



Local Corporations Get Involved

The Homeward Bound Bloomington Walk is sponsored by several local corporations such as The City of Bloomington's Community and Family Resource Department, Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana University, Tree of life, United Way and 12 agencies located in Bloomington. The agencies are Amethyst House, Monroe County United Ministries, Centerstone, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Martha's House, Youth Services Bureau, Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, the Shalom Community Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging, Middle Way House, and Stepping Stones.

The City of Bloomington, Ivy Tech, and Indiana University are prominent representatives of the Bloomington community, and their connection to Homeward Bound Walk success is critical. The Homeward Bound Walk gives support to lower income families and homeless citizens to help them find housing, food and shelter.

The Community and Family Resources Department organizes the walk and family activities, food, and entertainers on the day of the walk. The department works daily to make our community a better place for everyone to live. The department educated the community about homelessness and poverty. They promote volunteerism and enhancing community welfare which consistent with walk goals.

Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana University sponsorship is very important to the Homeward Bound Walk. The organizations form teams, recruit walkers and volunteers, and really get students involved, which is a great part of our community.

The twelve agencies listed previously are always ready to help those that may need shelter, food, or assistance. In this newsletter we will take a closer look at a few agencies that sponsor the walk as we do our featured agency segment.

If you would like your place of business or corporation to get involved in the Homeward Bound Walk you may contact Angela Solomon at 913-645-9373 to learn more on how to become a sponsor and the benefits your business will receive.

The Agencies that Stepped-UP:

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

 Monroe County United Ministries offers subsidized childcare and help with living expenses

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



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



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



Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County provides services to strengthen families and foster positive development



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



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



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



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



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



Stepping Stones
Transitional Opportunities for Youth

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

Featured Story

Written by actual client at the Amethyst House.

Who are the homeless? The poor? The hopeless? The mentally ill, who can't find their way home? The desperate? Maybe. Surely not an educated woman from a middle-class family who grew up with unlimited possibilities for a successful future. But that is exactly who I was, and homeless was what I had become. At one time I had a career, a family, a home, vehicles, all the nice things I could want. But one by one all of those things disappeared, along with my self-esteem, self-worth, and pride.

I suffer from the disease of Addiction. And no matter how badly I wanted to give up alcohol and drugs and just live a normal life, I couldn't seem to keep it together. After years of struggling to regain control and failing time after time, I finally reached out for help. Thankfully, there was a place I could go to as long as I was willing to follow a few simple rules. I needed a place to start over and the Women's Amethyst House has given me a chance to do just that. When I arrived, I did not know a single person in Bloomington. I was full of fear, homeless, jobless, and my spirit was broken. The women who work at Amethyst were willing to give me a chance. But I had to be willing to put forth the effort it takes to change.

Today, my life is so much better, and quite different than it was just a few months ago. I am employed full-time, I am taking the necessary steps toward getting back into my career, and I am sober and healthy. I am learning how to be independent again and gaining a sense of self-worth. I have had a chance to form bonds with other women who are a lot like me. I have discovered that never again do I have to be alone. We have learned to support each other in our personal struggles. I think the greatest gift I have received is the gift of being able to give of myself – my feelings, my pain, my experiences. The women in that house have helped me grow – emotionally and spiritually. I can't imagine where I would be today if the Amethyst House hadn't seen something in me worth saving.

Homeward Bound Trivia

- How long is the walk?
- How many years has the walk taken place here in Bloomington?
- How many agencies are involved with the Homeward Bound Walk?
- Name 3 ways you can get involved or help with the walk?
- What is the date of the 2010 walk?
- How many kids are homeless in Monroe County?
- What are you going to do to help prevent poverty in Monroe County?

*answers can be found within previous and current newsletters

1. 5K 2. 8 3. 12 4. Volunteer, recruit, sponsor, fundraise, 5. April 18 6. 175

Homelessness Facts

- Monroe County's housing costs are among the highest in the state.
- 27% of Monroe County residents are experiencing poverty.
- 5.7% growth in the amount of residents in Monroe County living in Poverty from 2006-2007.
- 175 Kids in Monroe County School District are homeless. That's an increase of 151 kids last year.

*Statistics from 2009 US Census
Bureau American Community Survey;
2009 McKinney-Vento Act*

How to Get Involved

- Go to Homewardboundindiana.org to learn more about the walk.
- Walk!
- Become a partnering sponsor
- Form a team and fundraise
- Volunteer the day of the walk
- Make a monetary donation
- Make an in-kind donation of you talents, goods, or services



The 8th Annual Walk will be taking place:

**Sunday, April 18th, 2010
Noon-3:00PM
Third Street Park**