

YMCA Van Buren Shelter Services Monthly news & updates



November 2022

A festive poster for a toy drive. At the top, a string of colorful Christmas lights hangs across the width. Below the lights, the text "YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER" is written in a dark green, sans-serif font. To the left of the main title is a small circular logo with the text "VOLUNTEER & DONATOR" and "YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER SHELTER SERVICES". The main title "SANTA'S WORKSHOP" is written in a large, white, decorative serif font. Below the title, there are illustrations of a pink doll, a red toy car, and a yellow tricycle on a green hill. At the bottom, there are two green Christmas trees with yellow and red ornaments and a yellow star. The text "VAN BUREN TOY DRIVE" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "The Van Buren Center is seeking donations of new, unwrapped toys for the 300+ children at the shelter this holiday season. Visit our wishlist for ideas about this year's toy needs." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "Toys can be dropped off at the Van Buren Center" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by "**To donate, coordinate your drop-off first before arriving by emailing carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org**" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "VOLUNTEER IN THE WORKSHOP" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by "Opportunities Available" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "December 18th-24th" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "vanburenvolunteer.constantcontactsites.com" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "For more information email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org" in a white, sans-serif font.

Season of Giving

Get in the holiday spirit by giving hope this season to those who need it most. Nobody should have to spend the holidays in a homeless shelter. Help the Van Buren Center make the holidays memorable for the women, men, and children in shelter by giving your time, talent, and heart.

Each year, the Van Buren Center makes sure every person in our shelter is able to experience the magic of the holidays by giving them each a special gift, meal, and event. We rely on the generosity and support of our community partners and volunteers to make this happen. Help us keep the

holiday magic alive and get involved by volunteering and giving your time, talent, and heart.

This year will be our 6th Annual Santa's Workshop for the families at Van Buren. We have over 100 families currently in our shelter and our mission is to provide each child with a magical experience this holiday by giving them a reason to smile and feel joy.

Visit our Target or Amazon Wish List to see our toy needs for this year, or sign up to volunteer in our Santa's Workshop!



[Target Wish List](#)

[Amazon Wish List](#)

[Santa's Workshop Sign-Up](#)

[Christmas Eve & Day Meal Service](#)

To learn more about our Holiday Giving click the button below.

[Holiday Giving Hub](#)

Donation Needs

- **Deodorant** (Men & Women)
- **Hats, Gloves & Scarves**
- **Baby Diapers Size 4, 5, & 6**
- **Adult Socks**
- **Children Socks**
- Wrapping Paper
- Gift Tags
- Gift Bags/Tissue Paper

[Amazon Wish List](#)



Give Her Hope Fundraising Event Highlights

BE *the* DIFFERENCE



Van Buren Center's Annual **Give Her Hope** Fundraising event was held on Thursday, November 3rd, and what an incredible night it was!

The event was held at Wolf's Ridge The Understory Fieldhouse and the night was filled with incredible energy and testimonials about the impact that Give Her Hope funds make in the lives of so many.

Special thank you to NBC4's Monica Day for being our MC for the night and giving her time and heart to a cause that changes lives. During the event, we heard from our YMCA Housing & Shelter Board President Joshua Zimmerman, YMCA CEO Tony Collins, YMCA Senior VP of Housing & Shelter Sue Darby, and Case Managers Alison Tucker and Edith Johnson share their stories and why the Give Her Hope Campaign is so important.

Each night, the Van Buren Center provides emergency shelter to over 800 individuals. For so many, what stands in their way to securing housing is an outstanding utility bill, a rent deposit, first month's rent, or simply needing a birth certificate or ID. With **Give Her Hope** funds we are able to provide immediate assistance to these individuals and shorten their shelter stay and lessen the trauma they experience while being in a shelter.

We were able to raise over \$53,000 during the event but there is still more work to be done!





Thank you to everyone, that attended the event and showed their support by giving to the campaign.

The Van Buren Center is so grateful and honored to have your support. It truly has made a difference and given us all a reason to be hopeful for the future and the incredible work that is yet to be done.

There is still time to give! No amount is too little or big to give and makes a difference.

[Give Now](#)



Thank you to our Give Her Hope 2022 sponsors!



Trunk-Or-Treat Highlights

This year was Van Buren Center's 2nd Annual **Trunk-Or-Treat** event and it was an amazing event for our families. We had over **50 volunteers** and **35 vehicles** decked out in creative and fun designs.



130 children participated in this year's **Trunk-Or-Treat** event and **142 donated costumes** were given away to children this year.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers and staff that made this possible and such a great event for the children. It was incredible to see all the decorated trunks made by volunteers and how excited the children were to have you all at Van Buren.





Besa's 2022 Non-Profit Partner of the Year: Van Buren Center

This past Thursday was **Besa's 10th Birthday Bash** event where the Van Buren Center had the great honor of being awarded Besa's 2022 Non-Profit Partner of the Year!

Besa partners with nonprofits across central Ohio to connect passionate and dedicated volunteers to community needs. The impact that Besa has made through its efforts to help curate and connect volunteers to our shelter is truly wonderful. The Van Buren

Center relies on volunteers to do the work that we do and Besa makes it possible.

Here are some highlights shared by Besa about the Van Buren Center:

- Besa volunteers serve meals to families and individuals at the Caring Kitchen twice a month!
- Besa volunteers have also supported back-to-school initiatives, special meals (including Valentine's dinner), and holiday initiatives!
- Van Buren has been a great partner in providing opportunities for volunteers and also dreaming alongside Besa on how to make the resident's stay a little more special.
- We love sending community and corporate volunteers to Van Buren - meaningful experience for volunteers with a great community partner.

Volunteer Spotlight: Cypress Church

Each month, Carol Thacker and **Cypress Church** host **Ladies Bingo Night** on Friday for the women at Van Buren Center. They bring prizes for the women and in addition some fun social time giving the women a chance to get to know each other and connect. The women look forward to bingo night every month and last Friday, the cafeteria was packed! The Van Buren Center is so grateful to Carol Thacker and Cypress Church for their commitment over the last year and efforts to give our women at Van Buren a chance to have some fun together.

This past Friday they brought cookies and treats in addition to some awesome prizes for the night.

It means so much to our guests at the shelter to have events like **Ladies Bingo Night** and it would not be possible without the kindness and efforts of volunteers like Carol Thacker and Cypress Church.



VAN BUREN CENTER



158

GUEST PARTICIPATED
in a workshop at the Van Buren Center in October.



35

WORKSHOPS
were offered to the men, women, and families including Legal Aid, housing education, and hiring events.



94

VOLUNTEERS
gave their time and talent to help make a difference at the Van Buren Center.



24

EMPLOYMENT REFFERALS
were made for guests to help them take the next step towards securing housing.



17,841

MEALS SERVED
at the Van Buren Center in October.



[Visit Our Website](#)

YMCA Van Buren Emergency Shelters | 595 Van Buren Dr. , Columbus, OH 43223

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