

YMCA Van Buren Shelter Services Monthly news & updates

September 2022



Setting Kids Up For Success

Van Buren's Back to School Rally Event
Highlights

August 19, 2022



100 children attended the Back to School Rally event
479 bookbags given so far in 2022

"I forgot I was at a homeless shelter. You all transformed the building and made it into something really special for the families."

-Van Buren Family Guest

This year's Back to School Rally was an amazing event and it was because of the incredible support and efforts of so many community partners, volunteers, and staff. Each year, the Van Buren Center transforms the Family Shelter and parking lot with decorations, resources, and fun for the families in shelter to get them ready for the new school year.

44 Volunteers Gave Their Time and Heart
15 Community Partners Provided Vital Resources and Information



Community Volunteers

Volunteer Spotlight

The **Brandi N Milbry Foundation** organized a group of volunteers for the Back to School Rally that helped decorate and run our bookbag and school supply giveaway area and in addition, provided an Ice Cream Truck for the event! This is the first year we had an ice cream truck for the event. It was a huge source of joy and excitement for the children and for the adults as well!

YMCA Van Buren Staff

Staff Spotlight

Our incredible team of YMCA Van Buren staff came together to make sure this year's event was a great success.

The Facilities Team: Ryan Williams, Gus Correa, and Ty'Quari Johnson oversaw the setup and breakdown for the event and got the Bounce House and Dunk Tank ready to go for the kids!

The Services Case Manager Team: Brittany White, Edith Johnson, and Tegest Mengestu ran the sign-in tables, hair stylist, and barber stations, as well as handled outdoor music and fun.

The Kitchen Team Reva Brown, Janelle Craft, and Alisa Fleming put in overtime with all their hard work preparing a special meal and getting lunch served to the families.



Special shoutout to Van Buren Staff Tomunisha Malone for volunteering to be in our dunk tank for the day and Dannail Williams, Essence Baldwin, and Antwone Brown for working the event.



Awesome Family Entertainment provided the Bounce House, Dunk Tank, Carousel, Balloon Artist, and Face Painter with the support of the **Arby's Foundation**.



Volunteers ran our sign in tables for the families and kept the line moving while taking care of each family with kindness and care.

Families received book bags, school supplies, shoes, socks, underwear, haircuts, onsite medical services and access to a number of community resources.







Ohio Health Wellness on Wheels and Nationwide Children's Hospital were present for the event to provide onsite medical services to children and families. It is so important to have these vital services available to our families and we are so grateful to Ohio Health and Nationwide Children's for being present.



Longtime volunteers **Bob and Shirley** provided customized bookbag tags for the children to decorate during the event. **Charity Newsie** was also onsite led by Dan Rippeth who always makes sure our children at the shelter get immediate access to clothing year-round.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this year's Back to School Rally such a great success. 100 children were served. Families had a chance to have fun and celebrate the new school year while getting what they need to be set up for success. The day was filled with positive energy and memories. We are so grateful to **Volunteers of America Ohio and Indiana's Operation Bookbag** for their continued support and impact made in our community.



THANK YOU!

Arby's Foundation
Assistance League of Metro Columbus
Brandi N Milbry Foundation
CareSource
Celebrate One
Charitable Healthcare Network
Charity Newsie
Comparion Insurance
Creative Financial Staffing
Columbus Works
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Ohio Health Wellness on Wheels
Project Connect
Volunteers of America Ohio and
Indiana
Y Without Walls

And to each and every person that
donated and volunteered their time
and talent for this year's Back to
School Rally!

Coming Up Next!



Trunk or Treat

Thursday, October 27
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm



Candy - Games - Costumes

at 595 Van Buren Drive, Columbus OH 43223

vanburenvolunteer.constantcontactsites.com



Join us for our annual **Trunk-or-Treat** event for the families at Van Buren Center scheduled for Thursday, October 27 from 5-6 pm in the Van Buren Parking Lot.

What is Trunk-or-Treat?

The idea is simple: Volunteers bring their cars to the Van Buren Parking Lot. The drivers and their families decorate their cars, sometimes creating elaborate scenes out of their trunks. Then kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy the way they would during a normal trick-or-treating outing.

How you can help?

Donate Costumes

We are in need of new or gently used costumes for the children to wear during the Trunk-or-Treat event. Deadline to drop off costumes is Monday, October 24. Costumes are needed in all sizes!

Donate Candy

Help us make the event extra sweet with candy for all the children.

Volunteer

Sign up to volunteer and have some fun decorating your trunk with festive and fun kid-friendly designs. We encourage everyone to dress up as well!

To coordinate your donation drop off please email vbvolunteer@ymcacolumbus.org

**Sign Up
Now!**

GIVE HER HOPE

Save the Date

BE *the* DIFFERENCE

Raising funds to change lives and provide immediate access to critical support and services for women, children and men experiencing homelessness.

SAVE THE DATE and Give Her Hope

Thursday, November 3rd
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Location: TBA



LEARN MORE



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Learn More

Current Donation Needs

- Deodorant (Men and Women)
- Shaving Cream
- Adult Women and Men's Underwear (all sizes)
- Children's Underwear (all sizes)
- Winter Coats

Amazon Wish
List

Visit our Website

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

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