



Kody Lydy, 20, and Ivy Andrews, 21, and their dog Roxy, take shelter from a storm Wednesday outside the Monroe County Public Library. Andrews is a month and a half pregnant. The couple currently live in a tent behind an apartment complex.

TAYLOR TELFORD | IDS

insufficient

Local transient couple discusses why
Bloomington still doesn't have all the
resources to help others like them

By **Cody Thompson**
comthomp@indiana.edu | @CodyMichael3

Ivy Andrews and Kody Lydy are engaged with a baby on the way, and their home is a tent behind the Arlington Park Apartments.

Andrews, 28, and Lydy, 20, are transient Bloomington residents. On Wednesday afternoon, like on most of their afternoons, they sat on the sidewalks of Kirkwood Ave. with cardboard signs and asked those passing, many IU students, for any spare change.

Every now and then they were given a dollar, but most of the time the strangers strolled past with their attention focused elsewhere. The couple was approached by others surviving on the streets who were sometimes looking to trade items and sometimes looking to deal drugs.

Lydy and Andrews have filled out the public housing forms, used food stamps, attempted to stay in shelters and attended the local Shalom Center every morning. However, the couple always seems to encounter problems when applying for these services.

While housing could be an issue for transient people in Bloomington, there are plenty of services available to satisfy their basic needs, Bloomington Police Department Chief of Police Michael Diekhoff said.

"I would argue that there are enough services in this community that are provided that people shouldn't go hungry," Diekhoff said.

Andrews, who said she is one and a half months pregnant, stayed seated by Roxy, their dog, while Lydy took a more direct approach by confronting passers-by. Whenever Lydy would collect spare bills, he would give them to Andrews, who stuffed them into her borrowed, several-sizes-too-big jacket.

"Here you go, baby," Lydy said as he leaned over to kiss Andrews.

Bloomington gives transient people like Andrews and Lydy the necessities, such as sleeping bags and food, but the two cannot go into shelters because of Roxy, Lydy said.

They make as much money as they can before returning to their tent behind the apartment complex in an attempt to stay warm, Lydy said. The couple attends the Shalom Center every morning, has applied for public housing and uses food stamps, Andrews said.

"They keep kicking us off our housing and stuff," Lydy said. "We keep putting all our information in, trying to get jobs and everything. It's a big struggle, really."

The Interfaith Winter Shelter, Bloomington's low-barrier shelter, closed for the season March 31. Leaving the homeless community relying on blanket donations from the Indiana Recovery Alliance as the weather dropped to a low of 30 degrees.

While Lydy said he is working toward a job, Andrews said she needs to go back to school and earn a GED at Broadview Learning Center so she can continue receiving her food stamps.

After earning her diploma, she plans to attend

"It's stressful to be out here sitting and signing, and everyone just walks past me, and they see the 'baby on the way' and just lost home, and they just don't care."

Ivy Andrews,
transient Bloomington resident