

Rosabelle Neff, known to everyone as Rosie, was truly a powerful pioneer in Monroe County social services.

Rosie was the person most responsible for moving Bloomington's Alcoholics Anonymous chapter from a small group of 25 people in 1975 to more than 500 members today. She was also instrumental in the formation of Narcotics Anonymous, was a co-founder of Amethyst House, and was one of the first addiction team outreach workers for what is now CenterStone.



She took countless people under her wing over the years, alternately cajoling and badgering her charges to improve their lives. She called them 'my kind of people.'

Rosie pushed and pushed for the creation of a homeless shelter at Bloomington Township. In the early '80's she convinced then-Trustee Jim Dawson to convert an old shed into a shelter – given the name Rosie's Place. That structure was torn down and the shelter you see today was built in late 2001. It has given shelter to hundreds.

Rosie passed away in September 2009, but her legacy lives on. She was described by those who knew and loved her as 'an unstoppable tornado.'

Rosie Neff

She never gave up on anyone. Ever.