

2017 NEW BEGINNINGS FUNDRAISER

*Join Us
for a casual and
relaxing evening!*

April 8, 2017
6:00 to 9:30 pm
Geneva Golf and Country Club in Muscatine

**15th Annual Benefit & Raffle for the
MCSA Domestic Violence Shelter and
"New Beginnings" Sponsorships**

Cash Bar • Interactive Food Stations • Live and Silent Auctions
50/50 Raffle • Games of chance to win jewelry and special items
Door Prizes • Isabel Blooms • "New Beginnings" Sponsorships

Registration deadline is Friday, March 31, 2017
Register online: www.mcsaiowa.org
Find us on Facebook / Twitter • For more information call (563) 264-3278

"Peace Begins at Home"
renewing hope ... rebuilding lives



We invite you to join us in support of the MCSA Domestic Violence Shelter.

This fun evening consists of food, drinks, live and silent auctions, a brief presentation about the shelter and good time with friends, both old and new!

We thank our MCSA Domestic Violence Shelter's New Beginnings Fundraiser committee members. A few are pictured here with volunteers. They all gave up a sunny afternoon to stuff envelopes. Other committee members have been busy getting donations for the baskets ready for the live and silent auctions.

ISABEL BLOOM DOVE



Stop by MCSA to pick-up this beautiful Isabel Bloom custom dove sculpture. Proceeds from the sales go directly toward the MCSA Domestic Violence Shelter and the New Beginnings fund.

The doves will be sold at the New Beginnings Fundraiser on April 8 and at MCSA for \$26 while supplies last. These would make a wonderful Easter or Mothers Day gift! Limited quantity.

NATIONAL POVERTY SPEAKER



**POVERTY to
POSSIBILITY**

Donna Beegle



Keynote speaker, Dr. Donna Beegle, is an authentic **voice from generational poverty** who tells an inspiring story of moving from 28 years of homelessness to achieving a doctorate. She now speaks, writes, and trains across the nation and internationally to educate entire communities with **proven models to better outcome for people in poverty.**

Tuesday, April 4th

Muscatine Community College at the Bob Roach Theatre

9:00am to 10:30am — Service Providers & Educators

4:00pm to 5:30pm — Service Providers & Educators

6:00pm to 7:30pm — Community Presentation

Sponsored by:



Questions?

Please contact MCSA at 563-264-3278 or email cschafer@mcsaiowa.org

**We encourage you to
join us on April 4th**

Poverty to Possibility - Muscatine Welcomes National Poverty Speaker Dr. Donna Beegle

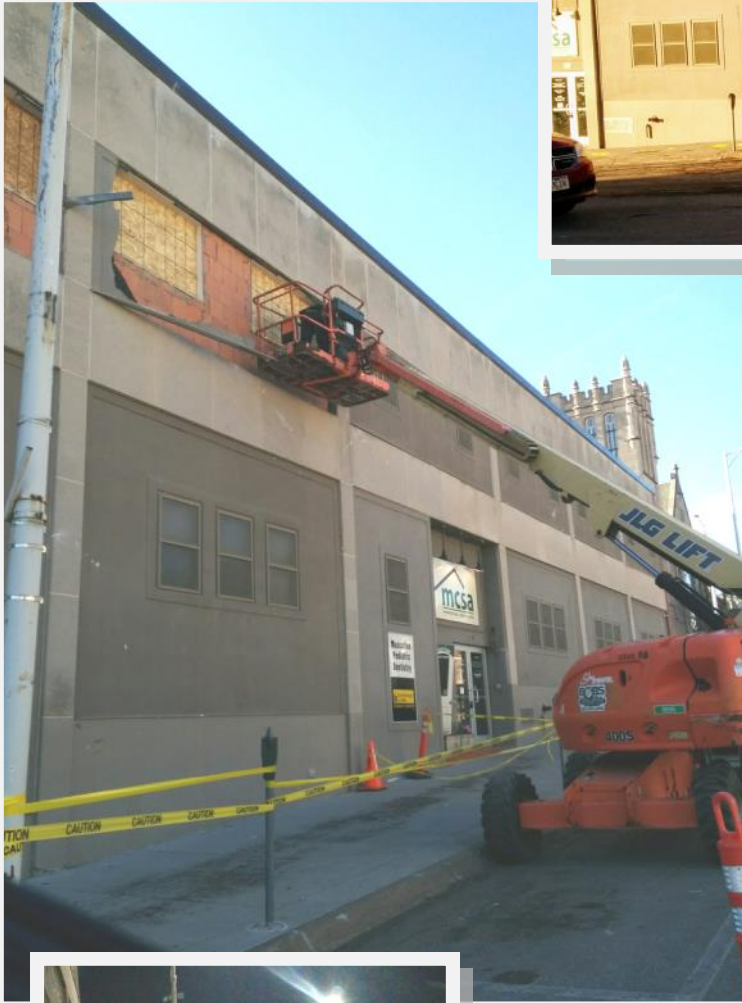
On Tuesday, April 4, an acclaimed national poverty speaker Dr. Donna Beegle will be in Muscatine to share her inspiring story.

Dr. Beegle was born into generational poverty, married at 15, and is the only member of her family who has not been incarcerated. She was homeless for 20+ years. By age 26, she earned her GED and then, within 10 years, received her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She is an authentic voice from poverty." Dr. Beegle is the author of "See Poverty, Be the Difference," and "An Action Approach to Educating Students in Poverty." We are pleased to share with our community that Dr. Beegle will also be presenting a session on the importance of education directly to high school students.

Muscatine City Housing Administrator, Jodi Royal-Goodwin, shared, "Listening to Dr. Beegle speak was like an "aha" moment. I've been working with families living on limited incomes for years and have been through other well-known poverty and cultural awareness trainings. Now, it finally clicked how cultural norms, experiences and communication style of persons experiencing poverty, especially those born into poverty, are not considered in policy and program development."

The public is encouraged to attend, the sessions are free and registration is not required.

MARCH 6TH TORNADO



The storms on Monday, March 6th came in with a fury. MCSA had 70+ renters and guests sleeping at the shelter that night. We are so fortunate no one was hurt. Six of our rented dorm rooms were damaged, we lost an air conditioning unit, security cameras, windows, roof flashing, lighting and damage was done to the exterior of our building. In times of trouble, it is so heartwarming to see how our community pulls together to help their fellow neighbors.

Thank you to all that called, texted, donated or stopped by to offer assistance.

8 WQAD
March 8 at 1:05am

Six people living on the top floor of MCSA had their windows sucked out by the storm.



EF-2 tornado crashes through Muscatine, dozens walk away unscathed

WQAD.COM | BY WQAD

[Click here for video](#)

DAY ROOM



Check out this new day room. With the change to allow the gentlemen to be in MCSA during the day this new day room was created.

CEREAL DISPENSERS



The Kid's First Fund, United Way and Mark Strajack donated these cereal dispensers to MCSA. One is located in our Family Shelter and the other in the new Men's Day room. We stock with low sugar cereals for our guests. You may have noticed our pleas on Facebook for cereal donations. What a wonderful addition.

MENS SHIFT/SICK ROOM

Another new addition is the "shift/sick room". This room is available to men that typically would sleep in the gym

that are not feeling well or for those that work the night shift and need a place to sleep during the day. When this room is not in use for sleeping, it doubles as a work out room with this donated exercise equipment.



Our Current Needs List:

- Disposable bowls
- Disposable plates
- Jelly
- Peanut butter
- Low sugar cereal
- Foil
- Shaving cream
- Bath towels
- Kitchen towels
- Cups
- Disposable Utensils
- Laundry Soap
- Slow cooker liners
- Cleaning rags
- Laundry soap
- Hair brushes
- Combs
- Deodorant

A FEW OF OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS

One of our volunteers, Gary, stops by MCSA once a week to play games with our MCSA guests. Some had not played games in years, the first thing we noticed was a smile as they reflected on the fond memories of playing games as a child. Thank you Gary for giving others a reason to smile!



Mick is another volunteer that comes in regularly to teach Job Skills. We thank him for sharing his expertise and helping others.



Two of our Tax Volunteers, Kevin & Scott.



Megan & Veronica gave up a morning on their day off to provide free haircuts to 15 of our guests. We thank them for their kindness and generosity.



TAXES FILE FREE ONLINE



The MCSA Computer Lab, at 312 Iowa Ave., will be available for you to **self-complete** your taxes, using United Way's free tax software on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 15 - 9am to 11am or 5pm to 7pm
- Thursday, February 16 - 9pm to 7pm
- Wednesday, February 22 - 9am to 11am or 5pm to 7pm
- Thursday, February 23 - 9pm to 7pm

Volunteers familiar with tax preparation will be on-site to help answer questions. Times are open to the public and reservations are not needed. A list of tax information you will need is listed on the back of this flyer.

<http://www.unitedway.org/myfreetaxes/>



Anyone making less than \$64,000 can use the United Way link www.unitedway.org/myfreetaxes/ to complete their taxes for free online. We had volunteers on hand to assist guests, tenants and community members with their taxes.

Our computer lab is open every day to the public.

U of I PEDIATRIC DENTAL CLINIC



The University of Iowa's Muscatine Pediatric Dentistry is located in the lower level of MCSA and serves children from Louisa and Muscatine counties. Last year they served 622 children.

Set up your child's appointment today by calling 563.263.0895. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays.

MCSA VISION CLINIC



In 2016, the MCSA Vision Clinic saw 41 patients that qualified for vision care and glasses.

Thank you, Dr. Korpi & Arbnore, for making a difference!
Family Eye & Contact Lens Center

JUBILEE COMMUNITY CENTER

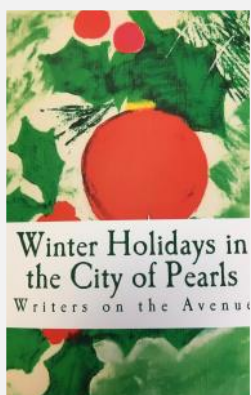


We are excited to welcome the Jubilee Community Center to MCSA. They moved into our lower level on March 1st.

The Jubilee Community Center provides an atmosphere where children, teens and young adults of all capabilities are valued and given the opportunity to gather, learn and grow.

The Jubilee Community Center offers the only community based resource for service providers and consumers who are working on life goals such as social skill, independent living, cooking, money management, social interaction, and volunteering. Their services are free and open to the public.

The hours are Monday -Thursdays from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Stop by and say hello!



We are so proud of former MCSA guest, Elaine Rochevot. Her very first piece, "Finding a Real Family," has been published in this anthology, "Winter Holidays in the City of Pearls" by Writers on the Avenue. Way to go Elaine!

Elaine Rochevot

FINDING A REAL FAMILY

I was living in Virginia when I knew I had to leave. I had been married for 29 years. At first, things were perfect. He was a gentleman. He opened doors for me, he pulled out seats for me, we went on picnics. But something changed in him. One day he turned around to face me after we had walked into the house. He said he could kill me and get away with it. He would claim he had a seizure.

Over the next few years, I watched out for myself. He tried three times. I didn't tell anyone because he would lose his job, and he needed insurance to pay for his medication. I was being a good girl, but I should have been the other.

Since I paid the bills and bought groceries, I knew what amount of money was left over. Each month I gave the extra money to my brother to hold for me. When I had enough, I went to Florida to stay with a sister. I stayed there for a while, until she called me a freeloader to other people.

25

WRITERS ON THE AVENUE

I called another sister. I asked her if she would pick me up if I got a bus ticket to Muscatine. I arrived in December 2014 and lived with her and my niece until they lost their lease a year later. I had to find somewhere to live. A friend of mine told me about the shelter. I walked there from the house on Hershey Avenue to get help.

It was December 13, 2015, that I went to live at MCSA. They gave me two city bus passes so I could get my things. When I got there, one bag was missing. Everything I owned was in one black garbage bag.

Two days after I moved into the MCSA, the shelter had a Christmas party for everyone living there. I didn't want to go; I was too depressed. I'm so glad they talked me into it. I enjoyed seeing Santa and the elves, and a lot of happy kids. It made me smile to see the kids sitting on Santa's lap for their picture. I even had my picture taken with him.

A real family loves and protects each other. I found my real family at MCSA. After eight months at the shelter, I am now living at Clark House in my own apartment. It is joyful and quiet. There is no stress or drama, but I miss my MCSA family. I know that everyone will transition to somewhere else, but we have promised to stay connected.

I'm looking forward to Christmas in my own place this year. I'm going to get a little tree and buy some gifts for my family, my real family here in Muscatine.

26

COOKING CLASSES



The MCSA kitchen smelled so good from the cooking class "Cooking Good & Cheap". This set of classes helps those on a food stamp budget use their resources efficiently, while creating healthy meals for their families.



For more information on this program please contact Nichole Sorgenfrey, nichole@unitedwaymuscatine.org, or call 563-263-5963.

Thank you to the following sponsors: Hy-Vee, United Way of Muscatine, Monsanto Co. and Kraft Heinz Company.

BIKES



We enjoyed a visit from Charlie Harper, he stopped by with his truck full of bicycles! You can not imagine how someone without transportation appreciates a bike. Thank you [Harper's Cycling & Fitness](#) for your kindness & generosity.



MONSANTO CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thank you to the folks from Monsanto for providing an amazing Christmas Party for guests and friends of MCSA! We had a packed house for this fun party complete with Santa & Mrs. Claus, dinner and gifts!



ESI TEAM



ESI team members, Angela and Kathy, stopped in with donations that their team had purchased on behalf of ESI owners, John and Joni Axel. Thank you for honoring the Axels by helping others!

POINT IN TIME STREET COUNT

MCSA participated in a statewide Point-In-Time Street count back in the early morning hours on a cold January day. The purpose was to get a count of folks not housed, that are homeless and living on the street. For more information, on the point-in-time street count, check out this link to a [Muscatine Journal Article](#).



VALENTINE'S WEEK



A Valentine's Day love story...here is David & Lisa. They met at MCSA, fell in love and then married on January 14th. Lisa likes to say "David chased me until he caught me!"

Congratulations to these two lovebirds.

QUILTS



Thank you to Barb Thompson from the Melon Patchers Quilt Guild and to

Janice Brockett for these beautiful quilts. Your generosity warms our hearts!

IL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



We serve dinner every night M—F to approximately 35 with food donated by the community. This dinner was provided by the thoughtful members of the [Illinois City United Methodist Church](#). The aroma was amazing and we hear it tasted good too! We are consistently blown away by the kindness and generosity of our community.



NEW MATTRESSES

These two little ones enjoyed watching all the excitement as a very generous, anonymous donor, arranged for the delivery of new mattresses, box springs, and bed frames for our family shelter.

Below is the delivery crew from Pierce Furniture along with MCSA staff and guests. We thank this generous donor.



WELLNESS SCREENING

WELLNESS SCREENING

SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2017
10:30AM-1:30PM
MCSA BUILDING
312 IOWA AVENUE, MUSCATINE, IOWA

Join us for all the
services and
screenings available
at no cost.



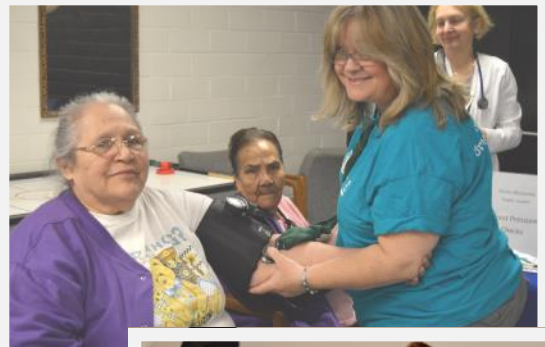
Resources Available:

- Dental Screenings
- Vision Screenings
- Blood Sugar Checks
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Nutrition Information
- Insurance Information
- Mental Health Screenings
- Substance Abuse Information
- Developmental Screenings (children 0-5 years of age)



Brought to you by:
Healthy Behaviors Task Team, a committee of the Muscatine County Health Improvement Plan and
the Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA)

If you have any questions please contact Jamie Walker from Trinity Muscatine Public Health at 563-264-9153



Healthy Behaviors Task Team, a committee of the Muscatine County Health Improvement Plan and MCSA, hosted a wellness screening on Saturday, January 21.

Great teamwork from our community, thank you to all that attended.

WINTER COATS & HATS

The Muscatine High School Student Council held a coat drive and delivered 150 coats to those served by MCSA and other local agencies.

Tess and Carissa are pictured. Thanks also to Cami, as well, and every other student involved in keeping their neighbors warm in the cold temperatures. We are grateful!



The students at Colorado Elementary held a coat drive and shared the proceeds with us! What a great group of caring students, we enjoyed seeing their smiling faces. We were able to send a copy of "Boots the Book" with them for their school library.

Last year we provided housing for 54 children in our Family Shelter, 25 children at the Domestic Violence Shelter and our Homeless Prevention Program served 343 children.



Temp Associates sponsored a hat and mitten drive! Some of the beautiful hats were even hand knitted. Thank you Temp Associates.

GIRL SCOUTS



Girl Scout Troop 1039 stopped by for a tour and brought two vans loaded with food and pillows for MCSA. So proud of these girls leadership skills and helping others in our community.



Girl Scout troops 9414 and 2034 stopped by to serve dinner and learn more about MCSA. They did a great job and were a big help! Thank you girls.

BOX TOPS



Thank you to [Saints Mary & Mathias Catholic School](#). During the month of December, students collected Boxtops for three local charities to help "Light Up Muscatine with Kindness." MCSA received \$70.10 (701 Box Tops)

Pictured are the three top Box Top students for the month of December: (from L to R) Maverick Erwin, Elaina Wolf and Natalie Reesink.

We appreciate their kindness and generosity!



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY



The amazing students at [Franklin Elementary](#) school sold candy-grams and held a bake sale to raise money for children staying at MCSA. We are so proud of the thoughtful young people in our community. Thank you!



GOOD BYE, FRIEND

Tom Curry, MCSA Operations Manager started a new chapter in life, "Retirement". His last day at MCSA was January 27th. We miss Tom's knowledge and good natured wit.

We thank Tom for his years of dedication and we wish him great happiness in retirement!

WHAT! MAGGIE IS RETIRING TOO?

Tom should have downplayed how much fun he is having, because now, Maggie Curry, has decided to join him in July. Maggie has served as a constant advocate and true friend of MCSA and those we serve.

We will have more news on Maggie's retirement as the date approaches.



MCSA



MCSA: 563-264-3278

- 312 Iowa Avenue - Muscatine, IA - 52761
- Email: mcsa@mcsaiowa.org

Domestic Violence Shelter Crisis Line: 563-263-8080

- Location Undisclosed, Muscatine, IA 52761

Pediatric Dental Clinic: 563-263-0895

- Lower level of MCSA

Facebook: [Muscatine Center for Social Action](#)

You Tube: [Muscatine Center for Social Action](#)

Website: www.mcsaiowa.org

The Muscatine Center for Social Action is a non-profit 501 c(3) organization dedicated to serving those in need.