

Shepherd's Bills of Rights



*When we all come together,
it creates a beautiful picture to break the cycle of poverty.*



Jay Height
Executive Director

Dear Friend,

You will notice that this quarter's newsletter looks much different. Our staff has been working hard to develop a list of covenants with our many partners, like you. This list is a recognition that we do not work alone. We have important partners that enable us to empower our families to break the cycle of poverty.

Whether you are a **donor, volunteer, vendor, neighbor, or church** we want you to know how much we value you and want this relationship to be a mutual one. In this newsletter, we have included the various covenants. Look them over, and let us know what you think.

There is great power in the partnerships we have developed with friends like you. It is only through these relationships that we can accomplish all that we do. Together, we are making a difference and we thank you!



I have watched Shepherd flourish, and I am a real fan of their continuum of care to their kids and families. Nothing excites me more than seeing the map of our kids and where they are going to college. I see Shepherd creating a feeling of hope and energy that, by working together, there are better days ahead.

Mike Smith (donor)

Donor Bill of Rights

As a donor to Shepherd Community Center, you have the right to...

1. Know what the outcomes are for the programs you support and how it correlates to your return on investment.
2. Know that Shepherd complies with federal, state, and municipal laws.
3. Restrict or designate your gifts to a particular project within Shepherd's mission objectives.
4. Receive a timely and courteous response to your inquiries.
5. Schedule a time to visit Shepherd's office and any of our program sites to talk personally with the staff.
6. Be informed of Shepherd's needs and made aware of opportunities to personally invest in our mission.
7. Receive financial transparency by obtaining a copy of Shepherd's most recent audited financial statements.
8. Know that there is a responsible, governing board providing oversight to Shepherd's mission.
9. Know that all appeals for funds are truthful and accurate.
10. Be acknowledged and/or communicated with according to your wishes.
11. Be informed of other ways you can be a part of Shepherd Community.

Neighbor Bill of Rights

As a neighbor of Shepherd Community Center, you have the right to...

1. Be assured Shepherd is committed to Christ and sharing the gospel.
2. Be assured Shepherd will respect, honor, and embrace your family's cultural and racial perspectives.
3. Expect a safe environment for your children and family.
4. Be valued for your opinions.
5. Be assured you will be treated equally despite racial, social, and economic differences.
6. Receive quality education and life skill opportunities.
7. Receive quality food and health/exercise opportunities.



I appreciate the opportunity to share the many blessings that I have received by giving back to this community.

Neighbor to Shepherd Community Center

Vendor Bill of Rights

As a vendor of Shepherd Community Center, you have the right to...

1. Understand that our ministry will not be efficient and effective without seeing you as a valuable partner in that effort.
2. Receive timely payments for goods and services in compliance with your terms, or within a period of 45 days or less, unless predetermined.
3. Be communicated with in a direct, open, and fair manner throughout the process of selection, purchase, and payment.
4. Expect Shepherd to act in the best interest of the ministry, which may place priority on relationships and not just on price.
5. Expect Shepherd to comply with all local, state, and federal regulations and reporting.
6. Work with us to identify and adapt to industry changes.



Together, we possess a shared passion to protect and advance each other's best interests; therefore, it has been a natural progression--and a profound blessing--for AscendUSA to be a member of Shepherd Community's family. We strive to represent

Christ in all we do to serve others, so to have the privilege to support an organization such as Shepherd Community--one that exemplifies Christ's love by sacrificial, selfless action, not only with words--is truly an honor.

Joe Guzman (Founding Partner, AscendUSA)



Living in the inner city myself, I am always amazed how I learn from my neighbors in Martindale-Brightwood. Volunteering at Shepherd allows me to feel like I make a difference. I know it is important to give back time into a place that gives to me.

DeAmon Harges (volunteer wrestling coach)

Volunteer Bill of Rights

As a volunteer of Shepherd Community Center, you have the right to...

1. Be assigned to meaningful tasks aligned with your interests, skills, and passions.
2. Be oriented, trained, and supported during your ministry experience at Shepherd.
3. Offer feedback regarding your volunteer efforts with the intent to impact your service area at Shepherd.
4. Receive adequate notice in the event that programs/work projects are cancelled.
5. Be affirmed and know that you really matter to Shepherd.
6. Be treated as a Shepherd team member.
7. Use your creativity and passions in order to effectively facilitate/lead in your area of service at Shepherd.

Church Bill of Rights

As a church partner of Shepherd Community Center, you have the right to...

1. Establish expectations and outcomes for our partnership.
2. Expect monthly reports and ministry updates regarding laity involvement as well as additional volunteer opportunities at Shepherd.
3. Expect personal communications from Shepherd's church relations team on a frequent basis.
4. Expect opportunities to establish "ownership" of ministry programs and events.
5. Expect annual reviews regarding ministry outcomes and semi-annual partnership evaluations.
6. Expect Shepherd's church relations team to consult and support your church leadership team with training regarding poverty and cross-cultural relationships.
7. Expect Shepherd's church relations team to execute all ministry matters in a God-honoring manner.



Most of us have heard Shepherd staff declare their mission to mobilize the church "into action"[®] to help the church to "be the church" for the inner city, so to speak. How are we to lead our churches to "be the church" for the least of these in our city? Being in partnership with Shepherd, I've become convinced the Lord doesn't want more people who believe that he loves the poor, but he wants to see more people actively doing something about it. Our commitment to Shepherd has sparked a heart for serving in many people who have never expressed interest in serving, nor given a dollar in the offering. Quite honestly, some of the people who are serving are people I thought never would! I firmly believe it's not the size of our church on a Sunday that the Lord is primarily concerned with, but rather the size of our impact!
Aaron Story (Pastor Indy Metro Church)



"In March, the Academy celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading his unforgettable books and wearing some amazing hats!"

It is the mission of Shepherd Community Center

to break the cycle of poverty on the near Eastside of Indianapolis by engaging and empowering the community to cultivate healthy children, strong families, and vibrant neighborhoods through a Christ-centered approach that meets the spiritual, physical, emotional, and academic needs of our neighbors.

In-Kind Needs

1. Two NEW high chairs for the dining room
2. Letter size copy paper
3. General cleaning supplies - window, toilet bowl, etc.
4. Work gloves and hand tools for gardening (various sizes)
5. Vermi Compost or Worm Castings



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