



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



Get Ready for the Exciting Launch of Youth Programs at Van Buren

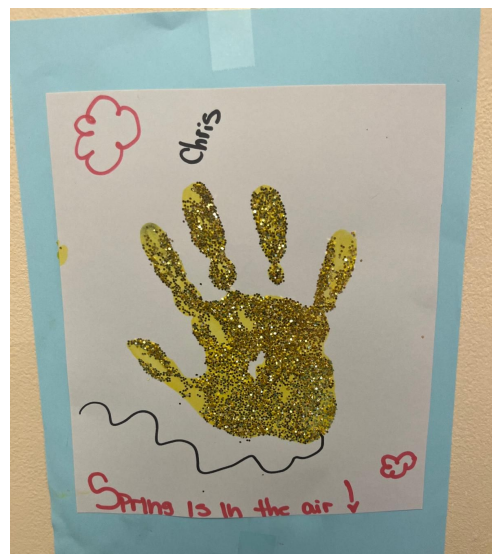


Van Buren Center launched new youth and family programming five days a week in April, and the impact has been enormous!

The Homework Help Program offers 1:1 tutoring sessions six times a week. In addition, the after-school program provides the chance for children and parents to play together, make arts and crafts, and much more. While the school year is winding down, our daily family summer fun activities are underway. Our new Youth Program Coordinator, Emily, has done an excellent job of providing the children with opportunities for fun, creativity, and curiosity while creating a space that is welcoming to all and inspires hope and comfort.

Earlier this month, we started a weekly Storytime Session every Wednesday evening for the children and parents. It has been such a meaningful and memorable time. The children hear different books read aloud while enjoying an evening snack, and together, they can share the excitement of reading and literacy.

Stay tuned; we are just getting started and would love to welcome you as a volunteer during one of our next sessions!





AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Crafts & Games

Daily crafts and games are offered to children and families. A weekly schedule is posted for families that lists the different opportunities available including lava lamps, bracelet making, scavenger hunts, and more!

Educational Activities

Activities include color matching, letter identification, and gardening.

TOTAL SERVED SINCE APRIL 15:
222+ children



STORYTIME SESSION

Creating a Better Future

Starting May 15th, Van Buren launched Storytime Session every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. 3-4 picture books are read aloud and an evening snack is provided.



1000+

Books have been given away since April 1st.

51

Children attended Storytime

New volunteer opportunity offered!

How Can You Help?



We are so grateful to **The Read to Succeed Foundation** for their ongoing support and help in providing our children and families with books. Earlier this month, RTS Ambassador Juliet Zaczepinski organized and delivered over 850 beautiful books to our family shelter to promote literacy.

Our need for more books has greatly increased since launching our new youth programming, and we need your help. If you have new or gently used picture books, chapter books, or adult books that you want to give a new home to, please consider donating them to the Van Buren Center. Email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org to coordinate your donation!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Storybook Sessions every Wednesday from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and our Summer Activities Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Click the links below to sign up and for more information.

Storybook Session
Volunteer Sign-Up

Family Summer Fun
Volunteer Sign-Up

1st Monthly Family Birthday Party Sponsored By The Brandi N. Milbry Foundation



Van Buren's First Family Birthday Party was held on May 24th. All children who had birthdays in May and their families were invited to attend. We had 13 kids with birthdays this month and had a fantastic turnout.

Since August 2020, the **Brandi N. Milbry Foundation** has provided gifts for each child whose birthday is that month and a cupcake, balloon, and sheet cake to share with all the families during dinner service. May 24th is Brandi's birthday, which the foundation was made in honor of, so we thought it was the perfect way to spend the day honoring her passion for birthdays and making others feel loved and special.

It was a wonderful time; all the kids and parents had a blast and were very thankful.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the monthly party. If you are interested in learning more about how you can volunteer, please email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org.

If you would like to help support the Brandi N Milbry Foundation by donating gifts for the children, [CLICK HERE](#).

Van Buren Center is Hiring!



Imagine going to work knowing that what you do each day positively affects the lives of the people in your community. Working at the Y, you'll discover more than a job—you'll enjoy a career with a future and the opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of those around you.

The Van Buren Center is currently seeking applicants for **Case Management** and **Custodial**.

**Apply Now- Case
Manager**

Apply Now- Custodial

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Columbus Coalition for the Homeless

May 12th- Mother's Day Breakfast



We were honored to partner with the **Columbus Coalition for the Homeless** to celebrate Mother's Day with our wonderful mothers and families at Van Buren. The CCH Mother's Day Committee is made up of a small group of 10 very hard-working and amazing volunteers. The pancake breakfast was to celebrate, love, and empower mothers. During breakfast, mothers received flowers, gifts, and special treats. Children were also able to make cards for their mother and crafts. It was such a special and memorable event for our women and families at Van Buren and we are so thankful to everyone that helped to make it possible.



The Columbus Coalition for the Homeless Mother's Day Committee is grateful to the following partners and businesses for their generous support:

- The Dominican Sisters of Peace
- Nothing Bundt Cakes Lenox
- Nothing Bundt Cakes Dublin

- Cameron Mitchell Catering
- Cheryl's Cookies
- Market Bloom Flowers
- Vineyard Church Delaware
- First Merchant's Bank
- Girl Scout Troop #684
- Beth's Creative Stitchery
- Ohio State School of Cosmetology
- Mary Kay Makeup

THANK YOU!



Seeds of Caring Mother's Day Gift Bags



Our amazing partner, **Seeds of Caring**, completed an incredible service project for our mothers at Van Buren for the second year. **61** kids participated, and **211** care kits were donated. The week of Mother's Day, the kits were passed out, and the impact that they had on the guests was touching and beautiful to see. They made the women feel so special and celebrated. Each kit was thoughtfully assembled with special gifts and items, and what made them even more meaningful was that they were made by youth motivated to honor and celebrate the moms. Thank you to **Seeds of Caring** for the incredible impact and role they provide in our community.



OSU Wexner Medical Center Strategy & Transformation Team

May 9th- Dinner Service and Meal Donation



Thank you to the **OSU Wexner Medical Center Strategy & Transformation Team** for the incredible volunteer work they did earlier this month. In partnership with Besa, on May 9th, the group helped prep our garden beds for the growing season, assembled individual shampoo and conditioner kits for our shelter guests, and helped organize our clothing racks. So much work was completed by the team! We are grateful to have the chance to host them

and for all the great work they did.



Liberty Mutual

May 10th- Gardening & Litter Clean Up



We welcomed **Liberty Mutual** employees on May 10th, and they volunteered to help with our garden beds, which require many hands to prepare and maintain during the growing season. They did a fantastic job finishing the weeding needed for the remaining beds and also spent part of their time picking up litter around our building and the surrounding area. The group cleaned up litter and made a huge difference in beautifying the surrounding outdoor space. Thank you to their team for their commitment to making a positive impact!





Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Orientation *Virtual*

Meal Prep

Available Monday-Friday
2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Dinner Service

Available 7 days a week
4:50 pm-7:00 pm

Community Garden

Monday-Friday
11:00 am-1:00 pm

The minimum age requirement for all volunteer opportunities is 14 years old and accompanied by guardian/parent.

**Click Here for
Volunteer
Opportunities**



Donation Needs

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

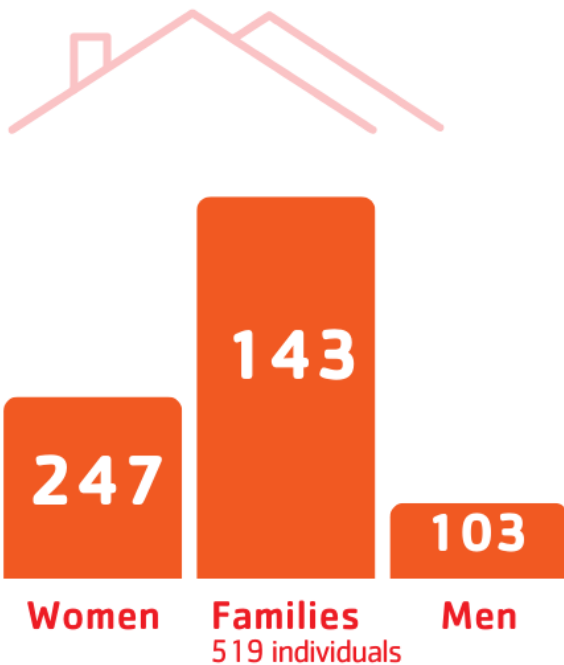
Coordinate your donation drop off or receive more information about our current donation needs by emailing ybvoluteer@ymcacolumbus.org.

**Click Here for Amazon
Wish List**

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

APRIL IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe shelter to 869 individuals in April 2024.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

44

Workshops available onsite to guests in April.



291

Guests participated and attended a workshop and 73.5 hours of direct service offered.



13,617

Meals served in April at Van Buren Center.



230

Volunteers gave their time to make a difference and totaled 298 hours.



Visit our Website



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

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