



Happy Thanksgiving!

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as the season changes and temperatures begin to drop. There is so much for us to be thankful for this holiday season and we are continuously amazed and inspired by the support and generosity we receive.

In this month's newsletter you will find updates about our upcoming:

- Holiday Day Meal Volunteer Opportunities & Needs
- Santa's Workshop
- Family Side Hallo-Harvest Movie Night
- Staff Spotlight
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Impact Numbers

Holiday Day Meal Volunteer Opportunities & Needs

Help us make the holidays special for our men, women, and families this season by signing up to donate food or supplies for Van Buren Center or our Men's Shelter. Or consider, volunteering at Van Buren Center or our Men's Shelter and help spread joy and kindness while serving a delicious special holiday meal. We have volunteer meal service opportunities available for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.

- Van Buren Center currently serves 3 meals a day to over 500 individuals every day and the Men's Shelter provides 2 meals a day to 250 men on average.

- In order to volunteer to help with meal service, we ask that you watch this short video about safe serving and cross-contamination before you arrive for your shift.
 - Click [HERE](#) to watch now.

Click [HERE](#) for Holiday Meal Service Volunteer Sign-Up

Santa's Workshop

The YMCA Van Buren Center wants to surprise each child in Shelter with a magical gift this Holiday season. Our goal is simple! We desire each child to feel the joy and hope that the Holiday season brings. We want each child to open a gift precisely given with them in mind.

Here is how an Elf can contribute to Santa's Workshop:

- Donations of any dollar amount are accepted to help purchase gift cards and food certificates for families. Donations may be tax-deductible.
- Donors may sponsor one or more children. They will receive each child's wish list, shop for the toys, wrap each gift separately, and deliver them to Santa's Workshop.
- Individuals and groups may also contribute new, unwrapped toys and gifts of their choice and drop them off at Santa's Workshop.
- Individuals and groups may also contribute stockings and stocking stuffers
- Individuals and groups can volunteer their time to work in the Santa's Workshop

Dates & Volunteer Sign-Up

Wednesday, Dec. 16th 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Thursday, Dec. 17th 9:00 AM- 7:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 18th 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 20th 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

Monday, Dec. 21st 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Tuesday, Dec. 22nd 9:00 AM- 7:00 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

Thursday, Dec. 24th 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

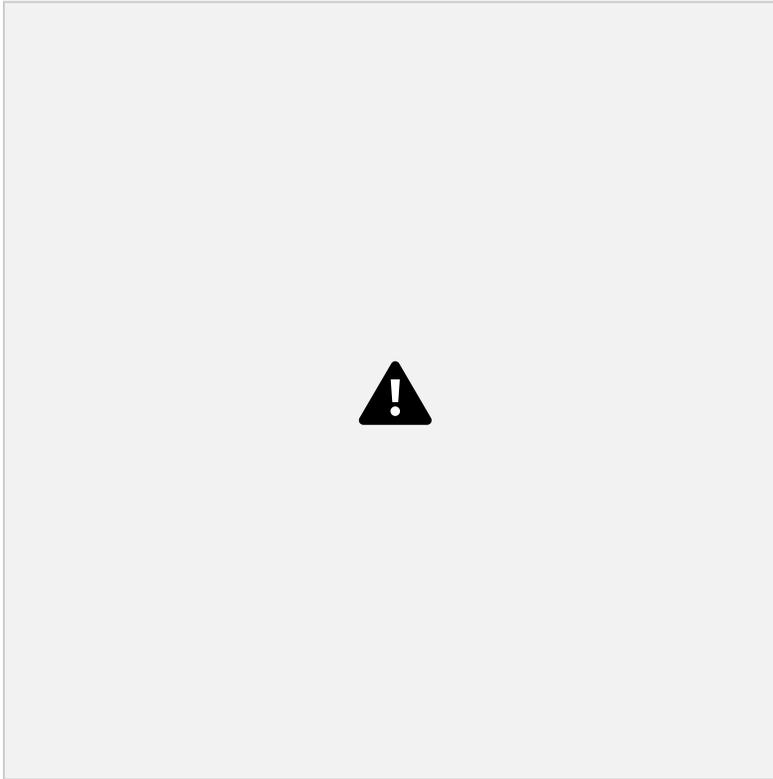
CLICK [HERE](#) for Santa's Workshop Volunteer Sign-Up

Your generous donation can assist with making this a **MAGICAL HOLIDAY** for every child. For some families, these are the only gifts that they will receive all year. You can help make the holidays special.

To visit our Target Holiday Wish List, Click [HERE](#)

To visit our Amazon Holiday Wish List, Click [HERE](#)

[Family Side Hallo-Harvest Movie Night](#)



On Friday, October 31st, staff hosted a social distance Movie Night for the Families at Van Buren Center. Each child received a new blanket, color book and crayons, individual popcorn bag, and a TON of candy. We were unable to have our annual Fall Festival Party, and it was important that our kids at Van Buren still had the chance to do something special and fun.

Staff Spotlight

Maranda M- RRH Family Case Manager

Maranda started with us 2 months into the pandemic, operating a Family Rapid ReHousing Pilot Program out of Van Buren Center. Within the last 6 months, she has successfully been able to house 16 of her 24 families and has been able to create awesome landlord relationships. Just recently

Maranda created a huge opportunity for income-based housing on the near Westside. In this new partnership, she was able to host socially distant events for both the single women and families that allowed them to apply and be approved on the spot. We are very thankful for her hard work and dedication!

Cassandra D- Men's Shelter Team Lead

Cassandra was propelled into a new Lead role downtown with little time to prepare and get acclimated after starting with us 2 months into the pandemic. She has worked extremely hard to help stabilize the operation and schedule there. She is constantly moving and interacting with guests when on shift, setting a great example for other team members. Thank you, Cassandra!

Volunteer Spotlight

Brandi N Milbry Foundation

The foundation was started on August 24th, 2020 by Brandi's family to honor her unconditional love and passion to help. Since September the foundation has partnered with Van Buren Center's Family Side to provide birthday gifts, personal cupcakes, and cards for every child that has a birthday that month and cake for all the children and parents during meal service.

Impact Numbers

