



# DOVE TALES

the newsletter of Dove, Inc.

Please follow  
our blog - <http://doveinc.blogspot.com>  
[www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org)



February 2017

Barbara Blakey  
Editor

Issue 1702  
Published Monthly

Dove, Inc.  
302 S. Union  
Decatur, IL 62522  
217.428.6616  
[dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org)

**Dove's Mission**  
Dove is a coalition  
of religious  
organizations,  
volunteers, and  
advocates that seeks  
to coordinate efforts  
to address unmet  
human needs and  
social injustices

Dove works for  
justice, equality  
and understanding  
among all people.

## MYSTERY NIGHT



**Friday, February 24, 2017**  
**5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Paco's Sol Bistro**  
**Downtown Decatur**

Tickets: \$30 includes your "À la Carte" dinner  
(don't worry, it's from Paco's Sol Bistro!) and  
soft drink and a drawing ticket for a chance to win  
one of the Mystery Prizes!

Tickets are available at the 302 S. Union, Decatur offices,  
can be purchased and mailed (or pick up that night),  
on the website, [www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org)  
and with some staff and program volunteers.

Contact the Dove office at [dove@doveinc.org](mailto:dove@doveinc.org) or 428-6616

**Supporting  
the  
BABES  
Program!**



# DOVE, INC.

## Leadership Team

Christine Gregory  
Executive Director

Tammy Wilcox  
Assistant Director

Barbara Blakey  
Director of Volunteers & Community Relations

Teri Ducey  
Domestic Violence Program Director

Darsonya Switzer  
Homeward Bound Program Director

## Program Leadership

### BABES •

Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies  
Sandy Laesch, Program Coordinator

Children's Clothing Room  
Sandy Harmison, Coordinator

DAX • DeWitt County Assistance eXchange  
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

DeWitt County Food Pantry  
Jennifer Tolladay, Coordinator

Domestic Violence Program  
Teri Ducey, Program Director  
Jennifer Tolladay, DeWitt County Coordinator  
Mary Hughes, Moultrie County Coordinator  
Susie Kensil, Shelby County Coordinator

Homeward Bound  
Darsonya Switzer, Program Director

MAX • Macon County Assistance eXchange  
Rev. Shane Hartman, Coordinator

RSVP • Retired & Senior Volunteer Program  
Christina Gillaspie, Program Director  
Sheryl Whisman, DeWitt County Coordinator

## Letter from the Executive Director of Dove, Inc.:

### Coordinating Efforts to Address Unmet Needs and Social Injustices.

Christine Gregory, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Our nation and our state are feeling conflicted today. Perhaps you have been following events with the budget or the new federal administration, perhaps you have been focused elsewhere. It can be hard to know where to turn. For me, that simple answer is God who strengthens me. Conflict is not necessarily bad or destructive. Even when conflict is caused by sin and causes a great deal of stress, God can use it for good (see Rom. 8:28-29). As the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, conflict actually provides significant opportunities. By God's grace, you can use conflict to:

- Glorify God (by trusting, obeying, and imitating him)
- Serve other people (by helping to bear their burdens, advocating for their needs, or by confronting them in love)

Here at Dove, we are living into those principles every day. We believe in the holy nature of the work we are doing to address

unmet needs and social injustice, and to promote justice, equality and understanding among all people.

I want to thank the many community members who volunteer and donate to ensure that this work goes on despite the world around us. You inspire us, buoy our spirits, and strengthen our conviction with your generosity and love.

If you or your organization's members would like to learn more about supporting Dove's mission, please reach out to our Volunteer & Community Relations Director, Barb Blakey. Dove, Inc. is only as strong as its member organizations, volunteers and advocates. You are our heart.

In His Love,

Christine Gregory

# Women for Women

Shopping for a Cause

Shop Numerous Local  
Vendors, One Location  
Benefit A Great Cause

February 3, 2017

4:00—8:00pm

South Side Country Club

Entry \$3 or Donation Of A Personal Hy-  
giene Item For The Women of Dove

Featured Vendors:

Hello Dolly, Little Dolly, Archers Alley, Shop On Main  
Merle Norman Cosmetics, The Medical Spa  
The Studio Yoga, Capelli's Studio and Spa  
Mel Pages Boutique, Sweet Pea Boutique  
Bodine's Baking Company, LuLaRoe with Jen & Cort  
Lemon Drop Boutique, Pies by Inge

THE  
GROMWELL  
GROUP, INC.  
www.decaturnradio.com

The Talk of Decatur  
TALK 101 FM  
101.1 FM

JACK  
FM  
playing what we want!

98.1 FM  
98.1

93.1 FM  
THE PARTY

FOX  
93.1 FM

Magic  
95.5 FM

93.5 FM  
THE GAME

106.5 FM  
BUZZ



## News from the Domestic Violence Program...



*Please accept our sincere thanks to all of you who could attend one or all of the Candlelighting Ceremonies, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. Here are the individuals and groups who were recognized at the 2016 ceremonies.*

**Shelby County**

**Darrell and Lisa Best**

**Shelby Memorial Hospital Emergency Department**

**Moultrie County**

**Theresa Churchill, Decatur Herald & Review**

**DeWitt County**

**Detective Todd Ummel**

**Lane Christian Church Congregation**

**Macon County**

**Dave Ozier, Manager of local Lowe's Store**

**and their staff of Hometown Heroes**

**Officer Chad Louden**

**Sgt. Ronald Atkins**

**Prairieland Punishers**

**PawPrint Ministries**



## News from the BABES Program

Sandy Laesch, BABES Program Coordinator



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!

From Buttons, Bows, Myth Mary, Early Bird, Donovan, Rhonda, Reggie, and Sandy!

I want to thank the RSVP program and volunteers. This year for RSVP of Macon and DeWitt Counties Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service, members chose to sponsor a classroom in each county. In Macon County Mrs. Sarah Pierce's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom at John's Hill was sponsored. Mrs. Pierce welcomes the BABES program into her classroom yearly. She is an outstanding teacher who cares deeply for the students

in her charge. In DeWitt County Ms. Alexa Chamberlin's 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom at Schneider School was sponsored. Ms. Chamberlin welcomes BABES Bridge program into her classroom for an introduction to BABES programming that 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Schneider receive. Teachers submitted wish lists, and much of their lists was obtained and delivered to them. (photos on next two pages)

In January the BABES program started at Baum for 1<sup>st</sup> graders, Sangamon Valley East Kindergarteners, Maroa Forsyth 1<sup>st</sup> graders, and at McGaughey in 8 Kindergarten classes.

The BABES program may have a slow start-but when my snowbirds come back in March-watch out!

This year the BABES program only has 16 active volunteers. We are still going to be able to present in 21 schools with 9 of these schools having not only the K-2<sup>nd</sup> program but the 3<sup>rd</sup>/Advanced programming as well. What a mighty group of volunteers!

Welcome to John Vidmar our newest volunteer. John attended training in January and is going to help present to 1<sup>st</sup> graders at Durfee Magnet.

*Our next volunteer training*

*Tuesday, February 14*

*11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Dean Simcox Conference Center*

*302 S. Union, Decatur*

If you are interested in the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, call or email me, sleasch@doveinc.org for more information about becoming a BABES Volunteer!

# RSVP MLK Day of Service



Mrs. Pierce, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, John's Hill



## *Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service*

*We want to thank everyone who helped with our MLK Day of Service this year. Teachers were overwhelmed by your generosity to their classrooms! Cont. on next page*

News from the DeWitt County Office  
Jennifer Tolladay,  
Program Coordinator

After a busy and interesting year, we would like to thank the Community of DeWitt County for all of their support. We have wonderful volunteers to assist in our Domestic Violence Program, as well as our food pantry and the RSVP programs. We receive regular donations from several businesses, Churches and individuals for our food pantry, as well as financially. We would not be able to provide the services to everyone without your generous support. We would also like to take this time to thank our Law Enforcement men/women. Our Sheriff's Department, as well as our Police Department, are tops!! The officers are so caring about our clients and go out of their way to assist us. We at the Dewitt County Dove Office are looking forward to a wonderful New Year with your support!!

# RSVP MLK Day of Service



Ms. Chamberlin's 1<sup>st</sup> grade , Schneider School



*Thanks to the  
Clinton area community  
for the donation to the  
DeWitt County Domestic  
Violence Program  
from the rescheduled  
January Cantata.  
More than \$1,300 was donated!*



*Put yourself first  
for a change!!!*

Teri Ducey, Director  
Dove Domestic Violence Program

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and the many floral, candy and gift shops are getting ready for this romantic day of the year. For a lot of people who are fortunate to have that special someone in their life, this can be a very special romantic day together. For others, it is anything but romantic!

1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will be victims of domestic violence in her or his lifetime. While some are enjoying the candy hearts, flowers, and candlelit dinners, others have painful memories of past relationships or living each day in fear, walking on eggshells with their current abusive partner.

Whatever you may be feeling this year on Valentine's Day, I suggest you take the opportunity to remind yourself that you are special and you deserve to be loved,

not just by a significant other, but loved by YOU. This is a perfect time to begin anew, and start taking care of yourself. Do something special for yourself. Make your favorite meal or splurge and go out to your favorite restaurant. Go to a movie. Read a good book, take a bubble bath, schedule an appointment for that much needed and so deserved massage. Put yourself first for a change!!! Remember, it is NOT selfish to put yourself first instead of taking care of everyone else and neglecting your own needs!!!

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, loving yourself and taking care of yourself may include seeking out information about and attending a domestic violence support group or finding a special advocate to talk to one-on-one about your situation. Take care of yourself in the same way you would tell your best friend or someone you love to take care of themselves. Dove has a 24-hour hotline. Call and talk to someone who will listen non-judgmentally. Call 217.423. 2238. Plan to attend one of our support groups on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., or Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

## NEWS

from the Domestic Violence Program

Dove Domestic Violence Program would like to welcome Kathy Walters, who began her employment on Monday, January 23, 2017. Kathy has been hired as Domestic Violence Housing and Administrative Specialist. In her position, made possible through a newly awarded VOCA Transitional Housing Grant, she will work with trafficking and/or domestic violence victims who may be eligible for 24 months of transitional housing. In addition, Kathy will do various other types of direct services, including data input and working with client files.

### Domestic Violence Program Shelter Needs

- African American Hair Products
- Alarm Clocks
- Body Lotion
- Deodorant
- DVD Player, New
- Healthy Snacks for Kids Groups
- Journals
- Laundry Baskets
- MP3 Player to be used with our Kareoke Machine, New
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo/Conditioner Large Bottles
- Umbrellas
- White Noise Machines, 3
- 9 Volt Batteries

*Please drop off any donations at the  
302 S. Union offices, Decatur,  
Monday - Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.*



*Thanks to those who could stop by and all who donated to the Pattycake's Kitchen Shower. We got so many practical items which can be used in the upcoming months!*



*One need we still have is juice boxes for the children's groups on Tuesday evenings. Please help us out if you can!*

*Come join us as we learn how to have healthy relationships!*



*Dove's Support Group  
Thursday evenings  
5:00 p.m.*

*Children's Group  
Thursday evening, 5:00 p.m.*

*Children are served their supper during group!*

*1102 W. Jackson, #4, Sullivan, IL 61951*

*Please Call 728-9303 for more information*

## NEWS FROM HOMEWARD BOUND



### SEEKING ENTRANCE INTO THE HOMEWARD BOUND PROGRAM?

Walk-in applications will be taken on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at the Homeward Bound office.

All others can call 362.7700 for an appointment.

### SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) Committee Meeting

The next Decatur Area SOAR Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, February 23, 10:00 a.m., at Homeward Bound, 788 E. Clay, Decatur. We will continue discussions on implementing the Decatur Area SOAR action plan. Please plan to attend. Contact Darsonya Switzer at 362.7700 for further information.

### MACON COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

March 9, 2017 - 8:00 a.m.

Results from the 2017 Point in Time Count will be shared with the public. Millikin University Professors, Mary Garrison and RJ Podeschi and the students who worked on the PIT Project will present. Watch our website or Facebook page for all the details. Public is encouraged to attend!

### Welcome Back

Dove/Homeward Bound would like to welcome Kendra Warnsley back to the Homeward Bound team! She will be resuming her role as a case manager. We are very pleased to have her back with the program!



# CHILDREN'S CLOTHING ROOM

OPEN  
MONDAY - THURSDAY  
1:00 TO 3:30 P.M.



*located inside of  
Prairie Avenue Christian Church  
2201 E. Prairie, Decatur*

*Good, used, free clothing!  
Sizes from infants to teenagers.*

For ease of making a donation of children's clothing, a shed is located south of the church in the parking lot.



*Helping others make the right  
turns to a safer future for  
themselves and their families.*

## Domestic Violence Education & Volunteer Training

May 8, 9, 10, 11  
May 15, 16, 17, 18  
May 22, 23, 24  
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Dove, Inc. / Anna B. Millikin Home  
302 S. Union, Dean Simcox Conference Room

Check the website for more information about the Domestic Violence Program. Contact Barb Blakey for more details on the Training. Registration will start on March 15.

### How to Register:

- Complete a phone interview beginning March 15 through April 28, call 428.6616
- Attend registration meeting on Wednesday, May 3, at NOON
- \$150 training fee, some scholarships available.

# Teen Dating Violence Awareness Education

Dove's Domestic Violence Program provides teen dating and domestic violence education to help teens understand healthy relationship characteristics and boundaries, recognize abusive behaviors and patterns, and know where and how to reach out for help for themselves or a friend. The Youth and Family Services Coordinator provides teen dating violence education to teens in high schools, middle schools, colleges, and youth organizations throughout DeWitt, Macon, Moultrie, Piatt, and Shelby counties.

- Teen dating violence is often the first manifestation of domestic violence – many adults report that their first experience with domestic violence occurred in a teen relationship.
- The highest rates of domestic violence occur between the ages of 15-25.
- 1 in 3 teen girls report physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner and 7 out of 10 teens (both male and female) report verbal/emotional abuse, threats, and/or stalking by a dating partner.
- Teen dating violence can be as damaging and deadly as any adult abusive relationship.

For more information or to schedule a teen dating violence educational presentation, contact Joyce Kirkland, Youth and Family Services Coordinator, at 217.428.6616.

**In the 2016 calendar year, Dove's Youth and Family Services Coordinator provided:**

- 59 teen dating violence presentations to
- 1,592 teens in
- 17 schools and
- 2 youth groups

News from the Shelby County Domestic  
Violence Program

Susie Kensil, Program Coordinator

January is a new beginning...the first month in a brand new year...a clean slate to write a new and better story of your life. Resolutions are made...and kept...or not. As January comes to an end, and we move into February, remember that it is never too late for resolutions, and for change. If you have time on your hands, and feel a need to help others, there are always opportunities to volunteer in our community. Dove is one of the organizations that welcomes volunteers.

If your life is chaotic because of domestic abuse, past or present, this is a great time to address that, as well. If this applies to you, or to someone you know, please contact us here at Dove. You can reach us by phone at 774.3121, or by contacting our website, [www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org). We offer group and individual counseling and legal advocacy and other services for adults and children. We offer opportunities to volunteer and to make a difference in the life of someone else. We also offer education if you are just interested in learning more about family violence. We would love to hear from you. Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2017.

# MAX

MACON COUNTY ASSISTANCE EXCHANGE  
LOCATED INSIDE OF  
DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
201 W. NORTH, DECATUR

OPEN MONDAY - THURSDAY  
1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.

HELPING WITH EMERGENCY FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE FOR  
FAMILIES/INDIVIDUALS IN NEED.

A FEW MAX FACTS FROM 2016

Total funds distributed - \$97,021  
Total people seen - 1,290  
Active Volunteers - 8

Some of the types of emergencies  
helped with:

- needing birth certificates
- changing locks
- prescription medications
- dental & dentures
- vision
- furnace repair
- water bills
- and many, many more needs

# DAX

DEWITT COUNTY  
ASSISTANCE EXCHANGE

DAX HAS FUNDS  
FOR FINANCIAL  
EMERGENCIES.

IF YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS, PLEASE  
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT  
JENNIFER OR MEGAN  
AT 935.6619.

WARM NEIGHBORS  COOL FRIENDS

WNCF is located in the MAX office for MACON and DEWITT Counties. Below are the 2016-2017 Income Guidelines for Weatherization and Bill Payment Assistance. Families must show proof of income. A family's monthly gross income must fall between the ranges below, based upon family size, to qualify.

**Family Size** 30-Day (Gross) Monthly  
Income Range Must be between:

	1	\$1,485 - \$2,970
	2	\$2,003 - \$4,005
	3	\$2,520 - \$5,040
	4	\$3,038 - \$6,075
	5	\$3,555 - \$7,110
	6	\$4,073 - \$8,145
	7	\$4,591 - \$9,183
	8	\$5,111 - \$10,223

# DEWITT COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

803 W. LEANDER, CLINTON  
OPEN - TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS,  
BETWEEN 10:00 A.M. AND 2:00 P.M.

THE FOOD PANTRY IS AVAILABLE FOR  
ANY RESIDENT IN THE COUNTY



# RSVP NEWS

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It is never too late to join one of our advisory councils in Macon or DeWitt County for RSVP. Council members meet once per month and help guide program activities tailored to enhance services available in our community. If interested, give Charlie or Sandy a call at 428.6616.

Are you looking for a fun volunteer activity? Or an activity that is more a slower pace? We have many volunteer opportunities from office assistance to helping build homes, and everything in between. Give us a call to learn more about where your skills and talents are needed in your community. Call Sandy in Macon County at 428.6616 or Sheryl in DeWitt County at 935.2241.

## FREE TAX PREPARATION SITE

RSVP has partnered with the Vespasian Warner Public Library and AARP Tax Program to bring free tax preparation to the DeWitt County area. Taxes will be prepared by appointment at the Vespasian Warner Library at 310 N Quincy St, Clinton. For an appointment please call the Vespasian Warner Public Library, 935.5174. This service will be available on Thursday's from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday's from 9:00 a.m. to noon, starting Thursday February 2, through Saturday April 15, 2017. This is for anyone of any age who would like their taxes prepared and filed free of charge.



Looking ahead - save the dates!

April 5, 2017 is Mayor's Day while the week of April 23 through 29 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

May has many great things to celebrate, starting with our fundraiser in Clinton at the local IGA on May 5 and 6.

May is also Older American's Month and we will be celebrating Senior Corps week as well.

*To learn more about  
becoming a  
Dove Member  
Congregation  
or to schedule a speaker  
for your congregation  
please contact  
Barb Blakey,  
Director of Volunteers  
&  
Community Relations  
at 428.6616 or  
dove@doveinc.org*



*To our Dove  
Member Congregations*

*Please help us  
make sure our  
contact information  
is up to date!*

*Please email us  
with your staff  
members  
and Delegate  
contact  
information:*

*dove@doveinc.org*

YOUR GIFT WILL ENSURE THAT SERVICES CAN CONTINUE. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.  
DOVE, INC., 302 S. UNION, DECATUR, IL 62522  
OR DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.DOVEINC.ORG