



Retirement Celebration

# Maggie Curry

What happens when someone devotes 20+ years of their life to helping others? Something amazing.

Sheltering in the building began on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1996, under the direction of then Director, Mark Patton. This was also the day Maggie Curry began her career with MCSA.

We are thankful that Maggie chose Muscatine Center for Social Action to selflessly give her time, talent, and love.

On July 21st from 11 am to 2 pm we will open our doors to host a well-deserved retirement party for Maggie.

Join us for the fun, the stories, and a glimpse of the community bettered by the work that she has been an integral part of. By the way, if you have stories, we would love to hear them!

Please join us in *celebrating* Maggie's retirement:

Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 11 am - 2 pm

Remarks at Noon

Muscatine Center for Social Action, 312 Iowa Avenue



## ADOPT-A-DAY FUNDRAISER



### ADOPT-A-DAY of Homelessness

Muscatine Center for Social Action, sheltered 250 clients, including 54 children who were experiencing homelessness in 2016. The first six months of 2017, we have housed 42 children and their families.

The cost of providing this transitional housing, related programming, and individualized case planning averages \$1,500 a day. We invite you to partner to help the poorest of our community. Varying sponsorship levels are available. All **new** donor money will be generously matched by the Howe Family. Call 563-264-3278 today.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER NEW BEGINNINGS

Whether you donated, volunteered, or attended - your actions supported those locally suffering domestic violence. It is the conversations around this topic that brings awareness and support.

The success of the evening and our efforts are defined by the multitude of women and children whose lives have been transformed. To view more pictures of the evening: [Album](#)

We had record-breaking attendance this year. We want to recognize those that made this great event happen: The Chief of the Action was Susan Freers. This event does not happen without Susan. She began holding meetings in June. Others on the New Beginnings Committee that volunteered were: Angie Schillig, Tasha Wall, Nick Gow, Shelley Maharry, Jessica Wittman, Judy Yates, Kharma Truitt, Michele Rhoades, Tom Curry, Maggie Curry, and Bonnie Nichols. We give them a huge thanks.





# NEW BEGINNINGS SPONSORS

## Platinum Sponsors

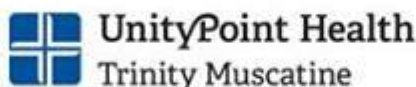


*Isabel Bloom*



**VINTAGE SOUND  
93.1**

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## Gold Sponsors



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NATIONAL POVERTY SPEAKER



On April 4th, keynote speaker, Dr. Donna Beegle, told an inspiring story of moving from 28 years of homelessness to achieving a doctorate as she educated those in attendance on poverty.

Donna spoke to 500 community members in 4 sessions, as well as 125 high school students. Attendees from local governments, businesses, faith organizations, human service agencies, health care agencies, education professionals, and compassionate community members participated in the day's sessions. The energy, support, and

conversations from those in attendance have been truly inspiring.

"I think the most moving part of the day was when Donna asked the high school students if they had ever seen their mothers or grandmothers go hungry. The significant level of affirmations from these young people was a stark reminder of the real opportunities before us." stated Charla Schafer.

Aligned Impact Muscatine (AIM) <http://alignedimpactmuscatine.org> is working on Next Steps related to this conversation. Watch for more information.

Click on the items below to view the video or read more.



Poverty to Possibilities - Donna Beegle April 4th Evening Presentation at MCC -- YouTube Video

YOUTUBE.COM



Life in a 'war zone': The realities of generational poverty  
MUSCATINE — Living in poverty is like living in a war zone, says speaker Dr. Donna Beegle.

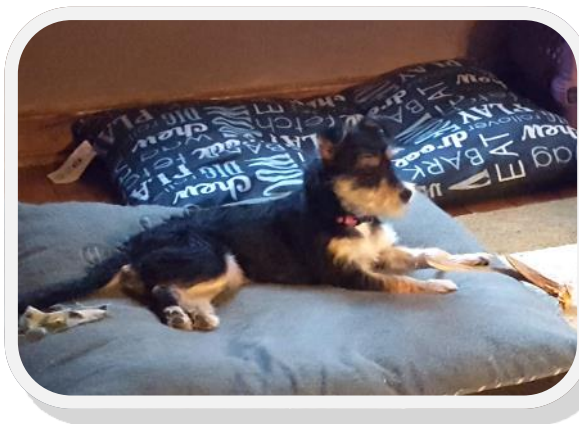
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Learn More



Bonnie Nichols, Charla Schafer, Naomi DeWinter, Donna Beegle, Susan Day, Jodi Royal-Goodwin

## PET FOSTERING



Check out this pampered pooch! This is Ana, a shelter family's pet. The picture is at her foster home. Ana was reunited with her family when they moved to stable housing.

One of the obstacles that has prevented families from staying at the shelter over the years, is if you have a beloved pet, what do you do with it while you stay at MCSA? We have seen families choose to sleep in their cars rather than give up a pet.

We recently had a local leader step forward and has been fostering pets while families are in a housing gap. They even ensure the pets get a check-up and shots before returning them back to their owners.

## FAMILY SHELTER BATHROOM

The Family Shelter opened 21 years ago with one bathroom that included a single toilet and shower. Now imagine the patience and coordination over the years for those living in the family shelter. At press time that would have been 30 people, including 13 children sharing the one bathroom.

North Construction is turning that single space into three separate bathrooms, including a bathtub for the little ones.

We are so excited. Thank you to all that have donated to help with this renovation, including the Coins for Christmas, a local trust, and some proceeds from the recent Fireworks fundraiser. We are still soliciting donations for the completion of this project.



## TORNADO CLEAN-UP

We are relieved that we are back in one piece. Six of the 35 dorm rooms had the windows sucked out by the tornado. All 6 of the tenants are back in their completed rooms.

The roof damage included a car tire's tread mark from one of the tires that had been securing a road construction sign on the street.

And, the street outside is done. Stop down and see us!

(Notice our visitors in the street in this photo.)





## Family Shelter MURAL

Special thanks to Johan and [Calvary Church](#) for sharing their time, talent, and artistry!! Can't wait to see the finished mural!

## FREE SMILES



### Today is your day: Artists design, paint inspirational mural at MCSA

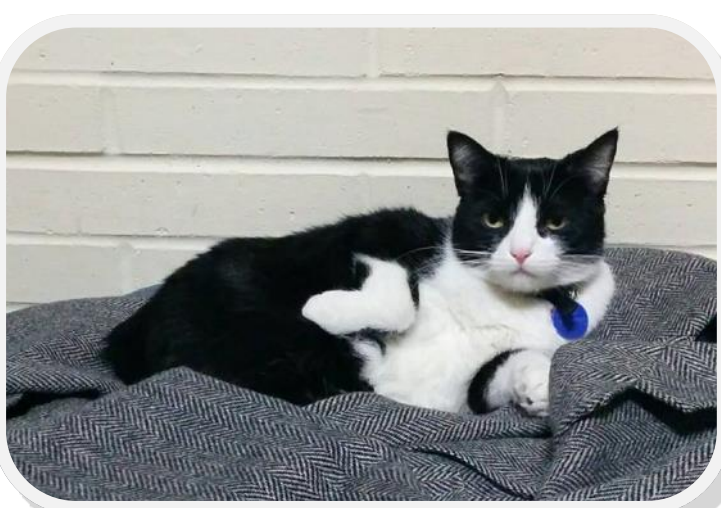
MUSCATINE — Artists from Calvary Church have been painting a large mural at Muscatine Center for Social Action. The mural, which says "Today is your day,"...

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[Learn More](#)



One of our guests playing soccer in the gym.



As you can see, Boots is not always a ray of sunshine. We love her anyway!

## The Best INTERNS in MUSCATINE

**MaKenzie Failyer** has been working in a long-term co-op with MCSA. She graduated from Western Illinois University in May with a major in Communications and a minor in Non-Profit Administration. Makenzie's future plans include educating students about Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention.



Failyer



Raichur



Rauenbuehler

**Shalini Raichur** is back working her second summer as an intern for MCSA. Shalini is attending Saint Louis University majoring in Public Health with minors in Entrepreneurship, Social Work & Urban Poverty studies. Shalin's plans include developing a nonprofit think tank centered around global health problems in third world countries.

**Andrew Rauenbuehler** is also working as a summer intern. Andrew is a graduate of the University of Saint Thomas and is currently in seminary at The Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, MN, studying for the Catholic priesthood. During the school year, Andrew volunteers in Minneapolis at Mary's Place Homeless Shelter, the Ramsey County Jail, and the VA Hospital.

We are incredibly fortunate to have these committed people impacting those we serve at MCSA today and positioning themselves to assume larger roles of impact in their future.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Jean Garner**, a Muscatine native was raised on a farm south of Muscatine in Louisa County. Jean has lived and worked in Greater Muscatine for 36 years. Garner, earned her Associate Degrees from Muscatine Community College, a BA in Accounting from the University of Iowa, and her Masters in Management from University of Phoenix. Jean worked for Muscatine Community School District for 33 years, serving as the Director of Finance for 20 years. She recently retired from the Muscatine Community School District.



Garner



DeWinter



Johannsen

Jean states, “Muscatine truly is a great community, however it has challenges that all communities face. Working in the public school system, I witnessed firsthand the effects these challenges have on the children, the families and the community. MCSA is addressing some of these challenges; shelter, health care, and housing for those in need. I believe MCSA provides support and education that is vitally important to renewing hope and rebuilding lives”

**Naomi DeWinter** has served as the President at Muscatine Community College since August of 2015. Prior to moving to Muscatine, she worked at a community college in northern Michigan. Naomi has an interest in working towards increasing the educational attainment of community members, creating aspirations for children to go to college and opportunities for adults to train for new careers. She is a member of Rotary, a Ricochet volunteer, on the AIM leadership council and a GMCCI Board member.

Naomi states, “I’m interested in helping to break the cycle of poverty and changing the trajectory of MCSA residents through education. It is the goal of MCSA to provide a valuable service when it is most needed. The staff is compassionate and respectful of everyone’s personal circumstances that lead them to the doors of MCSA. My belief and my hope, in working with the MCSA Board, is that residents can find stability in their lives by increasing their education and by gaining new skills. I will work to break down barriers that prevent people from meeting that goal.”

**Mike Johannsen** begins his term on July 1st. Mike recently retired as the Director of Muscatine County Community Services after 37 years, and brings a specialized background in comprehensive human service, housing, and mental health.

Mike states, “I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve on the MCSA Board. MCSA is a leading human service Agency in Muscatine. MCSA’s commitment to housing as a foundational program is extremely important in stabilizing individuals and families so they can fully participate in the community.”

Watch some of Mike’s thoughts about our history and his involvement in MCSA over the years: [Video](#)

We welcome Jean, Naomi, and Mike to our Board of Directors and look forward to the expertise and commitment they each bring.



## FIREWORK FUNDRAISER



Jim Simmons, Hy-Vee Store Director, and MCSA Board member brought us a fantastic fundraiser this year.

MCSA earned a portion of proceeds from the Firework Tent sales in Hy-Vee's parking lot.

We are thankful for the many volunteers and Board members that gave their time to help off-set expenses and maximize our potential earnings. Special thanks to Jim and his team at Hy-Vee for their tireless efforts to ensure the success of this fundraiser. And thanks to Shalini Raichur, our summer intern, and Bonnie Nichols, our Donor Relations Specialist who managed this unique but lucrative project!



Members of the MHS football team helped prepare the tent.

## VOLUNTEERS



This committed group from Wilton United Methodist were here in June. They painted, cleaned, volunteered at the Fireworks stand, worked the front desk, and organized some spaces.



These awesome Day of Caring students from the [Muscatine Community School District](#)'s Key Club were a big help on building projects.

## RENTER CLASSES



We love having Barbara Fick and Susan Day teaching classes at MCSA on how to be a successful renter.

We think this is a great program for our community.



## A SAMPLE of GENEROSITY



The very kind folks from aBundle traveled 3+ hours, one way, to bring us many, many boxes of needed supplies.

<https://www.abundle.com/>



[Zachry Group](#) recently donated a truck load of supplies to MCSA and our clients. Incredible kindness!



The Business and Professional Women (BPW) stopped in for a tour and then made a significant donation to the Domestic Violence Shelter.



We are grateful to the Catholic Daughters of America for supporting those experiencing domestic violence.



These Central Middle School 7th graders raised nearly \$500 and collected food items for us.



Special thanks to the Madison 4th grade Student Lighthouse Team who raised \$400 to help those at MCSA affected by the tornado!

# EVERYONE SLEEPS... THE QUESTION IS WHERE?

By: Charla Schafer

When my son was two years old, we had a very dedicated nighttime routine. We would give him a bath, get him in his jammies, snuggle in bed, read the same book repeatedly, and talk about his day and our plans for tomorrow. Then we would kiss him good night. Invariably, 20 minutes later we would find him asleep in the hall.

As a new parent, I called my mother-in-law in desperation recounting our toddler's sleep patterns. Having raised 10 children of her own, she responded rather directly, "Do you know any adults that sleep in the hall?" I sheepishly replied "No." She abruptly concluded the conversation with, "Then QUIT worrying about it."



Aww, the wisdom. I had worried about where this little fella chose to sleep in our own home. The more I learn about local homelessness, the more ridiculous and short-sighted that seems.

For many in our community, the question of where their children will sleep is an overwhelming daily reality. Last year Muscatine Center for Social Action (MCSA) housed 310 people from our community that were temporarily homeless, including 79 children.

MCSA is privileged to work with the individuals and families who reach out to us for service, but that is just a fraction of those in need. Studies show that for every one child in a shelter, there are five more that are homeless: couch-hopping or living in an uninhabitable location. For these families, the opportunity for their toddler to fall asleep in the hallway of their own home is a distant dream.

In 2016, MCSA also worked with an additional 227 households (2% of all Muscatine households) with 334 children who were on the verge of homelessness.

A common cliché is people should just work a bit harder. However, Communications Across Barriers reports that two-thirds of adults in poverty work an average of 1.7 jobs according to the 2010 census.

So what is the leading cause of homelessness? Lack of affordable housing. As a rule of thumb you should not pay more than 30% of your income for housing. We routinely see people paying 60% to 80% of their income for housing, leaving little left for anything else. These folks are a small financial hiccup away from homelessness. Or, we see three or four families living together trying to keep their children sheltered. What we do know is living doubled and tripled up is not beneficial, and often is not safe for children.

It has been shown that every move a child makes, due to housing instability, can cause an academic set back of up to 6 months, and affect the entire classroom. Poverty is the single biggest threat to a child's well-being, and unfortunately, it is often coupled with housing insecurity.

So I tried to determine how many affordable housing units our community may be short - if 15% of Muscatine residents are reported to be in poverty, you could then assume roughly 1,350 households are poverty stricken. And, the number of subsidized units in our community is shy of 800, leaving a shortage of more than 500 "affordable" housing units.

However, to paint a truer picture, only households in 490 of those 800 subsidized units are guaranteed to not pay more than 40% of their income for housing at the time they move in. The remaining 300+ households may continue to be extremely cost burdened (paying 50% or more for housing) to live in these "affordable" units.

So what is the affordable housing answer? It may not be simple or clear, but I don't believe it is an issue that my mother-in-law or anyone else in our community would dismiss by telling us to "QUIT worrying about it".

#endchildhoodhomelessness

Last year the MCSA University of Iowa Pediatric Dental Clinic served 622 children from Muscatine & Louisa counties. We are fortunate to have them right here in our building at MCSA since 2005.



## The University of Iowa Pediatric Dental Clinic at MCSA

By: Teresa Cardoza and Kecia Leary



**Teresa Cardoza, Michele Murphy, and Jaimie Kleppe**

It's that time of year, time to get school supplies, time to make sure your immunizations are up-to-date, and it's time to see the dentist. Did you know that kindergarteners and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Iowa are required to have a dental examination prior to the start of school? We have these forms readily available at the University of Iowa Dental Clinic at MCSA. School-aged children aren't the only ones that need a dental examination, but Head Start and Early Head Start preschoolers also require an examination. Pediatric dental faculty, pediatric residents, and senior dental students all see patients at MCSA every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-4 and provide comprehensive dental care to children birth through 18. For children requiring more advanced dental care in other areas, we are able to refer them to specialists at the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry.

We know that dental cavities are the number one untreated disease among school-aged children. It is more common than asthma and hay fever. We want to make sure that every child goes to school without a toothache. For this reason, we provide dental services to children in the Muscatine Pediatric Dentistry Clinic at a reduced fee. We also accept insurance including Iowa Medicaid for children. Our goal is that every child in the area have a Dental Home by age 1. This means that a dentist provides oral health care in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way. We do that by providing routine care here in Muscatine Tuesday's and Thursday's and we are available for emergencies 24 hours a day 7 days a week by contacting the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry during work hours and the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics during afterhours and weekends.

So, when you are getting everything prepared for back to school, make sure to schedule a back-to-school dental examination and cleaning by calling 563-263-0895 at MCSA or any other dental provider in the area.



**U of I Pediatric Dental Clinic at MCSA**



## PAT GOMEZ RETIREMENT



Pat Gomez has announced an August retirement from MCSA. She began her career in 2010, and has been multi-faceted in her roles as Receptionist, Resident Support and most recently Overnight Resident Support.

Pat has been an instrumental part of the daily delivery of guest services during her tenure. It is not uncommon to have current and past guests remark about the supportive service they received from Pat during their stay at MCSA.

We thank Pat and wish her husband, Jose, a retirement filled with joy and family!

## Current Needs

- Disposable bowls
- Disposable plates
- Jelly
- Sugar-free jelly
- Peanut butter
- Almond butter
- Low sugar cereal
- Saran Wrap
- Foil
- Shaving cream
- Bath towels
- Kitchen towels
- Wash Cloths
- Foam Cups
- Disposable Utensils
- Laundry Soap
- Slow cooker liners
- Cleaning rags
- Deodorant



**MCSA:** 563-264-3278

- 312 Iowa Avenue - Muscatine, IA - 52761
- Email: [mcsa@mcsaiowa.org](mailto:mcsa@mcsaiowa.org)

**Domestic Violence Shelter Crisis Line:** 563-263-8080

- Location Undisclosed, Muscatine, IA 52761

**University of Iowa 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](http://www.mcsaiowa.org)

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

