



Eliminating Domestic Abuse  
in Piatt County

# Newsletter

## New Signage at Willow Tree Missions



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# Executive Director's Update



Many prayers have been answered at Willow Tree Missions since our last newsletter! Here is a snippet of the work that has been accomplished:

- Hired a full time Director of Services, Andrea Kocher!
- Full slate of Board of Directors for now and into 2024!
- Implementing new marketing strategies from our Monticello Bootcamp Grant!
  - \*\*website has been updated;
  - \*\*new tag line "Eliminating Domestic Violence and Building Stronger Families" to cast a broader net in helping those in our community;
- Named our two locations:
  - \*\*Willow Tree Missions on Washington: Resale Shop & Family Service Center
  - \*\*Willow Tree Missions on Monroe: Donation Center, Furniture, and Home Improvement Shop
- New building sign at Willow Tree Missions on Washington!
- New directional signage at Willow Tree Missions on Monroe!
- Recipient of several grants specifically for capital improvements!
  - \*\*Monticello Building Improvement Program
  - \*\*Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA for Social Justice
  - \*\*Illinois Department of Human Services Capital Investment Grant
- 30 families have been served since January 2023!
- 3,400 volunteer hours donated since January 2023!

Going forward there is still a lot in the works! Currently we are working on the first floor, main room of the Washington Street location. This room is almost 5,000 square feet and is taking a lot of effort (volunteers) and materials (funding) to complete. Our goal, God willing, is to have the work complete in the main room this summer. Then we can transition Willow Tree Missions on Washington into our main Resale Shop, where you will be able to find clothing, shoes, accessories, housewares, technology, books and more! Next, we will transition Willow Tree Missions on Monroe into our Donation Center, Furniture, and Home Improvement Shop. Then we will start work on the transitional apartments. (We are still determining this scope of work.) Hopefully, they will be complete and ready for use at the start of 2024 joining our Family Service Center.

Want to join in on the fun?? I challenge you to do so! It is so rewarding! There are several ways you can participate: stop by and volunteer your time; gather your work, church or friend group and schedule a service project; loan us some tools to do this work; purchase construction materials or gift cards to home improvement centers; or contribute financially through cash, check or credit on our website. Work happening now in the main room includes completing the lighting, painting, fitting room ceilings, meeting room ceiling, milling and installing hundreds of lineal feet of wood trim, installing 600 square feet of new flooring; cleaning 400 square feet of ceramic tile, and completing the stair enclosure. AND we are in the midst of having the wood floors refinished! There is so much to be grateful for in our organization! We are so blessed and thankful to our many, many volunteers and donors and grantors who are making this possible! Thank you for your contribution to many lives in our community! God bless!

# Staff and Board Update

## Welcome to our new team members



### Andrea Kocher - Director of Services

Andrea has a professional background in social services and law enforcement. This includes experience with the Moultrie County Sheriff's Office, Sullivan Police Department, The Youth Advocate Program, and Dove, Inc. Andrea is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University where she obtained a bachelors degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Family Services. Andrea resides in Monticello with her husband Brad and their two children.

### Barb Steidl - Board Member

Barb Steidl has always looked for ways to help her community whether through her children's school, her church, or other community activities. After retirement, she found Willow Tree Missions and started volunteering at the shop. She was drawn to the mission at once, and discovered the people involved were passionate about it. She has absorbed that passion, and would like to learn more about the "other side", that is, the administrative and client areas. With more than 15 years of retail experience at the managerial level, Barb is eager to bring another perspective to the board.

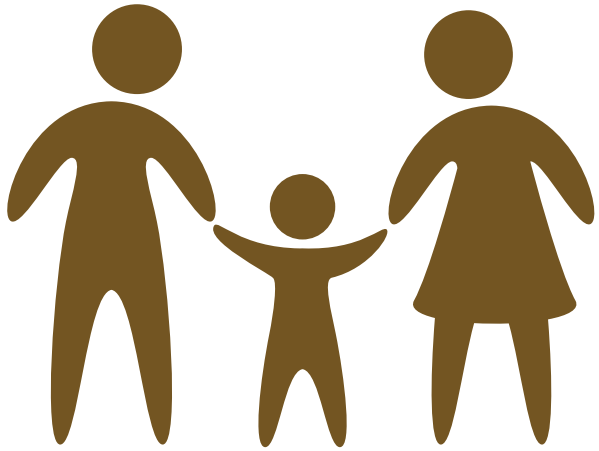


### Cheri Soliday - Board Member

Cheri, a resident of Mahomet, is excited to join the Willow Tree Missions team. She is an experienced administrative leader, project manager, and communications professional. Cheri currently serves as the Outreach Program Manager, Incubation and Entrepreneurship for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Research Park.

# 2023 By The Numbers

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**30**

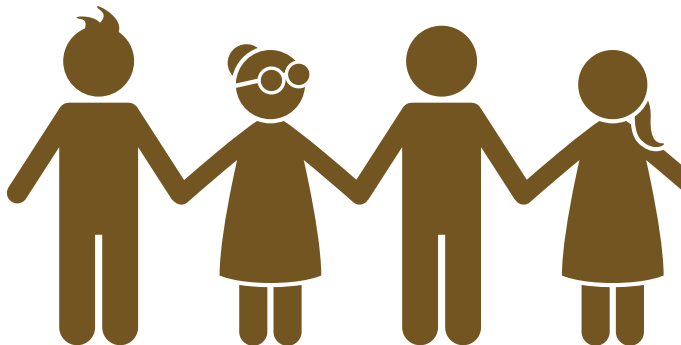
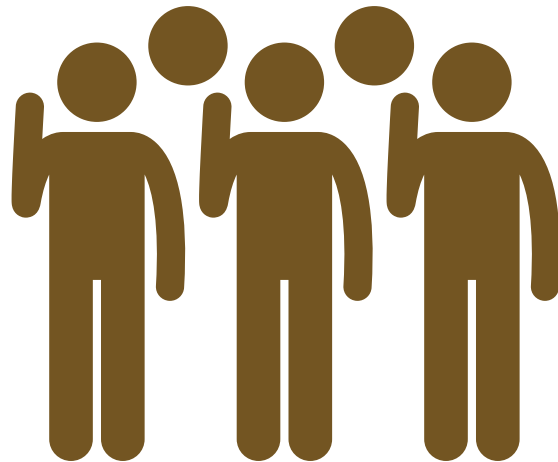
Families with  
children served

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**\$318K**

Grants & Donations  
pledged

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**700**

Volunteer hours  
donated per month

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# Renovation Update

## Renovation of Washington Street Location on Schedule

Progress is moving along swiftly on the renovation of the Washington Street location. Paint in the area has been completed thanks to several volunteer groups from the community. Lilly's Flooring is working to refinish the 100+ year old Oak floors with beautiful results and hopes are high that the large room of the Resale Shop will be ready for shoppers by late August/Early September.



### VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Painters
- Plumbers
- Fund-raising helpers
- Resale Shop helpers

To learn more about volunteering at Willow Tree Missions, visit [Time & Talent Needs](#).

# Renovation Cost Update

## Willow "Giving" Tree Capital Campaign Renovation Costs (as of June 2023)

Renovation Project	Amount Still Needed
Platform lift	\$80,000
Tuck point various walls	\$25,000
Furniture for 2 transitional apartments	\$17,500
Middle room shelving	\$16,539
Third room shelving	\$12,748
Ceiling fans - middle and main	\$12,000
Sections Main room shelving	\$7,500
Second floor ADA updates	\$4,750
<b>Total Renovation Costs</b>	<b>\$176,037</b>

Renovations Funded	
Flooring - East & Middle rooms	Door/Window Replacement
Tuck pointing to stop water leakage	Build out - East room
LED lights	Electrical Supplies - East room
Paint - East & Middle rooms	Build out - Middle room
Interior Doors - East & Middle rooms	Electrical Supplies - All rooms
Asbestos/Lead Paint Abatement	Paint - All rooms
Lead Paint Abatement-Main Room Ceiling	HVAC first floor (3 furnace & a/c units)
Roof Repairs	Fire Alarm System Installation
Tuck point East Wall	Flooring - Main Room
Fire Rated Wall Assemblies	New Exterior Door per code requirement
Security System	Build out ADA Fitting/Meeting Rooms
Dumpsters (3)	ADA Hardware per code requirement
Intercom System	New Willow Tree building sign
4 Egress windows for apartments	

**Thank you for your continued support!**

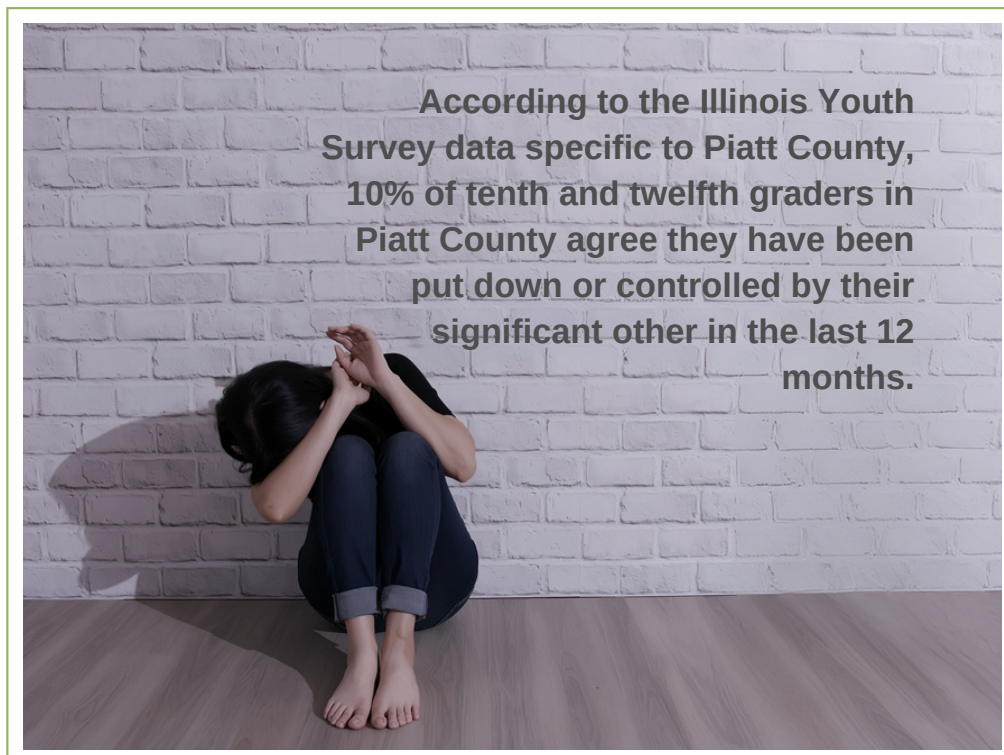
# Family Services Update

## 30 Families Served Through Family Service Center

The Family Service Center at Willow Tree provides services to survivors of domestic violence in Piatt County. We have had the opportunity to support 30 families thus far in 2023. A few examples of the assistance we have been able to provide include emergency shelter, legal advocacy, safety planning, relocation assistance, and referrals to other agencies. This is by no means an exhaustive list of what we provide, but serves as a snapshot to highlight services we have been providing.

Victims of domestic violence often face a multitude of barriers they must overcome to regain emotional and financial independence. We are continuing our work toward meeting the need in this community with transitional housing units. While we do not have an opening date at this time, we hope to have more definite information available soon.

If you are needing assistance with domestic violence, please don't hesitate to contact us locally at the Family Services Center at 217-631-1018 or you can reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.





# Christmas in July SALE SALE SALE at Willow Tree Missions

Christmas  
Home  
Decor

**AT BOTH RESALE  
SHOP LOCATIONS**

Shop Monday to Saturday,  
9:00 am to 5:00pm daily for great deals  
every day in July





**Thank you to those  
who joined us for**

We reached our goal!

TRIVIA  
NIGHT!



## **Resale Shops**

Willow Tree Missions on Washington  
100 E. Washington St.

Willow Tree Missions on Monroe  
351 W. Monroe St.  
217-762-2350

## **HOURS**

Monday - Saturday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

## **Family Service Center**

100 E. Washington St.  
217-631-1018

## **HOURS**

Monday - Friday  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

[info@willowtreemissions.org](mailto:info@willowtreemissions.org)  
[www.willowtreemissions.org](http://www.willowtreemissions.org)