



What's Happening at Van Buren Monthly News & Updates

AUGUST 2023



140
children
received
supplies at the
event!



365
backpacks
given to kids
in August!

VAN BUREN BACK TO SCHOOL IMPACT

1680
pairs of socks
and underwear
provided!



48
volunteers
helped during
the event!



Back to School FUN!



What a spectacular day it was for our annual **Back to School Rally** for the families at Van Buren Center! Thank you to our incredible volunteers who've made a remarkable impact supporting our families as they gear up for the new school year.

The children had such a fun day playing in the bounce house provided by the [Marlan Gary Funeral Home](#) and loved visiting the ice cream truck where they enjoyed sweet treats. We are so grateful to the [Brandi N Milbry Foundation](#) for sponsoring the ice cream truck for the 2nd year in a row.

And while there was so much fun going on outside, inside families were able to get everything they needed for the new school year-including haircuts and new



hairstyles. **Braid Slayerz** and **Kayden Michael Resource Center** donated their time and talent giving kids new haircuts and styles. We are so grateful to Braid Slayerz for their continued support of the Back to School Rally event and for staying after the event ended to make sure as many children as possible were able to receive new up-dos.

Thank you **Sharon Minor** for hosting your annual sock and underwear drive for our children. We were able to ensure that every child received new socks and underwear! Our partners for the event **Volunteers of American Ohio & Indiana** made sure our children had all the school supplies and backpacks to be ready for the new year.



We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who donated supplies for this year's Back to School Rally event and to those who volunteered to help during the event. Please enjoy the video below highlighting the incredible day!



[Watch Video](#)



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Victoria's Secret

Creating Decorations for Van Buren's Back to School Rally!



We had a great time with the **Victoria's Secret** team who came out to help us make decorations for the Back to School Rally event. They did an awesome job working together to create cute and creative decorations including paper bag bookbags, giant crayons made with tubes from rolls of wrapping paper, felt school supply wall decals, and letter blocks. Thank you to **Besa** for your support and help with coordinating this wonderful volunteer opportunity. It was our first time offering a volunteer project like this and we can't wait to make it a regular opportunity for the holidays.

Email our Volunteer Coordinator Katrina Martin-Healey if you would like to find out more about signing up for a holiday decoration volunteer project at katrina.martin@ymcacolumbus.org.

Sandata

Helping Van Buren Guests Access Snacks and Support



Sandata invited Van Buren to speak at their annual conference in August to help bring awareness to their team about the work we do. They wanted to also complete a service project during the event and it was a huge success. **300 snack bags** were assembled and filled with notes of encouragement for our guests at the shelter! These snack bags will help ensure that guests at Van Buren have access to extra food in between meal service and for anyone who misses meal service. Our mission is to ensure that our guests have access to adequate quantities and quality foods. We rely on donations to make this happen and are grateful to Sandata for the chance to partner.

The Sandata team did a wonderful job with the snack bags. They were so welcoming and excited to help make a difference.





Brandi N Milbry Foundation

August Birthday Celebration

The Brandi N Milbry Foundation made their monthly visit to Van Buren Center to drop off birthday gifts for our children. There were **17 children** with birthdays this month at Van Buren. We are so grateful to the foundation for their continued support and efforts to celebrate our children and make sure they feel loved on their special day. Consider helping support our birthday celebration for the children by donating.

[Click Here](#) to visit the foundations Amazon Wishlist.
[Click Here](#) to learn more about the birthday project.



Looking for A Way to Connect and Help Out Your Community?

Volunteer in Van Buren's Kitchen!

We rely on volunteers to provide 3 meals a day to the over 800 individuals in our shelter. If you haven't volunteered in our kitchen before or helped with dinner service we would love to have you join us!

It is a great way to learn about our shelter while getting to know our staff and guests. We are in need of volunteers for the month of September to help with dinner service. To learn more about our available timeslots click the button below and sign up.

[Dinner Service Sign Up](#)



Volunteer Opportunities

New Volunteer Orientation
Virtual

Meal Prep

Donation Needs

- Blankets (new/gently used)
- New Twin/Full Size

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)

Volunteer Update: The health, safety, and well-being of our guests, volunteers, and staff is our top priority and to that end, we are instituting numerous health and safety measures to best protect everyone who enters our doors including requiring face masks for all visitors in the building. Facemasks will be provided to any volunteers and visitors who need one. As of 9/1/2023 Van Buren will be requiring facemasks to be worn for all visitors in the building until further notice. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

[Click Here for Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Bedsheet Sets-for
Welcome Home Baskets

- Hairbrushes/Combs

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

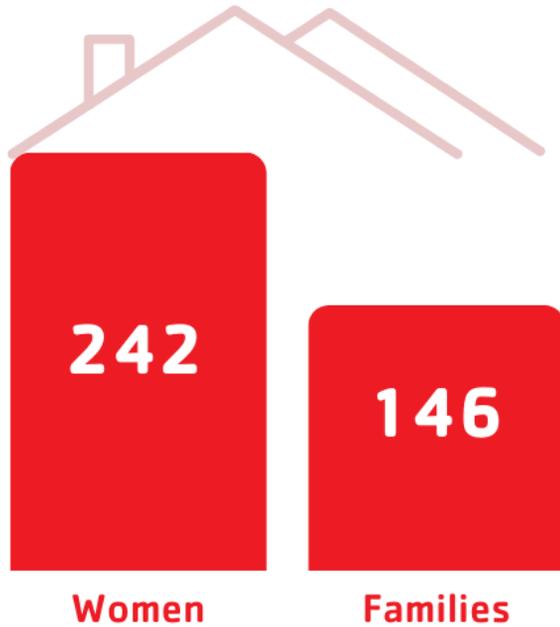
[Click Here for Amazon Wish List](#)



YMCA VAN BUREN CENTER

JULY 2023 IMPACT

Van Buren Center provided safe shelter to 812 individuals in July.



PROGRAM OUTCOMES

46

Workshops available onsite to guests in July.



340+

Guests participated and attended a workshop and 106 hours of direct service offered.



18,677

Meals served in July at Van Buren Center.



139

Volunteers gave their time to make a difference and totaled 440 hours.



Visit our Website



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

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