She would manipulate me and tell me that she cared. She could fix me. She fixed me alright. I now and still sleep in my vehicle. It's cold now. The director Greg may tell my probation that I'm no longer a client at Centerstone in December 2019. I was going to appointments up until the middle of February. I was due to get off probation in January of 2020. They was charging my Medicaid. I go to jail for two months. The bad thing about is when I had that bad therapist I continued to ask management at Centerstone for change of a therapist when she skipped out on the first appointment. They did nothing. Centerstone and that therapist makes people homeless. My life is a nightmare thanks to Centerstone and that therapist. There are now no solutions to any of my problems now. Yes Centerstone is correct you do deliver care that changes lives

## Special Section: Voices Seldom Heard

### Seminary Square

***Some live by a fantasy that homelessness will go away if you just be really mean to it. -Forrest Gilmore***

*By Joan Foor White*

I drive by Seminary Square at least twice a day as it is close to my neighborhood. Seeing the tents as twilight drew near made me feel good—they are homeless but they are building a community. I see them—I see my son.

I do not know how to help them. I don't know them, their stories, their needs or wants (beyond the obvious), but I do know that a society is judged by the way they treat their poor and most vulnerable.

Maybe for some the vulnerability is difficult to detect but the poverty isn't and believe me, poverty does make one vulnerable in every way imaginable. It was disheartening at least to see that the city felt the need to remove these people at night, instead of say, supplying the portable toilets that would

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### Homelessness Commentary

*By: Wil Stahly*

Recently, it's been interesting following the homeless encampment tent issue. For about a week I've read, watched, and listened to many people jabber, clamor, and pull at people's heartstrings with no solution other than "you're a heartless soul".

For most it's far too easy to point fingers at those we entrust to make difficult decisions. What's worse is the lack of solution on how we should tackle homelessness and hunger other than let the encampments stay. Even worse? Those who are jabbering about encampment tents only have experience with them from weekend get away camping trips. It's apparent many lack the true meaning of privilege.

In 2019 there were 245 homeless individuals recorded in Bloomington, IN. Indianapolis has had 1500 homeless individuals in 2019. There were estimated 553,000 homeless folks in the US, and of those 358,000 (65%) were able to be sheltered and 194,000 (35%) didn't have a shelter. This accounts for .02% of the US population, or 17 out of every 10,000 fellow brothers and sisters. In comparison, Somalia displaces an estimated 2 million folks every year, and the main cause of death for 14% of children under the age of five is malnourishment. The question isn't if we should or shouldn't help our homeless brothers and sisters. The question is how do we help our fellow brothers and sisters.

If progressives and liberals are serious about solving homelessness, then tents wouldn't be part of the conversation. If progressives and liberals are serious about solving generational poverty and hunger, then tents wouldn't be part of the conversation. If progressives and liberals are serious about reducing the wealth gap, then stuffing people into high rises wouldn't be part of the conversation. Unless those are mostly transient and need short-term solution rather than long-term domicile or they simply just prefer apartment living to traditional homes. Have people ever wondered why most who are vocal about high rises are the same ones sitting on two or three properties that are ready to be built and/or upgraded?

partially solve the hygiene issue. What is the rationale behind making them leave in the dead of night aside from "the law is..."?

This is a problem that SHOULD be in our face. We have a demographic of people who do not have homes and frankly, the reasons for this result from a multitude of factors, including that we live in an oligarchy.

We suffer from a societal schizophrenia, which declares itself a "Christian nation" but prizes money and self-sufficiency. In other words, WE ARE ALL ILL!!! None of us got to this point in our lives, wherever that may be, on our own: we are all interconnected.

My son died nearly 18 years ago from a drug-induced heart attack. He would have been homeless at some point without my intervention. I ultimately couldn't or didn't know how to help him, his risk factors were many, but I do know that social services, and to me this includes Medicare for all and a universal basic income are good places to start.

Shocking, right?

Rather, what we should be discussing is how we expand and add additional programs like section-8, FHA loans, etc. Rather, our goal should be how do we get families to be sustainable with their own small piece of land. Rather, our goal should be how we encourage tight-knit families regardless of someone's race, gender, or preferred partner.

Furthermore, we never hear of progressives and liberals jabbering about encouraging our fellow homeless brothers and sisters to take advantage of the free shelters, mental health and addiction services. Imagine how lives will be changed by this simple act?

Instead we're arguing to keep encampment tents in place. Those who experienced tent encampments and/or refugee camps know it's not a short term or a long-term solution. Encampment tents are terrible for everyone. It's terrible for those who are reduced to living in them. It's terrible for those who are simply passing by. It's terrible for those who are entrusted with the difficult decisions.

One nagging question remains. How do we help when some people flat out refuse help?

Side note... The terrible picture is of me, my sister, cousin, and grandmother in a refugee camp in Mogadishu, Somalia. If you guessed I'm the little boy blowing bubbles you're correct. I always have to be different. I will never forget the desperation, smell, hopelessness, and hunger. Today, I'm extremely blessed to have a wonderful wife, a beautiful little boy, and small house that will one day be ours. The love and grace I've learned from immediate and extended family will stay with me forever.



# 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](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

**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.

## Adult Education

### MCCSC Adult Education

**Address:** Broadview Learning Center, 705 W. Coolidge Drive

**Phone:** (812) 330-7731

**Web:** [www.adult.mccsc.edu](http://www.adult.mccsc.edu)

**Volunteer Contact:** Melanie Hunter (330-7731 x 52137; [mhunter@mccsc.edu](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:mcumhelp@bloomington.in.us))

**About:** Provides a subsidized Child-Care Program for low-income families in Monroe County, which includes a year-round program for children two to six years old, and a summer camp subsidized child-care for children ages six to ten, when school is out of session. All care-givers in the families either work full time or attend school part-time and work part-time. There is also an Emergency Services Program that assists families who are experiencing a short-term crisis. The Emergency Services

Program includes a food pantry, a clothing program, and financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

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

*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](mailto: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](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

### LifeDesigns, Inc.

**Address:** 200 East Winslow Rd.

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

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

**Volunteer Contact:** Jennylynn Vidas, (812-336-2798 ext. 15, [jennylynn@palstherapy.org](mailto: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](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

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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, older worker services through Experience Works, 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.

#### Head Start Program

**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.

### Food stamps

#### Division of Family Resources

*See family services.*

### Health care

#### 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.

#### Vistacare Hospice

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

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

**Web:** www.vistacare.com

**Volunteer Contact:** Cathi Counterman ([812] 340-3467; 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

**Volunteer Contact:** Shelley Sallee

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### 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](http://iuhealth.org/individual-solutions)

#### Monroe County Health Department:

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

#### SCCAP Health Coverage Assistance Program:

Call (812) 339-3447 for Navigator assistance.

Visit [www.in.gov/healthcarereform](http://www.in.gov/healthcarereform) to find a certified Navigator.

Call 211 (available 24/7 free of charge) or visit [www.in211.org/healthcare-project](http://www.in211.org/healthcare-project) to learn how to apply, try a health insurance cost calculator, and get more local information.

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([812]333-4001 x109; 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:** 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. Women and their children can stay at The Rise for up to two years.

### Housing (emergency, for adults)

#### Agape House, Shelter For Women And Their Children (part of Backstreet Missions)

**Web:** www.backstreet.org

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

**Address:** 300 Opportunity Lane, off W. 3rd Street.

#### 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 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

**Web:** www.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).

#### 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 congregare meals at the following times and locations: Maple Shades Apts., Ellettsville, 10:30 am; Cambridge

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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.

**Restaurant Vouchers**—We provide restaurant vouchers to seniors 60+ to be used at the Village Inn in Ellettsville or the Stinesville Mercantile in Stinesville. A \$2 donation is requested. A brief application is required and vouchers can be picked up at Area 10 or the Stinesville Mercantile.

**Farmers Market Vouchers**—We distribute farmers market vouchers to seniors 60+ for use at the Bloomington Farmers Market or Spencer Farmers Market. Seniors must complete an application and meet income guidelines. Contact Area 10 at (812) 876-3383

### 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:** 727 W. 1st Street

**Phone:** (812) 323-4982

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

**Email:** [info@citychurchfamily.org](mailto:info@citychurchfamily.org)

**About:** City's Food Outreach brings the mission of LOVE people, BUILD family, LEAD to destiny to life. Currently the Food Outreach gives groceries to families every month following the 3rd Saturday of the month service. Saturday service starts at 5:30 and tickets are distributed discreetly during service. December 20th, January 17th, February 21st, March 21st

### Community Kitchen

**Address:** 1515 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:** 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](http://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](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 Food Pantry

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

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

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

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8-11:30 a.m.; 1-3:15 p.m.

**About:** Distributes non-perishable food, three days' supply provided. Must be Monroe County resident and complete a brief intake form.

### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

**Address:** 1100 Allen Street

**Phone:** (812) 355-6843

**Web:** [www.mhcfoodpantry.org](http://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.

### SLO FoodS garden pantry

**About:** The program emphasizes locally grown produce and dispenses food to those in need on a weekly basis.

**When:** Wednesdays from 1:00–3:00 pm

**Where:** 615 N. Fairview Street (Trained Eye Arts Center) (on the B-Line Trail just south of 11th St. underpass)

**Volunteer Contact:** Mylo Roze, Director–Eco Media Center Coordinator–SLO FoodS garden pantry

**Web:** <http://ecomediacycenter.org>  
[greenthcity@yahoo.com](mailto:greenthcity@yahoo.com)

### 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](http://www.area10agency.org)

**About:** Offers programs and services, as well as being a resource of information about

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## DIRECTORY

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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, congregate meal sites, support groups, education for family caregivers, affordable housing, assistance for the homebound, handyman services, a long-term-care ombudsman 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 Voland, mvoland@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.bgcblloomington.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.