



# What's Happening at Van Buren Monthly News & Updates

FEBRUARY 2024



## Besa's Annual Valentine's Day Dinner



We are incredibly grateful to **Besa** and the **Center for HumanKindness**, who generously supported another memorable Valentine's Day dinner at Van Buren Center. The atmosphere was electric, as guests were greeted with warm smiles and a welcoming space.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal, which was thoughtfully prepared by staff and volunteers and made possible by Besa. The evening was filled with love,

laughter, and excitement, as over 280 guests enjoyed the delicious food and treats, accompanied by beautiful flowers and delightful music. It was truly an unforgettable evening, made possible by the kindness and generosity of **Besa**. We're already looking forward to next year's event!





## Upcoming Spring Events

# Hop into Fun & Volunteer With Us!

Join us for a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt and Pictures with the Easter Bunny event! This event is a fun-filled time for families at Van Buren and promises to be a memorable experience for everyone. We need your help to make this event a success! Read below to find out how you can help.



YMCA VAN BUREN  
FAMILY SHELTER

**FRIDAY  
MARCH, 29**

# **FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT 2024**



Volunteer your time to help with the egg hunt, snack table, photo station, and outdoor games. Sign up using the form below and be part of this delightful event.

We are also accepting donations for this event. Your generous donations will help us provide supplies and snacks for the children. Please complete the sign-up form or schedule a drop-off time for your donation by emailing [vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org). We are asking that all in-kind donations be dropped off by Wednesday, March 27th.



### **We need help with securing the following items:**

- Bags of individual-size pieces of candy (approx. 900 pieces)
- Plastic eggs (approx. 600)
- Prizes (approx. 250)

Don't miss out on this opportunity to spread joy and happiness to families in the shelter. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you there!

**Sign Up to Volunteer!**

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## **YMCA Healthy Kids Day 2024**

We had an amazing turnout for our first Healthy Kids Day event at Van Buren last year. We are thrilled to announce that the event will be taking place again this year. We are looking for agencies and organizations to participate and help us connect families at Van Buren to essential services to help them be successful and empowered.

**Join us in making a meaningful impact at this year's event by emailing Melissa Marcum, Employment and Resource Coordinator, to learn how your organization can participate.**  
**[melissa.marcum@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:melissa.marcum@ymcacolumbus.org)**



VAN BUREN  
CENTER

## HEALTHY KIDS DAY FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR



### Empower Van Buren Families By Connecting Them With Vital Resources

We are inviting community agencies, non-profits, and organizations that provide essential support and services to join us and participate in our second Healthy Kids Day Family Resource Fair event at Van Buren Center.



SATURDAY,  
20 APRIL 2024



9:30 AM TO  
11:00 AM



VAN BUREN FAMILY SHELTER  
595 VAN BUREN DRIVE  
COLUMBUS, OH 43223



**JOIN US!**

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Monthly Case Manager Training with Partner Agencies

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging



Since June of last year, Van Buren Case Managers have been participating in monthly training sessions with a variety of partner agencies. These sessions provide valuable information and support to case managers and cover a range of topics related to the services and resources each agency provides. The aim is to help case managers better support guests at Van Buren.

So far, several agencies have participated in this monthly series, including **Action for Children- Father Up, Huckleberry House, Columbus Works, Celebrate One, Ohio Means Jobs Veterans Department, Molina Healthcare, RI International- Franklin County Behavioral Health Crisis Care Center, and Cross Point Pharmacy.**

This month, the **Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging** joined the series. By providing these training sessions, we ensure that our case managers are knowledgeable about the latest resources available to our guests and can provide high-quality care. The sessions also give case managers the opportunity to ask questions directly to the agencies, thus increasing the number of resources readily available to our guests and successful outcomes!

**To learn more about your agencies can get involved in this training series reach out to Melissa Marcum, Employment and Resource Coordinator.**



## Volunteer Opportunities

### New Volunteer Orientation

*Virtual*

### Meal Prep

Available Monday-Friday

2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

### Dinner Service

Available 7 days a week

4:50 pm-7:00 pm

Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

**Click Here for  
Volunteer  
Opportunities**



## Donation Needs

- **Full-size bedsheet set (New)**
- **Household All-Purpose Cleaner/Disinfectant Spray (New)**
- **Instant Oatmeal-Individual Packets**
- **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 [vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org)

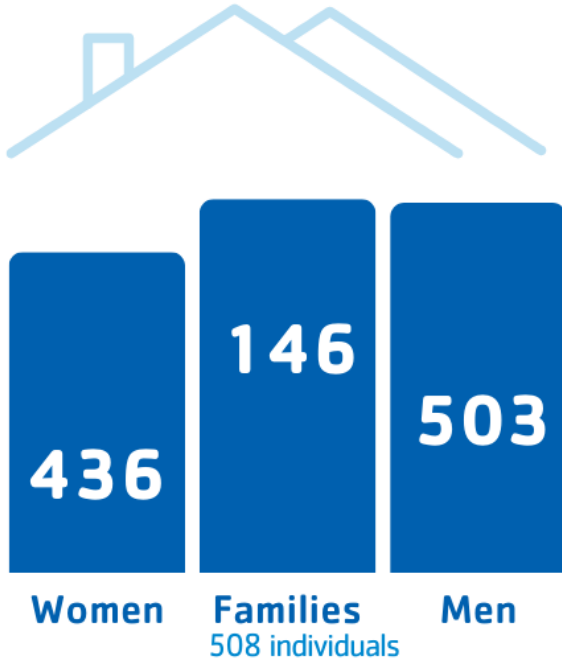
**Click Here for Amazon  
Wish List**



YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

## JANUARY IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe shelter to 1,447 individuals in January 2024.



## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

47

Workshops available onsite to guests in January.



250+

Guests participated and attended a workshop and 107 hours of direct service offered.



20,112

Meals served in January at Van Buren Center.



132

Volunteers gave their time to make a difference and totaled 166 hours.



Visit our Website



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

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

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