



# The Regional Review

The latest news from the Western Illinois Regional Council & Community Action Agency

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## Moving Forward..., Shaun Pritchard, Executive Director

A phrase that's so prevalent in our society today is 'it is what it is'. When this phrase is used by someone speaking to me, what I'm really hearing is that they have accepted defeat, they refuse to be innovative, and they aren't going to be a partner in making positive change. Thankfully, I don't hear 'it is what it is' from the staff at WIRC.

There's another phrase that I do like. 'If you're not moving forward, you're moving backward.' While this phrase was coined to encourage personal motivation, it should also be applied to the businesses, institutions, and organizations that we represent. However, moving forward is never easy. It might mean scrapping long-sacred processes and changing organizational hierarchies. Or, it could mean refocusing back to the original mission. Moving



forward looks different for every operation, but there's a common thread. These are the businesses, institutions, and organizations that are noticed, respected, and looked to for leading the way.

At WIRC we continue to move forward in ensuring that western Illinois is a wonderful place to live,

work, and play. This organization is stepping outside of its comfort zone in the types of grants we write and administer, expanding our services to new areas, and rethinking the delivery of existing services.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, board members, communities, and partners that make WIRC a success.

Have a wonderful summer and keep moving forward!

**Shaun Pritchard**  
Executive Director



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## MCPT & HCPT Release Ridership Analysis



McDonough County Public Transportation (MCPT) and Hancock County Public Transportation (HCPT) released the results of their joint multi-year ridership and travel characteristic analysis. The analysis, funded through a grant by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), was conducted in order to identify what is working well for riders and potential needs for improvement.

MCPT, owned by the City of Macomb, oversees the GoWest bus service and the Demand Response transportation service, while HCPT, owned by the Hancock County Board, has a Demand Response service. Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) provides administrative staff support to both MCPT and HCPT.

GoWest is a fixed-route bus service in Macomb that members of the public can ride for free. Demand Response provides door-to-door transportation throughout McDonough and Hancock County using a graduated fee structure. All vehicles are accessible to those with disabilities.

A questionnaire was distributed in-person to GoWest riders during the fall of 2016. During the spring of 2017, a direct mail questionnaire was distributed to randomly selected Demand Response riders. GoWest received 620 responses, and Demand Response received a combined total of 140 responses.

Expectedly, a majority of GoWest respondents (91%) were

students who reported using the service multiple times per week to travel to their classes. GoWest riders, two-thirds of which do not own a car, also listed using the service for shopping, going to restaurants, or running errands. In contrast, many Demand Response participants indicated they were senior citizens, with many being retired or disabled. A notable amount of Hancock County participants (36%) and McDonough County participants (47%) declared they are unable to drive due to a medical/physical condition. Transportation to non-emergency medical appointments was cited as the main reason for using the Demand Response service.

Nathan Cobb, Transit Director for MCPT, is pleased with the study and says the information gathered is valuable for the future of the service. Cobb continued that the analysis demonstrates the importance of having public transportation services in our region, especially for those traveling to medical appointments. When a Demand Response rider was asked what they would do if the service was not available, they replied, "I'd be stuck."

Results from the multi-year analysis will be used to make improvements to the services provided by MCPT and HCPT. For more information about MCPT, visit their website at [837ride.com](http://837ride.com) or call (309) 837-7433. Information regarding WIRC can be found online at [wirpc.org](http://wirpc.org) or by calling (309) 837-3941. To contact HCPT, call 1 (877) 371-4278. ❄



## Survival Challenge Benefits WIRC



*Macomb's Survival Challenge invites people from all over the world to compete in challenges similar to those on the CBS television show Survivor. All proceeds are donated to local charities.*

WIRC is pleased to announce they have been selected as one of the recipients of proceeds from the Survival Challenge. This annual event, held in Macomb, invites individuals from all over the world to compete in an experience as authentic as possible to that of the famous CBS television show, *Survivor*. Players are formed into tribes that compete with each other in extreme outdoor challenges, including obstacle courses; eating exotic food; mind games; fish toss; puzzles; and more.

The focus of Survival Challenge is about supporting others, with all proceeds being distributed to local charities. This year, WIRC and a former contestant suffering from a health issue will be the recipients of the proceeds. The 2019 event was held from July 3-7. The total amount raised is still being tallied.

For more information about Survival Challenge, find "Survival Challenge" on Facebook or visit [survivalchallenge.net](http://survivalchallenge.net).

For more information about WIRC's programs, visit [wirpc.org](http://wirpc.org), find "Western Illinois Regional Council" on Facebook, or call (309) 837-3941.✿

## MCPT Presents Update on New Fleet



*The first of five new GoWest buses goes through the assembly line.*

Thanks to a 2014 State Capital Bill, MCPT is replacing five buses in its GoWest fleet. The aging buses have been in service for over 20 years, and have between 600,000 – 1,000,000 miles of service.

The five new 35-foot-long New Flyer Excelsior buses are being assembled in Anniston, Alabama. Nathan Cobb, MCPT Transit Director, says the first bus has already entered the production line. He anticipates the buses will be delivered in early August.

For more information, call Nathan Cobb at (309) 837-7433 or visit [837ride.com](http://837ride.com).



*The frame of a new GoWest bus is assembled at a factory in Alabama.*

**Have extra clothes that  
you don't wear anymore?**

**Donate them to the  
WIRC-CAA Clothing  
Center!**



**Preferred donation times:**  
Monday through Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**WIRC-CAA Clothing Center**  
223 South Randolph Street  
Macomb, Illinois 61455  
(309) 837-2997

## LIHEAP Ends for the Season



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program officially ends for the season on June 17. This program accepts applications from October 1 through May 31, and is designed to help pay the energy bills of eligible low income individuals. This program also has a furnace assistance component for emergency heat restoration.

At this time, there are no plans by the State of Illinois to initiate a summer cooling program.✿

## City of Macomb Receives Award to Address Abandoned Properties

The Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC), through the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Program, has secured a \$40,000 grant for the City of Macomb for the purposes of acquiring and safeguarding abandoned residential properties.

WIRC provides technical assistance to local governments and elected officials facing complex community and economic development issues in the counties of and communities within Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, and Warren. ❁

## "Stuff The Bus" Food Drive Benefits Families Served by WIRC-CAA

My staff and I want to thank all who participated in the recent WIU "Stuff the Bus" food drive. The WIRC-CAA Food Pantry received a monetary donation made possible through the efforts of many sororities, fraternities, and other WIU volunteers and organizations. Thank you to Anna Filson and the Sodexo staff for coordinating this event, and to all of the residents who made contributions towards this beneficial undertaking.

Shaun Pritchard  
Executive Director ❁

## WIRC-CAA Expands Into Knox County



*The WIRC-CAA logo has been updated to reflect the inclusion of Knox County.*

Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA) has been designated by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity as the permanent administrator of the Community Services Block Grant for Knox County, receiving a \$300,000 grant award.

For over 35 years, WIRC-CAA has provided services to income-eligible individuals and families throughout western Illinois, such as nutrition, energy assistance, clothing, scholarships for college and trade degrees, and summer youth camp opportunities. The Western Illinois Regional Council, WIRC-CAA's parent agency, has served Knox County and its member communities for over 45 years with grant writing and administration of infrastructure projects, housing rehabilitation, and economic development.

More information on services to be provided under the Community Services Block Grant in Knox County will be made available through the WIRC-CAA website, partner agencies, and media outlets as programs are made available in the upcoming months. ❁

## Local Organizations Collect Donations



*Members of the University Baptist Church delivered food and clothing donations to WIRC-CAA.*



*The WIRC-CAA Food Pantry is stocked with federal food commodities, venison from Hunters Helping the Hungry Program, and community donations.*

Thanks to the efforts of local postal workers and members of the University Baptist Church, families in need of food and clothing will have one less thing to worry about. Postal workers organize the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive each year. This year, 1,000 pounds of food was donated to the WIRC-CAA Food Pantry. "It was a big effort deserving of a big thank you," said Shaun Pritchard, WIRC Executive Director.

In addition, Pritchard wants to thank the University Baptist Church for their donation of clothing and over 400 pounds of food.

For more information about WIRC-CAA's programs, call (309) 837-2997. ❁



# Kathy Simmons Memorial 5K Raises Over \$5,000



*Over 60 runners, walkers, and rollers were excited to start the race at the 2019 Kathy Simmons Memorial 5K Walk/Run/Roll.*

The Kathy Simmons Memorial 5K Walk/Run/Roll was held on Saturday, May 4 in Macomb. Ms. Simmons was a compassionate nurse at McDonough District Hospital, a resident of Hancock County, and mother of three children. On March 26, 2003, she became a fatal victim of domestic violence by the hands of her husband of 25 years. This annual event is held in memory of Kathy Simmons and in support of victims/survivors of domestic violence in western Illinois. All donations and proceeds benefitted Victim Services.

Kiryn Evans, Kathy Simmons' daughter and an advocate for domestic violence awareness, spoke in her mother's honor before the race. "Unfortunately there are many, many women and children who do not survive violence, and my mother was one of those people," Evans said. Evans emphasized that all funds raised for the event stay local and that her family sees none of the proceeds. Victim Services Director Naomi Taylor discussed Victim Services' free programs and thanked everyone who contributed to this year's race. In particular, Taylor wants to thank Medi-Weightloss (Peoria, IL) for their

generous \$2,000 donation.

This year, \$5,630 was raised for survivors served by Victim Services.

An informational display was available for the 61 attendees to learn about the history of the event and Victim Services' free programs. After the race, a raffle was held with prizes donated from local businesses. Awards were presented to the top male and female runners in each age category by Victim Services' Domestic Violence Legal Advocate/5K Program Coordinator Becky Cox-Medina and Kiryn Evans. A Serena Williams bag, valued at \$300, was awarded to a lucky contestant courtesy of Stacy Foxall of All-State Insurance in Macomb.



*Kiryn Evans, left, presents a ribbon to Maya Stovall, right, the Overall Winner of the 2019 Kathy Simmons Memorial 5K Walk/Run/Roll.*



*A family nears the purple finish line at the 2019 Kathy Simmons Memorial 5K Walk/Run/Roll.*

Victim Services provides free and confidential services in a safe environment with knowledgeable staff members who are ready to provide emergency services, advocacy, counseling, professional training, and public education. For more information about their programs, visit [wirpc.org](http://wirpc.org), find WIRC-CAA Victim Services on Facebook, or call (309) 837-6622.

If you or someone you know are being abused, call their 24-hour free and confidential crisis hotline at (309) 837-5555.✿

**Crisis Hotline  
Volunteers Needed!**

If you would like to volunteer for the crisis hotline, call (309) 837-6622.



# Silvie's Ride Raises Over \$9,000 for Abuse Survivors



*Silven "Silvie" Iris Yocum was excited to go to her first day of kindergarten. Silvie became a fatal victim of child abuse on September 16, 2006 at the age of 5. Silvie's Ride is held in her memory and in memory of all children who have experienced and witnessed child abuse.*

At the age of five and just having started kindergarten, Silven "Silvie" Iris Yocum became a fatal victim of child abuse on September 16, 2006. Silvie's Ride is held in her honor and in remembrance of all children who have died because of child abuse or are living with abuse in their lives. In honor of Silvie, her family selected WIRC-CAA Victim Services as the recipient of all proceeds from the event. The amount raised this year is ongoing due to donations continuing to be received after the event. As of July 2019, the total is \$9,219.

Silvie's Ride 2019 was held on Saturday, June 15 at the Elks Lodge in Macomb. Before the start of the ride, attendees enjoyed a breakfast buffet while they browsed silent auction items. A Blessing of the Bikes



*While motorcycles are a favorite of participants, all vehicles are welcome at Silvie's Ride.*

was held at 10:00 a.m., followed by the start of the ride at 10:30 a.m. The Macomb Police Department and McDonough County Sheriff's Office provided a police escort in Macomb. Riders traveled to several locations throughout western Illinois, including: Twisted Sisters Bar & Grill in St. Augustine; Quigley's Saloon in Roseville; The Feedlot Bar & Grill in Stronghurst; Wye Knot

Tavern in Niota; The Double Deuce in Carthage; and the Elks Lodge in Macomb. After the ride, dinner was available for riders at the Elks Lodge, followed by a silent auction and \$100 raffle. Silvie's family would like to thank the Knights Motorcycle Riding Club for donating their time and energy to promote this special cause.

For more information about Silvie's Ride, contact Jon Yocum at (309) 255-6927 or find "Silvie's Ride Against Child Abuse" on Facebook. For more information about Victim Services, call (309) 837-6622, visit [wirpc.org](http://wirpc.org), or find "WIRC-CAA Victim Services" on Facebook. If you or someone you know are being abused, call Victim Services' 24-hour free and confidential crisis hotline at (309) 837-5555.✿



*The Macomb Police Department and McDonough County Sheriff's Office provided a police escort in Macomb.*



*Attendees viewed silent auction items before the ride.*



*After the ride, attendees enjoyed dinner, a silent auction, and a raffle.*

# Victim Services Adds Satellite Office in Fulton County

WIRC-CAA Victim Services, based in Macomb, is pleased to announce that they have opened a satellite office in Fulton County in order to assist survivors of sexual assault/abuse. Victim Services' Sexual Assault Program provides assistance to adult and child survivors of sexual abuse and/or assault, adult survivors of childhood abuse or harassment, and significant others of survivors, including partners, children, family members, and friends in Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, and Warren County. In addition, staff

members are available for education programs, public trainings, and professional trainings. All services are provided free-of-charge.

For more information about Victim Services' programs in Fulton County, contact their Fulton County Sexual Assault Program Office at (309) 333-1934, visit their website at [wirpc.org](http://wirpc.org), or find WIRC-CAA Victim Services on Facebook.

If you are in crisis and need to speak with someone immediately, call their 24-hour free and confidential crisis hotline at (309) 837-5555.✿



# THANK YOU!

With your continued support, you are making a difference in the lives of families in need.



## Provoking Documentary to Be Shown in Canton

**AUDRIE & DAISY**

**Audrie**  
Active Now

WED 6:00 PM

**I don't remember anything...can you please tell me what happened?**

**Film Showing & Panel Discussion**  
Sponsored by WIRC-CAA Victim Services; the Canton Park District; and Lance Moring, CPRP, CPO Superintendent of Recreation

**Free and Open to the Public, Ages 13 and Up**  
Park District Concessions Available for Purchase During Showing

**Tuesday, July 16**  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Gary G. Baker Recreation Center**  
940 North Main Street, Canton, IL 61520

Sexual Assault Services Information Provided by WIRC-CAA Victim Services  
Domestic Violence Services Information Provided by Fulton Mason Crisis Service

Trigger Warning: Audrie & Daisy is a documentary about two high school girls who were sexually assaulted by their friends, and the fallout they endured from their classmates and their community for speaking out.

WIRC-CAA Victim Services provides free and confidential services in a safe environment with knowledgeable staff members who are ready to provide emergency services, advocacy, counseling, professional training, and public education. For more information about Victim Services' programs in Fulton County, call (309) 333-1934.

**24-Hour Free & Confidential Crisis Hotline: (309) 837-5555**

The flyer for "Audrie & Daisy" reads, "I don't remember anything...can you please tell me what happened?"

"Audrie & Daisy" is a thought-provoking documentary about two teenage girls who were sexually assaulted by their friends, and the fallout they endured from their classmates and their community for speaking out. Victim Services, in conjunction with the Canton Park District and Lance Moring, CPRP, CPO Superintendent of Recreation, are inviting the public to watch the documentary together at a free film showing and panel discussion. Due to the sometimes intense nature of the subject matter, the documentary is recommended for those 13 years of age and up.

The documentary will be shown one night only at the Gary G. Baker Recreation Center in Canton, Illinois starting at 5:30 p.m.

on Tuesday, July 16. No admission will be charged. Concessions will be available for purchase during the showing.

The topics discussed in the film may be triggering for some individuals. Trained staff members from Victim Services and Fulton-Mason Crisis Service will be available for counsel anytime during the event. Information regarding the free advocacy and counseling services of both agencies will also be available.

For more information about the event, call Victim Services' Fulton County Office at (309) 333-1934.✿

**You are valued. Your life matters. You are not alone.**

# WIRC Phone Directory

*WIRC is the parent agency to WIRC-Community Action Agency and WIRC-CAA Victim Services. Each department within the agency has its own unique services and programs. Please refer to this phone directory when seeking information about our services. We look forward to hearing from you!*

## Western Illinois Regional Council

309-837-3941

- 
- Community Development Block Grant Inquiries
  - Economic Development District
  - Grant Writing & Administration
  - Human Services Transportation Plan Inquiries
  - Local Technical Assistance
  - McDonough & Hancock County Public Transportation
  - Tri-County Resource & Waste Management Council
  - Membership Benefits

## WIRC-Community Action Agency

309-837-2997

- 
- Clothing Center
  - Community Services Block Grant Inquiries
  - Food Pantry / Non-Food Pantry
  - Homeless Prevention Assistance
  - Housing Rehabilitation
  - Hunters Helping the Hungry
  - Home Weatherization
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
  - Project Santa
  - Scholarships
    - Scholastic scholarships
    - Technical scholarships

## WIRC-CAA Victim Services

### Domestic Violence Program

309-837-6622

### Sexual Assault Program

309-836-2148

### 24-Hour Crisis Hotline

309-837-5555

- 
- Advocacy
  - Counseling
  - Domestic Violence Services
  - Emergency Services
  - Prevention Education
  - Sexual Assault Services



## NOTES: