



What's Happening at Van Buren Monthly News & Updates

JUNE 2023



End of School Cook-Out

Van Buren Family Shelter



At the beginning of June, Van Buren Center celebrated the end of the school year with our families with a cook-out block party. **X-Clusive Empowerment Network** sponsored the event and provided food and volunteers.



The families had a wonderful time playing in the sprinklers, slip-n-slide, water balloons, and games. It was such an awesome way to kick off the beginning of the summer.

Thank you so much to our volunteers and staff for making this such a fun, safe, and special event for the families.

Get Ready for a New School Year!

It feels like summer is

the Y YMCA

BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY

VAN BUREN FAMILY SHELTER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH
11:00 am-2:00 pm

Van Buren Center's annual Back to School Rally provides the families in shelter with everything they need to be ready for the new school year including school supplies, haircuts, shoes, medical services.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Help make this year's event a huge success by donating school supplies or by volunteering. To learn more visit our website or email us.

DONATE
"New or Unused"

- Glue/Glue Sticks
- Calculators
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Box of Tissues
- Folders/Binders
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Markers/Crayons
- Tennis Shoes
- Kid's Underwear

VOLUNTEER & DONATIONS

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER
SHELTER SERVICES

www.vanburenvolunteer.constantcontactsites.com vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org

just getting started but the new school year is right around the corner. This, means it is time for us to start getting ready for our annual **Back to School Rally!**

We are so excited to be partnering for the 5th year in a row with **Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana** for their **Operation Backpack** drive.

Our volunteer sign up for the event will be available on our website in the coming weeks and will be sent out to our mailing list.

To learn more about how you can help email us or click on one of the links below.

[Van Buren Wish List](#)

[Learn More](#)



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

GIVE HOPE 2023 Fundraising Campaign

Funds raised through the **Give Hope Campaign** provide critical resources to women and families in shelter at Van Buren. **Coldwell Banker Realty** Office selected Give Hope as their 2022 office charity and this week the team presented us with the check.

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



(left to right) Joshua Zimmerman *YMCA Housing & Shelter Board President*, Carolyn Slebodnik, Sue Darby, and Jason Garner *Branch Manager Coldwell Baker Realty*.

To learn more about how to be one of our sponsors for this year's event email:

carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org

Consider supporting **Give Hope** and donate today!

We are so thankful to them for the donation. Their support will allow us to remove barriers and obstacles that stand in the way of getting the women and families in our shelter housed quickly and sooner.

*This year's **Give Hope** event is scheduled for Thursday, November 2nd. Registration and tickets for the event will be available for purchase around the end of next month. More details to come soon.*

BE THE DIFFERENCE **GIVE HOPE**

WHAT IS GIVE HOPE?

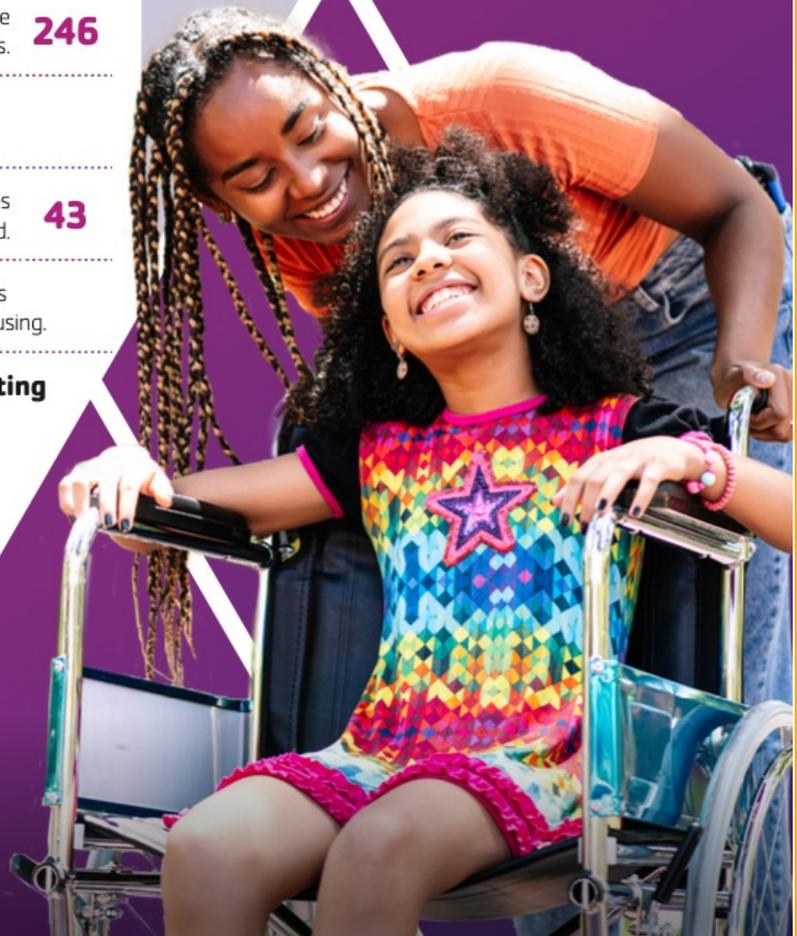
Raising funds to change lives and provide immediate access to critical support and services for women, children, and men experiencing homelessness.

Our communities have seen dramatic rises in a lack of affordable housing, unemployment, and homelessness over the past year, leaving our neighbors and their families vulnerable.

The YMCA of Central Ohio and our community partners are dedicated to giving hope back to our clients, and we need your help!

SINCE 2018, YOUR GENEROSITY HAS HELPED PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO:

- 111** Women and men took their first step to independent housing through paid security deposits.
 - Women and men experienced a safe home with help in paying their utility bills. **246**
 - 252** Women and men continued to maintain stable housing through rent support.
 - Individuals reunited with loved ones through bus tickets purchased. **43**
 - 350** Vouchers provided assistance to individuals and families to secure employment and housing.
- \$445,816 given in hope and counting since 2018.**



[Learn More](#)

Besa Volunteers Making A Difference

Van Buren Kitchen Service



It was another great month for volunteering in the Van Buren kitchen. There were 50 volunteers this month helping to prep, cook, and serve meals to the women and families at Van Buren. Without the continued support and efforts from our partners like **Besa**, this would not be possible. Check out some of the different groups that joined us this month through Besa!





JP Morgan Chase Bank Meal Prep and Service

A team of 20 individuals from the **JP Morgan Chase Bank** Human Resource department spent the day helping out at Van Buren on June 13th. The group made a huge impact working to sort donations, bag cereal, clean and prep carrots for a future meal, help with meal service, and they still had time to help cook dinner for that evening as well!

If you are interested in setting up a volunteer project for your corporate team or a group outing the Van Buren Center would love to have you!

For more information, email Katrina Martin-Healey, Volunteer Coordinator katrina.martin@ymcacolumbus.org



Ohio Health Dublin Methodist Family Medicine Community Garden

Last week, **Ohio Health Dublin Methodist Family Medicine** came out to Van Buren to help out in our Community Garden. The team generosity provided plants for our remaining beds that didn't have anything growing in them yet and helped with weeding. We are so grateful to the group for spending their evening with us after working all day. The Community Garden is a huge project that requires so many individuals to



give their time and care to keep it thriving and growing all season.

Thank you to everyone who has given to our garden so far this year. There is still time if you haven't been able to make it out yet! Below is more information about how to get involved.

Volunteer Opportunities



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

GARDENING AT VAN BUREN

Are you interested in learning about gardening or how to start your own garden?

SIGN UP TO HELP OUT IN OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN THIS SUMMER!



VOLUNTEER

New Volunteer Orientation

Virtual

Gardening at Van Buren

Available Monday-Friday

10:30 am-12:30 pm

Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

Meal Prep

Available Monday-Friday

2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Donation Needs

- Bath Towels (new/gently used)
- Washcloths (new/gently used)
- Blankets (new/gently used)
- Baby Diapers- **Size 4, 5, and 6**
- Baby Wipes
- Non-Perishable Snacks

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.

Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

Dinner Service

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](#)

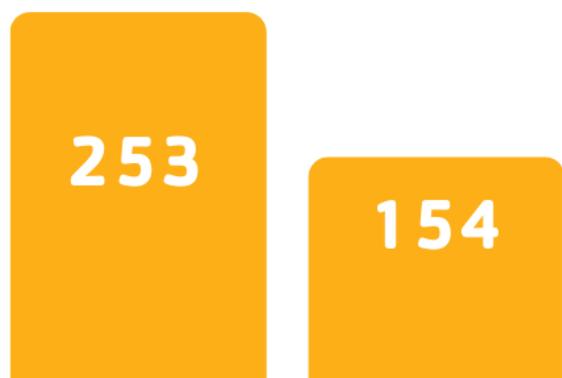


[Click Here for Amazon Wish List](#)

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

MAY 2023 IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe shelter to 829 individuals in May.



Women

Families

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

57

Workshops available onsite to guests in May.

+11 more workshops from last month.



300+

Guests participated and attended a workshop.



17,782

Meals served in May at Van Buren Center.

-556 meals from last month.



94

Volunteers gave their time to make a difference and totaled 347 hours.



Hello Everyone!

June has been another exciting month as we continue to see small changes take root and grow within our community. We are



consistently trying to make a positive impact on the overall experience for every guest whom we serve. The wonderful feedback that we are receiving during the Town Hall meetings has been informative; it gives us the opportunity to truly try to create a positive experience.

Let's congratulate Lisa Allgood for receiving Employee of the Month for June! She is one of the strongest advocates for our community and we are so excited that she is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to the change in our culture.

We are here to support, advocate and encourage Housing First for every guest. Thank you all for your support.

Best,
Cantrell Butler
He/Him/His
Executive Director of Shelter Services
YMCA of Central Ohio
cantrell.butler@ymcacolumbus.org

[Visit our Website](#)



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

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