

# YMCA Van Buren Shelter Services

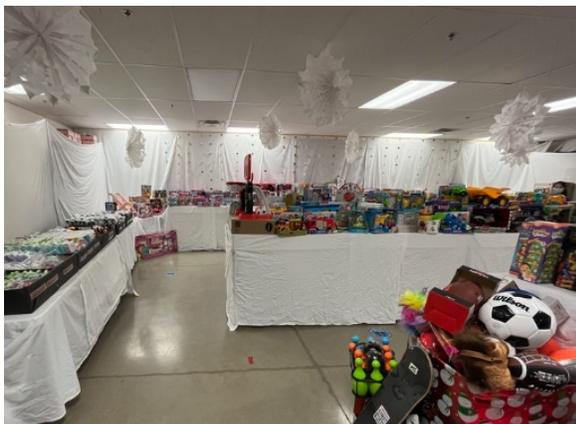
# Monthly news & updates



December 2022

---

## Santa's Workshop



2021



2020

We are so excited that this is the 6th annual **Santa's Workshop** for the families at Van Buren. We have over 100 families currently in our shelter. Our mission is to provide each child with a magical experience this holiday by giving them a reason to smile and feel joy.

### What is Santa's Workshop?

Back in 2017, the Van Buren Center saw a need and gap in available opportunities for our families with our holiday giving. To make certain that the children get to receive special gifts picked out specifically with them in mind and given to them by their parents we created **Santa's Workshop**.

Each year, a room in the shelter is transformed into a Winter Wonderland "store" where everything is free. The workshop runs typically the week before Christmas. Parents sign up for a 30-minute appointment slot and with the help of our "elves" (volunteers) they pick out toys, blankets, winter apparel, and so much more for each of their children. The "elves" wrap each gift and then all the wrapped gifts are hidden and bagged up for the parent to take and give to their children.

The experience of **Santa's Workshop** allows the parent to be involved in the magic of the holiday season. It gives them the gift of empowerment and hope.



2019



2018

**Santa's Workshop** provides parents with everything they need to make the holidays magical for their children so that they can focus on resolving their housing crisis.

**How can I help?**

**DONATE  
VOLUNTEER**

All of the toys, blankets, stocking stuffers, and wrapping paper that are found in **Santa's Workshop** are donated. We rely on the support and generosity of our community in order to make **Santa's Workshop** possible each year.

Please consider donating to our Santa's Workshop and help us continue to make sure each child in our shelter has the opportunity to have a magical and special holiday this year.

## Family Shelter Toy Drive

**Visit our Target or Amazon Wish List to see our toy needs for this year.** *These wish list can be used as a guide to see what we need and do not have to be purchased directly from Amazon or Target.*

To coordinate your donation drop off please email:  
[vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org)

Click on the links below to visit one of our wish lists or holiday volunteer sign-ups.

[Santa's Workshop Target Wish List](#)

[Santa's Workshop Amazon Wish List](#)

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

[Christmas Eve & Day Meal Service](#)

[Kitchen Service Sign Up](#)



To learn more about our Holiday Giving click the link below to visit our website.

[Holiday Giving Hub](#)

---

## Donation Needs

- **Baby Diapers Size 4, 5, & 6 (HIGH NEED)**
- **Blankets**
- **Adult 2X-4X Winter Coats**
- **Wrapping Paper**
- Deodorant (Men/Women)
- Hats, Gloves & Scarves

[Amazon Wish List](#)



---

## Thanksgiving Day 2022 Volunteer Spotlight Xclusive Empowerment Network



Since the very beginning of Van Buren Center, all the way back to 2014, **Xclusive Empowerment Network** has been a part of Van Buren Center's Thanksgiving Day Meal Service.

Every Thanksgiving, the organizer and incredible community leader Janee Jenkins works with her team of volunteers to coordinate and provide our guests at the shelter with a delicious and special Thanksgiving Lunch. In addition to feeding our 700+ men, women, and children **Xclusive Empowerment Network** goes out into the community following lunch service for our guests and feeds 150+ individuals living on the land.

The Van Buren Center is so grateful to Janee and **Xclusive Empowerment Network** for their ongoing commitment and support. This year they cooked and served our guests turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, mac and cheese, stuffing, greens, salad, cakes, pies, and so much more! They also brought hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and essential hygiene supplies for all of our guests.

It was an incredible event for our guests at the shelter. The Xclusive Empowerment volunteers brought such positive and loving energy into the building that made all of our guests feel connected and included in a community that strives to empower each other and cares.





Following our Thanksgiving Day Lunch Service, we had a second group of wonderful volunteers come together to help make Thanksgiving Dinner a special and great meal for our guests.

Over 25 individuals signed up to help with our Thanksgiving Day Dinner Meal Service. Volunteers also provided a huge assortment of desserts for the men, women, and families. It was such a special day and it would not have been possible without our incredible volunteers.



**We are so thankful for our Thanksgiving 2022  
Volunteers and Donors!**

**Holiday Giving in Action  
Cramer & Associate Volunteer Group**



The **Cramer & Associates** team helped kick off our holiday giving at the shelter by sorting and organizing items that will be included in this year's Single Adult Men and Women gift at Van Buren.

**Bath and Body Works** and **Victoria's Secret** generously donated lotions, soaps, body wash, perfume, hand sanitizer, and clothing to the Van Buren Center which will be used for the gifts. The **Cramer & Associates** team sorted and counted hundreds of products to gift our 210 women and 190 men in shelter. In addition, they decorated hundreds of gift bags for the items to go in with the most beautiful calligraphy. We had such a great time working with the team. The Van Buren Center is grateful to have partner agencies like **Cramer & Associates** give their time and talent to make the holidays special for our guests at the shelter.

If you are interested in donating to our Single Adult Holiday gift there is still time! We need help with donations of men's cologne/body spray and men's lotion. Email [vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org) for more information.



## Giving Hope Community Partner Spotlight

**CareSource's** commitment to service provides our guests and community with access to critical services that improve their well-being and health. This month they awarded the Van Buren Center with **CareSource Reinvestment Funds** that will directly go towards helping our guests combat housing and food insecurities. These funds will provide our guests with access to the critical services and support they need to resolve their housing crisis and be set up for long-term success.

**CareSource** is a longtime partner of the Van Buren Center and visits monthly to provide our guests with education and linkage to public healthcare programs. It is because of non-profit partners like **CareSource** that Van Buren Center is able to make a positive difference in our community and help so many who need it most.



[Give Hope Today](#)



**WELCOME  
TO THE TEAM!**

# We're Hiring

The Van Buren Center is looking to grow our team. We are seeking compassionate and cause-driven leaders for a number of openings.

**Click the links below to learn more.**

**Shelter Resident Advocate-PT**

**Shelter Resident Advocate-FT**

**Case Manager-FT**

**Case Aide-FT**

**Food Service Specialist-FT/PT**

**Maintenance/Paint Technician-FT**

**Visit Our Website**

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

[Unsubscribe carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by carolyn.slebodnik@ymcacolumbus.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!