

YMCA Van Buren Shelter Services Monthly news & updates



May 2022

Donation Needs

Amazon Wish List

VAN BUREN HOPE GIVER: Caring Heart to All Happy Retirement to Van Buren Case Manager Blaine Turner

Blaine is a shining light that has shown the way out of homelessness and into stability for hundreds of men and women.



Give Her Hope Campaign

Donations to Give Her Hope fund resources that help women, men and families leave our shelter and secure stable housing. Giving hope can mean so many supports, like an apartment down payment, a ticket to travel to family out of town, or the fee to obtain a birth certificate.

In 2022, Give Her Hope has given over \$67,000 in assistance helping women, men, and families in central Ohio.

**Give Her Hope
2022 Impact**



On Thursday, May 26 we celebrated Blaine's Retirement with a party for staff and guests. For 20+ years Blaine has worked in the field as a case manager and has been at the Van Buren Center since 2016.

Blaine's dedication and commitment to our guests at Van Buren Center set the example for what it means to serve. His door is always open and it doesn't matter if an individual was assigned to his caseload he always made time and always is there to listen. He truly believes in the work we do and the difference one person can make by giving their time and heart.

Blaine's only request for his retirement party was a dance party and that the guests were included- and that's exactly what we did! The number of men and women that showed up to celebrate his efforts and show their thanks was overwhelming.

- **63** paid security deposits and rental assistance.
- **45** outstanding utility bills paid.
- **6** Greyhound bus tickets purchased reuniting loved ones.

We need your help to continue changing lives and giving hope back to our shelter guests. Anything you can give truly makes the difference and can change a life.

Please consider giving today and click the link below.

[Give Now](#)

Watch the video below to find out how we were able to help because of caring individuals like you in 2020 and 2021.



There was a line wrapped around the Single Side Service Hallway of guests waiting to tell him thank you and give him a hug. A group of female shelter guests sang a song for him and all came together to show him their thanks.

What motivated Blaine to show up every day and never give up was the moments he shared celebrating the successes and triumphs of each guest. He understood that what our guests need most is someone to stand with them through their journey and that the experience of homelessness is just that, a situation and moment in life that doesn't have to define who you are or what you can do.

WE WILL MISS YOU SO MUCH BLAINE, THANK YOU!



Welcome Chef Aaron to Van Buren Center

Welcome Chef Aaron, Van Buren Center's New Kitchen Manager

We are excited to welcome, Chef Aaron to the YMCA family and Van Buren Center team. He comes to us with 25 years of experience as a military cook and with a passion for service and food. Please join us in welcoming him and

consider volunteering in the kitchen sometime soon!

Volunteer Now!



Mosaic Students Capstone Project with Van Buren Center



Earlier this month, the MOSAIC students completed their Capstone Project at Van Buren.

On their last day at Van Buren, each of them shared how their experience working at the shelter affected them. The students said their perception and understanding of what homelessness is and looks like were challenged and changed after spending time in the shelter. When asked to explain what some of their ideas and beliefs were prior they said it was built around stereotypes and what they saw on tv shows and movies.



For most of the students, it was their first time ever being inside of a shelter. Having the experience helped them learn about the number of services and programs available outside of solely getting a bed to sleep in. The students said seeing the children and faces of the individuals' Van Buren Center serves every day made them realize a homeless crisis can happen to anyone at any time.

The students did an amazing job representing the work the Van Buren Center does and showcasing the work they did while working at the shelter.

[Visit Our Website](#)

YMCA Van Buren Emergency Shelters | 595 Van Buren Dr., Columbus, OH 43223

[Unsubscribe carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!