



What's Happening at Van Buren Monthly News & Updates

SEPTEMBER 2023



Fall into Fun Times!

Have you volunteered at a Van Buren Trunk-or-Treat event, yet?

It is one of our most exciting and fun events for our families in shelter. And it is a great way to get involved and make an impact in your community. The event is only open to families currently at Van Buren but by volunteering you can take part in the experience.

If you are looking for a fun way to spend a fall evening in October we encourage you to sign up to volunteer! It is a great way to connect with friends and

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

the Y
YMCA

TRUNK OR TREAT

FAMILY SHELTER

THURS. OCT 26TH
4:30PM - 6PM

A SPOOKY FUN TIME OF YEAR!

JOIN US FOR OUR 3RD ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT EVENT. DRESS UP, DECORATE THE TRUNK OF YOUR VEHICLE, AND PASS OUT CANDY.

VOLUNTEER
SIGN UP VIA SIGN UP GENIUS

DONATE
CANDY & COSTUMES

595 VAN BUREN DRIVE COLUMBUS, OH 43223

MUSIC CANDY GAMES

*EVENT IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND FOR FAMILIES CURRENTLY AT VAN BUREN.

colleagues and see who can make the most creative car trunk decorations. Click the link below to sign up and for more information!

[Click Here for Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Trunk-or-Treat Donation Needs

Kid's Costumes and Candy



If you want to help out with the event but aren't able to volunteer the night of the event please consider donating supplies!

We are in need of LOTS of candy for the kids as well as kids' costumes. Van Buren currently has around 250 children in shelter and we want to make sure to have costumes available for all of them as well as plenty of candy for them to enjoy. Please email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org for more



Event Details

Trunk-or-Treat

Date:
Thursday, October 26th
Time:
4:30-6:00 pm
Location:
595 Van Buren Drive

[Click Here for](#)

Get Inspired: Ideas for Trunk Decoration



If you are looking for ideas on how to decorate your car trunk Google has some great ideas for you. Here are some fun examples to inspire you!



What is Give Hope?

Give Hope Fundraising Event

Have you reserved your ticket?



Event Date:

Thursday, November 2nd

Time:

5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Location:

Grange Audubon

**505 W Whittier St, Columbus,
OH 43215**

Give Hope empowers and supports guests at Van Buren. 100% of the funds raised for Give Hope go towards eliminating barriers and helping the women and families currently at Van Buren get housed sooner. The Give Hope Fundraising Campaign started in 2018 and was created by YMCA Housing and Shelter's board member and previous board chair Joshua Zimmerman.

Each night, the Van Buren Center provides emergency shelter to over 800 individuals. For so many, what stands in their way to securing housing is an outstanding utility bill, a rent deposit, the first month's rent, or simply needing a birth certificate or ID. With **Give Hope** funds we are able to provide immediate assistance to individuals and families to shorten their stay and lessen the trauma they experience being in a shelter.

[Register for Event](#)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CoverMyMeds

Welcome Home Baskets and Blanket Mending



Earlier this month we hosted a team from CoverMyMeds for a corporate group volunteer event. They assembled **50 Welcome Home Baskets** for guests to receive when they move out of the shelter and into their new homes. In addition, they helped complete our blanket mending project and repaired over half a dozen blankets for our shelter guests.

We are always excited to welcome new corporate groups and the opportunity to share the work we do and spread awareness in the community. If you are looking for a group volunteer activity we would love to connect with you! Email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org for more information.



Dublin Family Medicine Ohio Health

Community Garden Care and Commitment



It has been an incredible growing season for the Van Buren Community Garden! We are so grateful to the **Dublin Family Medicine Ohio Health** team for their commitment to supporting our garden this year. The **Dublin Family Medicine Ohio Health** team donated weed barriers and mulch for the garden pathways and sent a team to install and complete the work at the beginning of the month. During this growing season, they volunteered in our garden on 3 separate occasions making an incredible impact each time they were here. While they were here this month the volunteers also harvested a huge crate of vegetables from our garden including carrots, tomatoes, banana peppers, and sweet potatoes. These vegetables are cleaned and prepped in our kitchen and then used in the



meals we serve to our guests at the shelter!

As the season comes to an end we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers and donors who contributed to our garden this year.



Brandi N Milbry Foundation

September Birthday Celebration

The **Brandi N Milbry Foundation** made their monthly visit to Van Buren Center to drop off birthday gifts for our children. There were **19 children** with birthdays this month at Van Buren. We are so grateful to the foundation for their continued support and efforts to celebrate our children and make sure they feel loved on their special day. Consider helping support our birthday celebration for the children by donating.

Click Here to visit the foundation's Amazon Wishlist.

Looking for Holiday Volunteer Opportunities?

**Join Us and Volunteer at
Van Buren Center This**



Care, Love, and Food for All This

Thanksgiving

Volunteer Opportunities at Van Buren Center

November 21-23

Meal Prep and Dinner Service

Let's give thanks together this Thanksgiving. Help us in our mission to build strong communities. Donate your time, talent, and heart and give to the Van Buren Center.



Holiday Season

With the summer coming to an end, the holiday season is right around the corner! We are starting early this year and would love to have you join us this holiday season volunteering in our kitchen. Help us give care, love, and bountiful food for all this Thanksgiving.

Click on the **Volunteer Sign Up** button to learn more about our Thanksgiving volunteer opportunities this year. This year we also are in need of food donations for our holiday meals and are looking for volunteers to help sponsor or provide side dishes, desserts, and beverages for our guests.

[Volunteer Sign Up](#)



Let's bring happiness to every child's heart this holiday season.

Share the love with those who need it most. Each year, the Van Buren Center strives to spread joy and bring happiness to our families, women, and men in shelter. For our guests who are faced with spending the holidays in a shelter, there can be few reasons to smile or feel joy. This is where we need your help.

Our mission is to ensure that we continue to provide our families, women, and men at Van Buren with a memorable and magical holiday. Where they know that they are loved and valued by their community

because they are surrounded by people who care about them. The real joy of giving is giving to someone who can't repay you.

This month, we are kicking off our holiday toy drive for **Santa's Workshop**. Next month, we will release our December holiday volunteer opportunities and open up volunteer sign-ups. If you are interested in hosting a toy drive for Santa's Workshop for our family shelter we would love to connect with you to partner.

Click Here for Target
Wish List

Click Here for
Amazon Wish List

Visit our Target and Amazon Wish Lists for suggestions and ideas for the toys we are requesting. If you would like to donate to our toy drive you are welcome to purchase them from any store and do not need to get them from Target or Amazon to give. We request that all toys donated to our Santa's Workshop be new and unwrapped toys. Email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org for more information!

Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Orientation

Virtual

Meal Prep

Available Monday-Friday

2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

Dinner Service

Available 7 days a week

4:50 pm-7:00 pm

Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

Volunteer Update: Van Buren will be requiring facemasks to be worn for all visitors in the building until further notice. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

Donation Needs

- Baby Bottles & Sippy Cups
- Pacifiers
- Blankets (new/gently used)
- Twin/Full Size Bedsheet Sets-for Welcome Home Baskets (new ONLY)
- Hairbrushes/Combs
- Adult Winter Coats size 3XL-6XL

Please coordinate your donation drop off by emailing vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org and include a description of

[Click Here for Volunteer Opportunities](#)

your donation items and the date/time for drop-off.

[Click Here for Amazon Wish List](#)

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

AUGUST 2023 IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe shelter to **824** individuals in August.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

37

Workshops available onsite to guests in August.



200+

Guests participated and attended a workshop and 86 hours of direct service offered.



17,168

Meals served in August at Van Buren Center.



329

Volunteers gave their time to make a difference and totaled 628 hours.



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