

YMCA Van Buren Shelter Services

Monthly news & updates



YMCA SHELTER SERVICES
VAN BUREN CENTER
& MEN'S SHELTER

February 28, 2022



Current Donation Needs

- Women's Deodorant
- Diapers-Size 5 & 6
- Women's Underwear (all sizes)

Amazon Wish List

Van Buren Center Valentine's Dinner

Sponsored by BESA



Volunteer Workshop Opportunities

Employment & Resource Coordinator, **Melissa Marcum** is looking to expand our Guest Workshop Programs to include free volunteer led workshops on housing information and training for our guests on

The annual **Valentine's Dinner** sponsored by **BESA** is one of our most beloved and meaningful events for our guests at the shelter.

To make the event happen there are teams of volunteers working in shifts starting early in the afternoon until the late evening.

This year was special because it was the first time our Single



renter's rights and evictions.

If you are interested in getting involved or finding out more about how to partner, click the button below to connect with us.

Contact Us

Adult Men have been a part of the annual event since joining us at the **Van Buren Center** as a year-round program last summer.

The team of **BESA** volunteers came together and did a wonderful job decorating all three dining rooms for our women, men, and families. In addition, volunteers worked together with our Y staff to prep the food and cooked the spaghetti dinner in-house in our **Caring Kitchen**.

During dinner service for all three shelter programs guests got to enjoy live music provided by a DJ and were given roses and goodie bags provided by **BESA**. To top it off there was a full-service sundae bar for dessert with so many different options for toppings!

We love being able to safely offer hands-on volunteer opportunities to our community. The commitment and support organizations like **BESA** have given and provided to the **Van Buren Center** have made an incredible impact on the lives of those we serve. Our community partners and volunteers truly make all the difference when it comes to providing our guests with acts of love and kindness in a meaningful way.



Top Image: Women's Dining Hall

Top Image: BESA Volunteers handed out

decorated by a team of talented volunteers.

Bottom Image: Volunteers working together to serve our guests a delicious meal made with love.

roses to each of our guests in addition there was an ice cream sundae bar and a live DJ playing music for our guests.

Bottom Image: Volunteers spent the afternoon assembling gifts for the guests to receive during dinner service.

Van Buren Center Employee Feature

BESA Celebrates Black History Month



Meet Kristian

Kristian Tucker started in Child Watch a program available on the Family Side of Van Buren in 2016. Since 2017, she has been the Volunteer Coordinator for the shelter and has helped build a community of philanthropy for YMCA Shelter Services.

We want to celebrate her spotlight in **BESA's** Black History Month community series. To see the full article [Click Here](#).

Below is a snippet from the interview

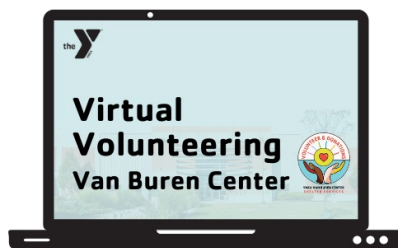
Kristian did with BESA.

What programs are the most meaningful for you at the Van Buren Center?

I believe all programs at the Van Buren Center are meaningful because they all come together and have a huge impact on individuals staying in shelter. We serve individuals through Case Management, Employment Support, Meal Service, Housing Assistance, Educational Linkage, Workshops, and Medical Services. All these programs help to connect, guide and rebuild individuals in shelter or those experiencing some sort of trauma.

Looking Ahead Volunteer Experience in 2022

Get Ready!



Coming in March there will be a new platform available for our community to learn about the work we do at the Van Buren Center and more opportunities outside of having to directly be onsite at the shelter to get involved and give your support.

Stay tuned for a new Virtual Volunteering page coming to our Van Buren Volunteer website featuring new opportunities to volunteer and help make sure our guests have the essential supplies and support they need.

[Visit Our Website](#)