

YMCA Van Buren Shelter Services Monthly news & updates



March 30, 2022

Current Donation Needs

Amazon Wish List



URGENT NEED

- Diapers: Size 5 & 6
- Deodorant: Men & Women



Volunteer Opportunities: Youth Programming

Learn More!

Are you a college student, retired teacher, someone

Have you heard? Volunteering with the Van Buren Center is Even Easier Now!



We are so excited to share some new opportunities and updates we've added to our Volunteer Program. Announcing...

Volunteer From Anywhere: Virtual Volunteering

Van Buren Center's Virtual Volunteering is a way to increase opportunities for current and new volunteers to get involved at our shelter in a meaningful way. Currently, the available videos in the series show how we utilize donations at the Van Buren Center and how we provide guests with the essential items they need to be set up for success. You will learn how to assemble your own Hygiene Kit or Welcome Home Kit and different ways you can help. [Click Here](#) to check it out!

Volunteer Updates

For all current and new volunteers, we encourage you to check out our updated Shelter Services Volunteer Training available on our Sign Up Genius page.

YMCA Shelter Services Volunteer Onboarding

What's new?

- A brand new **Volunteer Handbook** with updates and added information highlighting our volunteer program as well as our policies and procedures.
- Updated **Volunteer Onboarding Training Video**
- [Click Here](#) to check it out!

with a background in education, or early childhood development looking for volunteer opportunities that match your talent and passion? **Let's connect!**

The Van Buren Center is looking to increase available activities and programming for our children in our Family Shelter. Looking for availability during the weekdays 4 pm-6 pm and then weekend and summer time opportunities.

Kitchen Service at Van Buren Center

What's new?

- Updated training video **Safe Serving in the Caring Kitchen** with added information on best practices for handling food.
- **Click Here** to check it out!

Reminder to all Volunteers & Community Partners:

The Van Buren Center still requires all guests, staff, volunteers, and visitors to wear a face mask at all times while in the facility. We have face masks available for anyone who needs one upon request.

Looking for an EGG-cellent Volunteer Event?

Hop into Action this Spring

VOLUNTEER & DONATIONS
YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER
SHELTER SERVICES

FAMILY SHELTER

EASTER

• EGG HUNT •

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 AT 4 PM

PICTURES WITH EASTER BUNNY

HOW TO HELP: DONATIONS OF CANDY, EASTER CRAFT KITS, AND BASKETS NEEDED

For more information email
vbvolunteer@ymca.columbus.org

For a fun opportunity consider volunteering with the Van Buren Center at this year's Egg-cellent Egg Hunt!

Consider helping us by collecting supplies and donating them to our *Egg-cellent Egg Hunt* event for our families staying at Van Buren. Donate bags of candy to fill eggs with, Easter crafts for the kids, baskets for the kids to use for the egg hunt.

[Click Here](#) to Sign Up

#LearnUnited

Current State of Volunteerism Panel

LEARN UNITED

Community conversations hosted by



April is National Volunteer Month and we are so excited to have our staff member, Carolyn Slebodnik, Administrative Program Director, as one of the panelists for this **#LearnUnited** conversation focused on volunteerism in our community.

Join us on **Thursday, April 21 from 12-1:30 pm** as we discuss the increased need for volunteers and how volunteerism has changed to meet the demands of a virtual environment. RSVP now at <https://liveunitedcentralohio.org/events/>

We have also added some special volunteer opportunities on the United Way Volunteer platform happening between April 26-May 13. You can check them out here:

https://www.volunteerunitedcbus.org/need/?agency_id=97504

Community Spotlight:

WOSU Public Media, along with PNC's Grow Up Great Book Drive

Be **DANIEL TIGER'S**
my
Neighbor
Day!



Earlier this month, **WOSU Public Media**, along with **PNC's Grow Up Great** hosted an event to donate children's books to benefit the Van Buren Center. The event collected **over 1,060 children's books for the Van Buren Center!**

We are grateful to WOSU and PNC for their partnership and support to make this event such an amazing success. It is so important to have books available and accessible for the children and adults in our shelter because of the ability books have to provide support, relief, and education.

There are bookshelves placed throughout our facility in common spaces for guests to access whenever they want. The children get so excited when they see staff restocking the bookshelves with a new stock of books. The bookshelves have inspired a newfound sense of community in our building. Families share and exchange books with each other once they are done, and some have actually started giving books from their own personal collection to donate to the community bookshelves.

We are so grateful to all of our community partners who have donated books to us and made sure for the last 2 years that we continuously have books on hand to give out and make available to anyone in our shelter who wants them. Thank you!

[Visit Our Website](#)