

What's Happening at Van Buren Monthly News & Updates

FEBRUARY 2023



2022 Impact Report

The mission of the Van Buren Center is to support and strengthen the community by compassionately addressing the needs of men, women, and families experiencing a homeless crisis by providing a safe and healthy environment where everyone is treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.

In 2022 Van Buren Center provided emergency shelter to **4,775 individuals** in central Ohio. **223,662 meals** were prepared and served from our Caring Kitchen through the incredible partnership and support from the Mid Ohio Food Collective.

It is because of the incredible support and efforts of our staff, board members, volunteers, and community partners that the YMCA Van Buren Center continues to play a critical role in ending and preventing homelessness in Franklin County. Programming highlights for 2022 include increasing our volunteer hours and volunteer participation by 30% and expanding our available workshops and resources for our guests with the launch of the Knowledge Center on the Family Side. Raising \$200,000 for our Give Her Hope Campaign where 100% of the funds go directly to our guests.

Read below to learn more about Van Buren's impact in 2022.



VAN BUREN CENTER 2022 IMPACT



223,662
Meals Served



5,484+
Volunteer Hours

Workshops cover a variety of topics related to housing, employment, benefits, and empowerment and are available to guests at Van Buren Center.

409

Workshops
available onsite
to guests.



1,744+

Guests
attended
workshops in
2022.



80*

Pregnant
Women

*Served between
July 2022-
December 2022



24*

Veterans

IN 2022, VAN BUREN CENTER SERVED 4,775 INDIVIDUALS.

SINGLE ADULT WOMEN'S SHELTER

Average age served 42 years old.

- 296 women who stayed at Van Buren Center between July and December 2022 reported experiences of domestic violence.

1,361
WOMEN



SINGLE ADULT MEN'S SHELTER

Average age served 42 years old.

- 304 men reported an illness or physical/mental disability as the reason for their housing crisis.

1,348
MEN



FAMILY SHELTER

Average age for head of the household served 34-38 years old.

- 803 adults served.
- 1,263 children served.

593
FAMILIES



Van Buren Donation Needs

Visit our Amazon Wish List



Volunteer
Opportunities

Current List of Available
Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Orientation

- **HIGH NEED** Baby Diapers (size 4, 5, 6)
- **HIGH NEED** Baby Wipes
- **HIGH NEED** Razors
- Deodorant (men/women)
- Shaving Cream
- Travel-Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Baby Formula (new)
- Blankets (new)
- Depends (men/women-all sizes)
- Belts (men/women-all sizes)

Please coordinate your donation drop off by emailing vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org and include a description of your donation items and the date/time for drop-off.

Virtual

Dinner Service

Available 7 days a week
4:50 pm-7:00 pm
Minimum age requirement 14 years old (w/ guardian)

Ladies Bingo Night

2nd Thursday of Every Month
5:45 pm-7:00 pm
Minimum age requirement 18 years or older.

Email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org to coordinate group volunteering, lunch service, community service, and to find out more about other available volunteer needs.



Besa + Van Buren Annual Valentine's Dinner

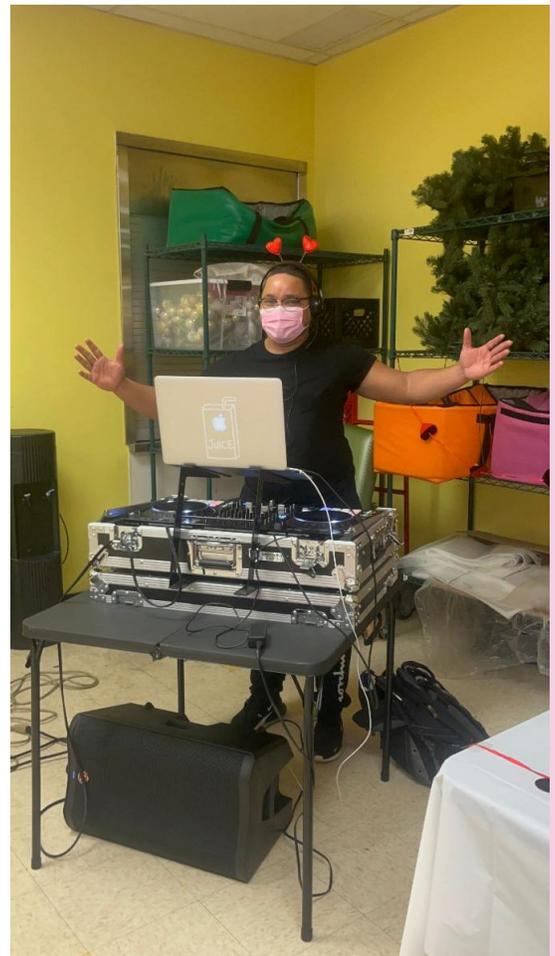
For the last 5 years, **Besa** has partnered with and sponsored an annual Valentine's Dinner for Van Buren Shelter.

Over **35 volunteers** participated in this year's event. Staff and volunteers worked together on teams to prep and cook the meal, decorate the 3 cafeterias, and then serve dinner to our men, women, and families. This year's dinner included 2 different types of lasagna (meat and vegetarian), garlic bread, salad, and an ice cream sundae bar with sprinkles!

Guests not only enjoyed the dinner but also appreciated all of the hard work put forth by the volunteers and team at Besa. The women at Van Buren all were gifted roses, while the men received candy, and the children got to enjoy special goodie bags. There was a DJ for the night who played music during dinner service and all the guests had a great time dancing and enjoying the festivities. As a special treat, there was also a photo booth where guests could get their picture taken with a polaroid camera and picture to keep.

Thank you to Besa and all the volunteers and staff who gave their time, talent, and hearts to make this possible and such a special event for our guests. We look forward to doing it again next year!





Growing Community Partnerships and Resources for

Van Buren Guests



Aetna

We are so excited to have Aetna visit Van Buren guests and hold information sessions on medical services, insurance, and care onsite. They bring goodies for our staff and guests which helps increase the number of people they connect with. The team from Aetna also has been volunteering in our kitchen regularly which is a great way to connect and learn more about our shelter and guests.



Safer Station

Safer Station has been coming out to Van Buren to provide Narcan, fentanyl test stripes, and education to our guest and staff on how to safely use these lifesaving tools and resources. We are grateful to have vital services like Safer Station available in our community and for all the work they do.



Hiring Events- Looking for Employees?

Hiring Events at Van Buren is a great way to bring employment opportunities and information directly to our guests. This past month **Rusty Bucket** and **UPS** held hiring events onsite. Both events had a great turnout and successful outcomes for so many guests.

Are you interested in holding a hiring event at Van Buren Center or have connections with employment resources that may benefit our guests?



Email *Employment and Guest Resource Coordinator, **Melissa Marcum*** to learn more and get an event scheduled with us!

melissa.marcum@ymcacolumbus.org

Contact
Us



Brandi N. Milbry Foundation

February Birthday Gifts for Van Buren Children and Love Bags for the Women

For the month of February, Van Buren Center will be filled with gifts of love and kindness because of the wonderful work done by the **Brandi N. Milbry Foundation**.

This month there were **17 children** with birthdays who received a special gift, balloon, and sweet treat. Each month, the Brandi N Milbry Foundation makes sure each child with a birthday is given a reason to smile and feels loved on their special day.

On Super Bowl Sunday, members from the foundation volunteered to serve dinner and then brought **200 love bags** for the women at Van Buren.



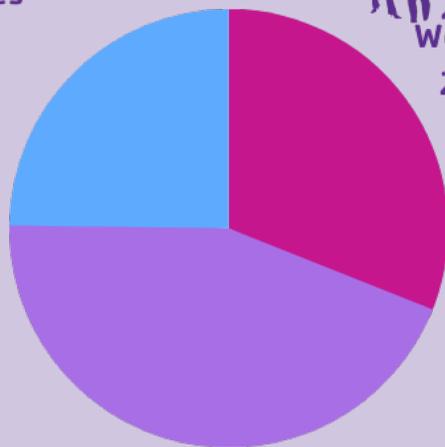
Watch the video below to see what all was included in each bag for the women.



YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

January 2023 Impact

GUEST SERVED:



PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

- 22 workshops available to guests in January.
- 130+ guests participated and attended a workshop.
- 24,254 meals served at Van Buren Center.
- 81 volunteers gave their time, talent, and heart helping with meal service, donations, and youth programming.



Cantrell's Corner

Hello Everyone!

Let us start off by thanking everyone who participated in our February All Staff Meeting. The Leadership Team is hoping for an even better turnout for the next meeting. Please give a shout-out to all the staff lottery winners:

Grand Prize Winner

Sham (Intake Department)-won an Apple watch!

Runner Up Winners

Jasmine (Team Member)- won a YMCA lunch box

Deanna (Team Member)- won a YMCA messenger bag and a notepad

Amanda (HMIS Department)- won a YMCA gym bag.

Announcements:

- We have increased the pay for staff in the following areas:
 - Team Members and Team Coordinators
 - Intake and Food Service
 - Case Aids
- Today we are starting off our new Employee of the Month program! Each month the Leadership Team will choose a staff member who has gone above and beyond to be selected for this coveted position.
 1. You will have a designated parking space with a sign that reads, "Employee of the Month."
 2. You will have your picture on the Employee Wall of Fame (located in the break room area).
 3. You will receive a small token of appreciation.
 4. You will be eligible to win the annual grand price at the end of the year.

Thank you for all that you do!

I can't wait to share more great incentives with you as we continue to grow in excellence!
Please remember - *"When we believe in Human Services, we send a ripple of hope throughout the world that affects every fiber of mankind."* ~Poverty Proverb~

Sincerely,

Cantrell Butler

Executive Director of Shelter Services

Visit our Website



YMCA of Central Ohio Shelter Services | 595 Van Buren Dr., Columbus, OH 43223

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