



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

JULY 2023



## Back to School Rally is Almost Here!

the YMCA

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

### BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY

VAN BUREN FAMILY SHELTER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH  
11:00 am-2:00 pm

Van Buren Center's annual Back to School Rally provides the families in shelter with everything they need to be ready for the new school year including school supplies, haircuts, shoes, medical services.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Help make this year's event a huge success by donating school supplies or by volunteering. To learn more visit our website or email us.

**DONATE**  
"New or Unused"

- Glue/Glue Sticks
- Calculators
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Box of Tissues
- Folders/Binders
- Scissors
- Highlighters
- Markers/Crayons
- Tennis Shoes
- Kid's Underwear

VOLUNTEER & DONATIONS

YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER  
SHELTER SERVICES

[www.vanburenvolunteer.constantcontactsites.com](http://www.vanburenvolunteer.constantcontactsites.com) [vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org)

We are so excited for our annual **Back to School Rally** for our Family Shelter. The event is right around the corner. Thank you to all of our partners and volunteers so far that have donated their time and supplies for this year's rally. It is not too late to get involved and be a part of this incredible event.

There are just a few volunteer slots left so if you haven't signed up yet make sure to before it is full! We are still in need of new shoes for our children for the event. Our goal is to provide each school-aged child in shelter with a new pair of shoes to start the school year in.

Learn More

Back to School Wish  
List

Volunteer Sign Up

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### A Plus Staffing

*Hiring Event for Van Buren Guests*



This month **A Plus Staffing** hosted a hiring event at Van Buren Center for our guests. The Van Buren Center values our partnerships with staffing companies and businesses like A Plus Staffing for their collaboration and support to offer employment opportunities to our guests. We are always looking for new businesses to partner with and agencies interested in connecting our guests with valuable resources and support so that they can resolve their housing crisis and get set up for success. Outcomes from July's hiring event include

**20 guests attended and learned about available opportunities**  
**11 guests applied and interviewed onsite during the event**

If you are looking to host your own hiring event or want to learn more about how to bring a workshop to our guests at the shelter please email Melissa Marcum at [melissa.marcum@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:melissa.marcum@ymcacolumbus.org)

### **Can you secure employment without an ID?**

An ID plays a significant role in the hiring process and also in the application process for apartments and rental units. For many of our guests at Van Buren, they enter our doors without any identification including ID, social security card, or birth certificate. Without these essential items, they cannot secure employment or housing. YMCA Van Buren's annual fundraising campaign **Give Hope** provides guests in our shelter with the funds they need to resolve their housing crisis, whether that be a voucher to obtain a new ID or assistance with the first month's rent for their new home. 100% of the funds raised from **Give Hope** go directly to our guests.

We need your help to continue providing these essential resources to our guests at Van Buren. Please consider giving to the campaign by clicking on the link below or to learn more about **Give Hope**.



Give Today

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**JP Morgan Chase Bank**  
**Volunteer Group 7/26**



A group from JP Morgan Chase spent the day volunteering with us last week. It was a great day with so much great work completed by the team. They were split up into 3 groups and helped out in our kitchen with meal prep for the following day, gardening, and donations. Together their team completed the following projects!

- 24 garden beds weeded**
- 20 hedges trimmed**
- 300+ sandwiches made**
- 25+ comforters/blankets repaired**

Thank you to the team at JP Morgan Chase for giving your time and talent.





## Ohio Health Family Medicine Residents 7/19

Our friends at Ohio Health spent an afternoon with us helping out in our community garden, kitchen, and donations. Their commitment to supporting the Van Buren Center has made a tremendous impact. The group completed the following projects!

- 24 garden beds weeded**
- 11 guest cleaning carts assembled**
- 200 bags of cereal packaged**
- 4 cases of corn prepped**
- 6 cases of cantaloupe cut**

Thank you Ohio Health!



## Central State University Interns

7/5

At the beginning of July, the Van Buren Center welcomed 8 college students from Central State University. They have spent the summer interning with **Forrest Street Consulting**. The internship is designed to expose students to careers in housing. During their time with us, they learned about the different departments and roles staff at the shelter do to help serve our guests. In addition, they helped us with a few donation projects including preparing baby diapers and wipes for our Family Shelter and sorting hygiene supplies. The students did an amazing job helping with the projects and

asked some great questions about the work Van Buren does in our community. We wish them much success and look forward to seeing the work they do in the future!



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## CK Construction



CK Construction joined us in our kitchen to assist with meal prep and service for our women and families at Van Buren. They were a pleasure to have and did a great job helping out our kitchen staff.

## Medical Mutual



We are grateful to the group from Medical Mutual for their time spent volunteering in our kitchen to help prep potatoes and carrots for our dinner service. They were a huge help and got so much accomplished during their time with us.



Corporate and large group volunteering at Van Buren is a great way to strengthen relationships with your staff and colleagues while giving



back and making a difference in the community. If you would like to learn more about our corporate and large group volunteer opportunities please email [vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org) to learn more.

## Dinner Service Volunteer Shoutout



### Huy Elementary School *Columbus City Schools*

A teacher's impact does not stop once the bell rings. Outside of the classroom, teachers and other support staff serve as role models, mentors, and advocates for students. Each month for the last year, a group of teachers and staff from **Huy Elementary School** have volunteered to serve dinner to our guests at Van Buren. We are so grateful for the time and heart they have put in to help our shelter and for their commitment to making our community a better place.

### COUNT

#### *Central Ohio United Non-Theists*

For over 3 years, members from COUNT have volunteered monthly in the Van Buren kitchen for dinner service. Their continued support and dedication to volunteering and outreach have made an incredible impact on our shelter. We are thankful to them for being consistent and regular volunteers that we can always count on.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### New Volunteer Orientation

*Virtual*

### Gardening at Van Buren

## Donation Needs

- Bath Towels  
(new/gently used)

Available Monday-Friday  
10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Minimum age requirement is 14 years old (w/ guardian)

### 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](#)

- Washcloths (new/gently used)
- Blankets (new/gently used)
- Baby Diapers- **Size 4, 5, and 6**
- Baby Wipes

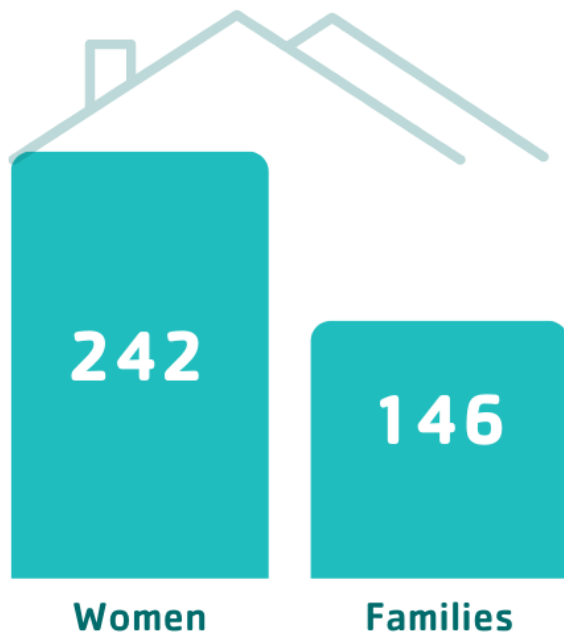
Please coordinate your donation drop off by emailing [vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org) and include a description of your donation items and the date/time for drop-off.

[Click Here for Amazon Wish List](#)

## YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER


# JUNE 2023 IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe shelter to 801 individuals in June.




## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

**46** Workshops available onsite to guests in June. - 11 more workshops from last month. 

**300+** Guests participated and attended a workshop and 113 hours of direct service offered. 

**18,549** Meals served in June at Van Buren Center. +767 meals from last month. 

**126** Volunteers gave their time to make a difference and totaled 1,284 hours! 

Hello Everyone!

Can you believe it, July has come and gone already? We have



experienced a great deal of accomplishments, starting with the decrease in EMS and 911 calls. We attribute the decrease in EMS and 911 calls to the unwavering support of our Team Coordinators, Team Members, and Crisis Prevention Specialists. Our surveys are showing that the customer service we provide is getting better each day. We are honored to give support to each and every guest as we continue to advocate and encourage the Housing First philosophy.

The Van Buren Team is happy to announce **Marsean Ross** as the new Director of Operations. Marsean is bringing 8 years 2 months and 5 days of Van Buren experience. He is compassionate, committed, and eager to assist in creating positive change at The Van Buren Center.

Please congratulate **Annie Ward** as she enters into her new leadership role as Team (Lead) Coordinator. Annie has been with the YMCA for 15 years 11 months and 10 days. Her loyalty and commitment to continue to advocate for great services for our guests is immeasurable. Thank you!

Please help me congratulate **Thomas Monroe** for receiving Employee of the Month for July! Thomas began working at the Van Buren Shelter on 4.4.23. We are extremely excited that he is being recognized for his outstanding performance.

Let us continue to invoke positive change even during challenging times.

Thank you all for your support.

Best,

**Cantrell Butler**

He/Him/His

Executive Director of Shelter Services

YMCA of Central Ohio

[cantrell.butler@ymcacolumbus.org](mailto:cantrell.butler@ymcacolumbus.org)

Visit our Website



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