



What's Happening at Van Buren **Monthly News & Updates** APRIL 2024



Healthy Kids Day **Family Resource Fair**



Our 2nd annual Healthy Kids Day event on the Family Side on Saturday, April 20th, was a great success.

Over **90 individuals** from our family shelter attended the event, where they had the chance to connect with

and learn about important community resources and services available to them. During the event, families were able to play games, make crafts, and receive goodie bags that were generously provided by Victoria's Secret & Co. and made possible with the help of Besa. We are so grateful to our incredible partners and volunteers for making the event such a great time and a positive experience for everyone.

Thank you to the following partners for participating in this year's Healthy Kids Day event!

- **Action for Children**
- **Father UP**
- **Alicia's Closet**
- **Child Development Council Headstart**
- **Celebrate One**
- **Franklin County Child Support**
- **North Community Counseling Center**
- **Southeast Inc.**

- YMCA Early Childhood Resource Network+
- Iota Nu Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority



New Volunteer Opportunities

Storytime Sessions



We are excited to announce some brand new volunteer opportunities at Van Buren Center starting in May. **Starting May 15th, we will launch our Storytime Session for families every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**

**Volunteer
Sign-Up**

If you love reading and sharing your passion for reading, this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! Each week, there will be 3 different books selected for you to sign up to read aloud to the children at Van Buren.

To learn more, click on the Volunteer Sign-Up link.

Youth Summer Activities



In addition to our Storytime Sessions, we will have available volunteer opportunities for our Youth Summer Activities program.

Starting June 3rd, there will be weekly volunteer opportunities from 4:30 pm-6:00 pm to help with different activities and fun we have planned for the children and families this summer.

**Volunteer
Sign-Up**

To learn more, click on the Volunteer Sign-Up link.

Van Buren Garden of Hope



Spring is here, and that means it is time for us to start preparing for the upcoming growing season! June volunteer dates are now available for you to reserve your spot to help with our garden this year. If you are interested in bringing a large group out to help with our garden, please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Katrina Martin-Healey, at katrina.martin@ymcacolumbus.org for more information.

[Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio

April 9th- Eviction Prevention Monthly Guest Workshop



Community Mediation Services of Central Ohio has been on-site at Van Buren for several years. Over the last couple of years, with the assistance of Van Buren Staff member Melissa Marcum, Community Mediation has been educating and equipping guests with valuable information regarding Housing Stability.

We are excited to welcome Marcus Salter, Housing Stability Specialist, back this month to facilitate this information and vital workshop for our guests. Thank you so much to Marcus and Community Mediation for all of your incredible work to help our community.

Providence Foundation

April 20th- Dinner Service, Entertainment, and Meal Donation



On Saturday, April 20th, the guests at Van Buren were treated to a special evening of entertainment and food. Through the incredible support of the **Providence Foundation**, our guests were provided with an incredible spread of food, hope, and positivity. For the first time at the Van Buren Center, guests were surprised with a special night of live music from the local legend musical group WEE. They rocked Van Buren with their incredible talents and performed a number of inspirational hits for the women before and after dinner.



Thank you to all of the Providence Foundation volunteers who gave their time, talent, and heart to make this evening such a special and meaningful time for our guests at Van Buren. With the level of care and detail they put into planning the event, they went above and beyond for our guests. We can't wait to have them back!

JPMorgan Chase Bank

April 24th- Dinner Service and Meal Donation



The **JPMorgan Chase Bank** team did a phenomenal job volunteering to help us with some spring cleaning projects around the building.

We are so grateful to volunteer groups like Chase Bank, which are willing and eager to help us deep clean the building. Our facility provides shelter to between 600 and 800 individuals on any given day and requires a huge community effort to keep it clean and organized. The team of Chase volunteers made a huge impact with their hard work.





Acts of Faith

April 24th- Dinner Service and Meal Donation



We are excited to have the **Acts of Faith** group return this month to provide dinner for our families. The volunteers made sure that our families received a

wonderful meal and special treats during their meal service on April 24th. Their care and consideration truly make our guests feel loved and appreciated. Thank you so much to Acts of Faith for your ongoing support and dedication to serving our families.



IGS Energy

April 25th- Garden of Hope & Spring Cleaning



IGS Energy joined us on April 25th and spent the day volunteering with us. It was a great day working with them; the team did an amazing job with each project. The volunteers were able to weed every bed in the garden so that we could start planting vegetables and herbs. The team also helped us with some deep cleaning and organizational projects, including sorting and hanging up clothing for our guests at the shelter.

Thank you to the team for your hard work and the chance to share our work at Van Buren.





MOSAIC 2024 Highschool Interns



From April to May, we have the pleasure of hosting another group of MOSAIC high school students for their capstone project. So far, the students have helped with our garden, worked in our kitchen to assist with meal prep, made bracelets for our guests, and helped paint our playground fence and transform it into an awesome kid space. The students have been



learning about the causes of homelessness, the services and support Van Buren provides to our community, and ways that they can help get involved and make a difference.



Butterfly of Hope Foundation

Sock Drive Gift of Kindness



The Van Buren Center is thankful for the continued support provided by the **Butterfly of Hope Foundation**. They have helped to ensure our guests have access to socks year after year. This year, the foundation collected a huge amount of socks, towels, and washcloths for our shelter during their annual drive. The Butterfly of Hope Foundation was started to continue the memory of Konrad Robinson, who transitioned tragically at the age of 21 years old. The foundation's work positively

impacts our community, and we are so thankful to everyone who participated in this year's drive.

St Mary Catholic Church Groveport & Saint John the XXIII Parish

Hygiene Kits Gift of Kindness



With the incredible help of our volunteer Pam Scott, the Van Buren Center received a HUGE donation of hygiene kits this month from St Mary Catholic Church Groveport & Saint John the XXIII Parish. Every guest who enters our shelter receives a hygiene kit and access to additional hygiene items during their stay. We are so grateful to receive this blessing so that we can ensure our guests have these essential items.



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



Donation Needs

- Travel-size shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Children and adult books (new/used)
- Non-perishable snacks-Fruit Cups, Ramen Noodles, Granola Bars, and to-go cereal cups

Coordinate your donation drop off or

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

[Click Here for
Volunteer
Opportunities](#)

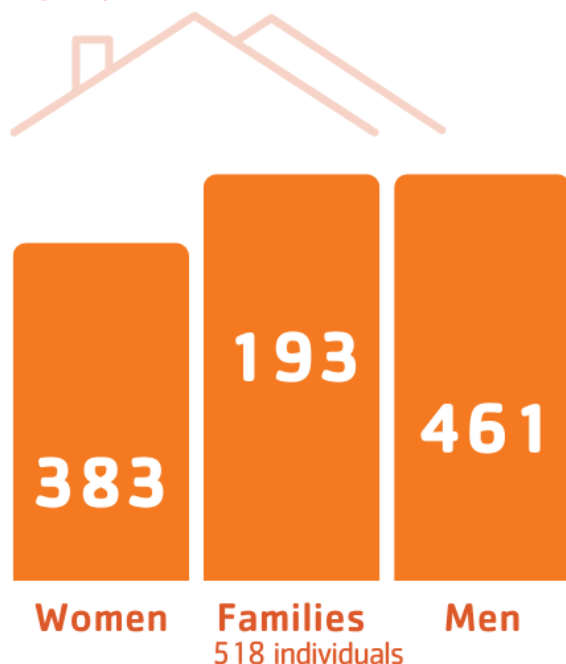
receive more information about our
current donation needs by emailing
vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org.

[Click Here for Amazon
Wish List](#)

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

MARCH IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe
shelter to 1,362 individuals in March
2024.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

42

Workshops available
onsite to guests in
March.



275+

Guests participated and
attended a workshop
and 95.5 hours of direct
service offered.



15,838

Meals served in
March at Van
Buren Center.



106

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



[Visit our Website](#)



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

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