



What's Happening at Van Buren Monthly News & Updates

APRIL 2023



YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER
SHELTER SERVICES



What are Welcome Home Baskets?

Each time a guest at Van Buren Center successfully secures housing and receives keys to a new home we celebrate their hard work by providing them with a Welcome Home Basket. **All of the items included in the basket are secured through donations.**

84 Welcome Home Baskets
received by guests at Van Buren
since January 2023.

On Friday, April 21st, a team of employees from AEP volunteered at Van Buren to assemble almost **100 Welcome Home Baskets**. They did an amazing job working together to get the kits assembled. The detail and care the AEP team gave towards this project will be felt by each guest who receives a Welcome Home Basket.

In addition to celebrating the efforts of guests to secure housing, Welcome Home Baskets provide critical support to our men, women, and families. The baskets provide some of the essential items needed for their new home so they can have the financial means necessary to maintain stable housing.

We are critically low on donation items for our Welcome Home Kits and we need your help.

Watch the video to learn more about assembling a Welcome Home Basket for Van Buren and recommended items to include featuring our previous Volunteer Coordinator.



What is Included in a Welcome Home Basket?

- Bedsheets
- Blankets
- Towels/Washcloths
- Pillows
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- Dish soap
- Measuring Cups
- Sponges
- Trash bags
- Plastic Wrap
- Tissues

Consider donating supplies for the basket or organizing a drive to collect items to donate! To learn more email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org

Click the link below to visit our Target Wish List.

[Donate Now](#)



An Eggcellent Easter Holiday!



It was an eggcellent Easter Holiday for our Families at Van Buren Center. We are so grateful to all our incredible volunteers and the generous donations we received from our community to make this holiday a memorable and special time for our families.



Friday, April 7th was our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Pictures with the Easter Bunny for the families at Van Buren Center. We had **97 kids and parents attend the event**. There were games and activities for the children, popsicles and ice cream, cotton candy, popcorn, and snacks. So much fun was had by everyone in attendance and our volunteers for the event did an incredible job ensuring the kids had a great time. A special shoutout to Van Buren's Facility Director, Gus who volunteered for the 2nd year in a row to be our Easter Bunny.



219 children received Easter Baskets filled with goodies. Each family in shelter was blessed with a Kroger Gift Card through the generous support received from the Columbus Foundation. It truly made a positive difference and restored hope in so many of the families.

We rely on our community of volunteers and partners to make special moments like these possible for our guests at Van Buren Center. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talent, and heart to make this year's Easter Egg event a great success.



[Donate Now](#)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Kayden Michael Resource Center





Thank you to Brittani, of the **Kayden Michael Resource Center** for providing free haircuts to our women and men earlier this month.

We are so honored and grateful to Brittani for giving her time, talent, and heart and bringing joy to our women at the shelter. The **Kayden Michael Resource Center** provides free haircuts for individuals in our community experiencing a homeless crisis, low income, and single-parent households receiving government assistance.

These pictures from the hair-cutting event for our women at Van Buren show the meaningful connection made that day between Brittani and each woman she cut and styled. The center's work empowers and restores confidence in each individual served.





Butterfly of Hope Foundation

The Van Buren Center is thankful for the continued support provided from the **Butterfly of Hope Foundation**. They have help to ensure our guests have access to socks year after year. This year the foundation collected more than 1,000 pairs of socks 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 work that the foundation does makes such a positive impact for our community and we are so thankful to everyone who participated in this year's drive.



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Victoria Secret's & Co.

It is always so wonderful to have the Victoria Secret's team volunteer at Van Buren. This month they joined us to assist with meal prep for dinner service. They always do great work and bring so much positivity and joy while making a huge impact. We are so thankful to them and the team at **Besa** for making this opportunity possible.

Mosaic High School Students

This is the 3rd group of high school students from the **Mosaic** Program joining us for their capstone project. There are 4 high school students from around Franklin County joining us this year from Mosaic. They are with us for 6 weeks and have been working in our Community Garden to get it ready for the grow season as well as spending time in the kitchen helping with meal prep for our guests. We are so excited to have them with us and the entire team at Van Buren has been impressed by their dedication and hard work.



Van Buren Donation Needs

[Visit our Amazon Wish List](#)

- **HIGH NEED** Baby Diapers (size 4, 5, 6)
- **HIGH NEED** Baby Wipes
- Deodorant (women's)
- Travel-size shampoo and conditioner
- Baby Formula (new)
- Belts (men/women-all sizes)

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.



[CLICK HERE Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Current List of Available Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Orientation
Virtual

Dinner Service

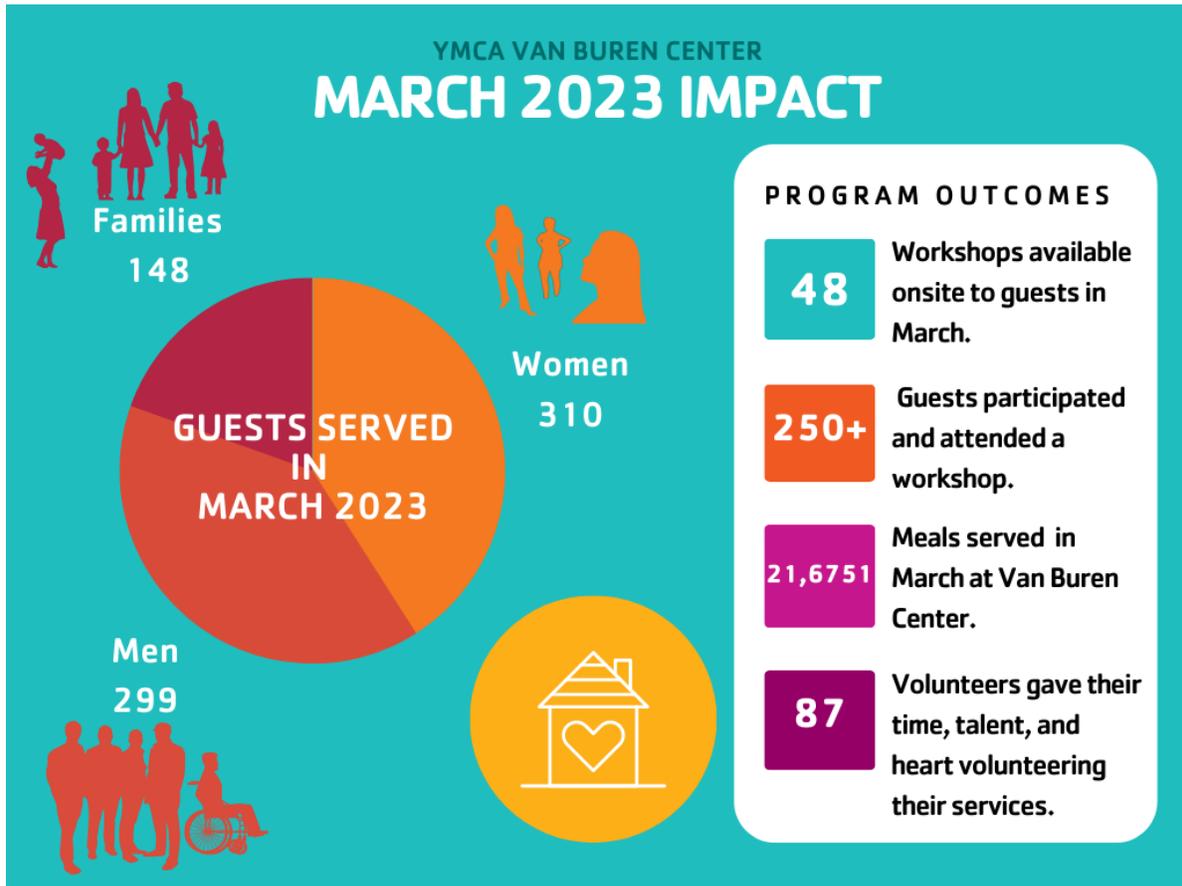
Available 7 days a week
4:50 pm-7:00 pm

Minimum age requirement 14 years old (w/ guardian)

Questions? Email:

vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org

to coordinate group volunteering, lunch service, community service, and to find out more about other available volunteer needs.



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