



## Specific Ways YOU Can Help

# Service

EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE A PASSION TO LEAD.

**ESL Teacher:** Help needed in our academy for students grades K3 through 4th.

**CDL Drivers:** Needed from 3:45-4:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday to help pick up kids and bring them to our After-School Program.

**After-School Program:** Help is needed Monday through Thursday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Mailings:** Help is needed on a continual basis to stuff, seal, stamp, and address our mailings.

**Garden:** Help cultivate the ground for spring and summer.

**Health Clinic:** In need of doctors and nurses who can commit to at least one Saturday a month, administrations workers to help with clinic sign-in, and interpreters. Clinic is the first four Saturdays of the month from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Shepherd believes in empowering its volunteers to serve in areas where they have a passion to lead. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in one of these areas or any other area at Shepherd, **contact Phil Merki** at 317-375-0203 or [philm@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:philm@shepherdcommunity.org).

### IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, THERE ARE MANY ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP OUR FAMILIES:

**GENERAL:** gymnastics leotards (medium and large), Bey Blades for incentives

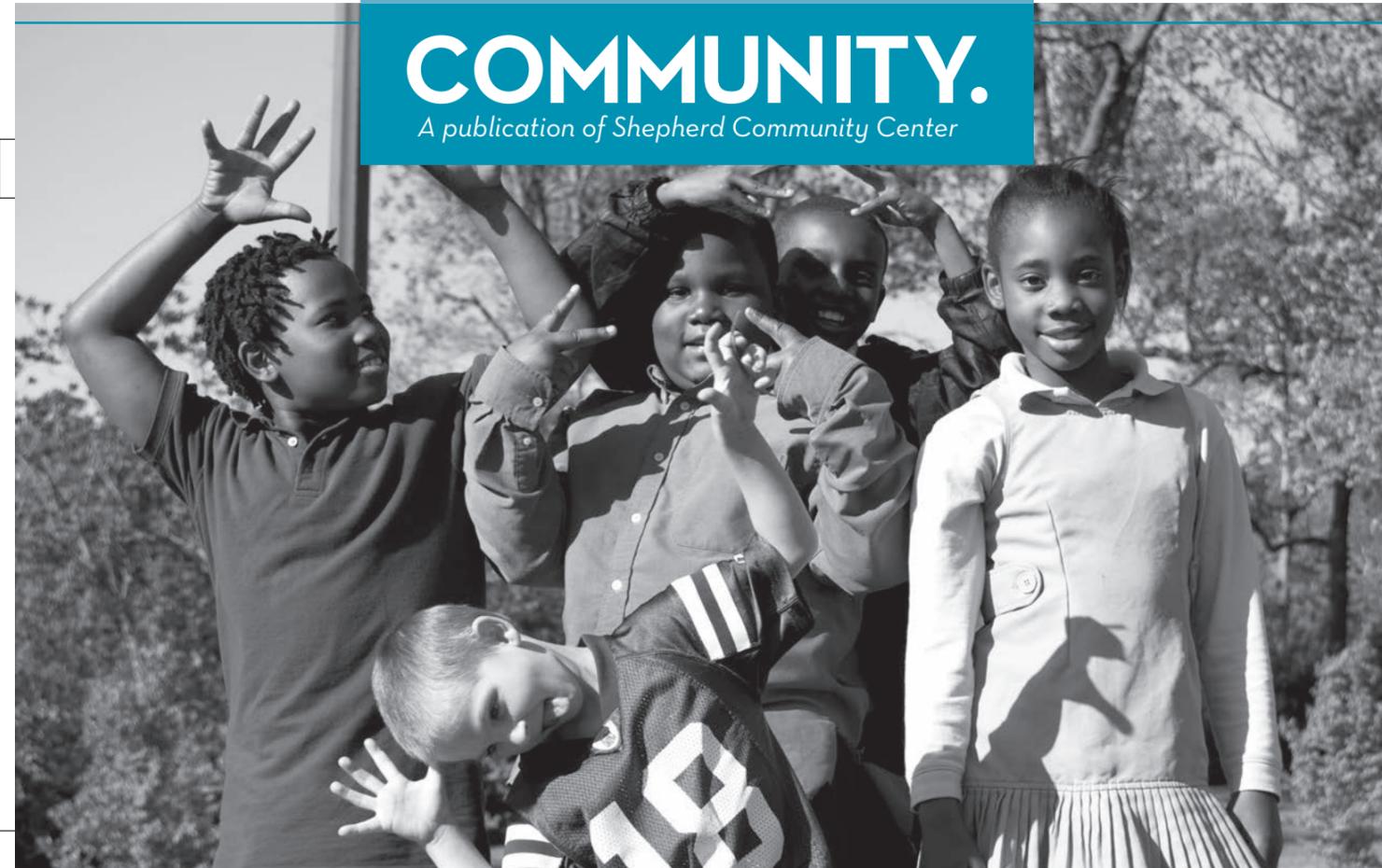
**KITCHEN:** Cooking spices, plastic spoons and forks

**OFFICE SUPPLIES:** Copy paper

**ACADEMY:** Dry erase markers, construction paper

**FAMILY MINISTRIES:** Toilet paper, tooth brushes, tooth paste, diapers (sizes 4-6), diaper wipes, bar soap

**GARDEN:** 15-20 padded garden kneeling pads, 15 tomato cages, new or used shredder/mulcher, bulbs and/or perennial seed



# COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center

Shepherd is a faith-based, non-profit organization established in 1985 with a simple but staggering goal: to break the cycle of poverty on the near Eastside of Indianapolis. Located centrally within the community it serves, Shepherd offers programs for children, teens, adults, and families. Our primary tools? Education and love.

4107 E Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46201 p. 317.375.0203 [www.shepherdcommunity.org](http://www.shepherdcommunity.org)



## Graduation & Beyond and College Access



*The majority of the youth* Shepherd serves will be first generation college students who have never even thought about attending a college or university. In 2012 Shepherd started two transformational programs to meet this need. Shepherd's Graduation and Beyond Program began with the desire to help students in 5th- 12th grade take the first steps toward pursuing a college education. Shepherd then took the desire a step further,

developing the College Access program, which assists and mentors students who are already in college by helping them stay in school. These unique programs allow Shepherd to begin working with students and their families as early as 10 years old.

*(continued next page)*

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Give a HAND UP

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Message from Jay

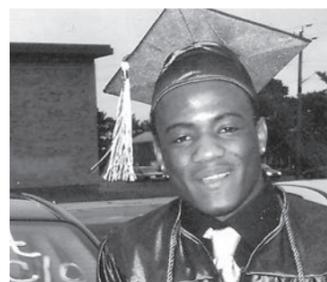
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YOU Can Help





## Graduation & Beyond and College Access *(continued)*



The Graduation and Beyond Program is categorized by grade levels. Fifth and six grade students work on building self-esteem, evaluating learning styles, developing a dream board, researching potential career interests, learning about relationships and peer pressure, and preparing for middle school. Middle school students, grades 7-8, are learning how to organize for success, studying skills, exploring

occupations, completing the 21st Century Scholars application, participating in college visits, and preparing for high school. Both of these groups have specifically designed curricula to help implement and sustain the information the students learn.

During high school, students begin to implement everything they have learned up to this point. High school students concentrate on academic excellence, exploring options for their future, building their circle of support, receiving financial education, SAT/ACT prep work, working on interview and resume skills, public speaking writing essays, and job shadowing. Once a student is in college, Shepherd continues to be a secure support in their lives through College Access. We provide our college students with a laptop, career counseling and mentoring, internship and job shadow opportunities, and support while navigating the college process.

Sadly, the near Eastside has one of the lowest educational attainment levels in the greater Indianapolis/Marion County area. Students living in our neighborhoods are foreign to the concept of college. However, Shepherd believes the key to breaking the cycle of poverty begins with education - and we know it first-hand. Shepherd staff members serving in these specific program areas are first generation out of poverty and the first in their families to pursue higher education. They have a unique perspective on the challenges and obstacles that our students face. ■

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP



**Help fuel bright futures for our kids! Through Shepherd's sponsorship program, you have the unique opportunity to give a child in our programs a hand-up for only \$27 a month. Each child you sponsor will also send you a personal, quarterly update.**

**Additionally, Shepherd has opportunities for you to become a sponsor to one of our college students. Shepherd students currently attend schools across the nation, including Olivet Nazarene University, IUPUI, University of Indianapolis, Indiana State University and more. College sponsorship is \$125 a month.**

**If you are interested in either of these sponsorship opportunities, please contact Roxanne Pennington at [roxanep@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:roxanep@shepherdcommunity.org) or 317-375-0203 for more information.**

## Did You Know?

**David Noe is one of Shepherd's staff members** who is first generation out of poverty. Born to a 14-year-old in Harlan, Kentucky, David moved to Indianapolis with his grandmother at the age of two. "We were constantly on the move and barely got by," he recalls. David attended Indianapolis Public Schools until seventh grade, when he transferred to Saint Philip Neri. This transition allowed David to hear God's truth during a pivotal time in his life. However, it wasn't until his daughter Kiley started at Shepherd's Academy that David really understood God's love for him and his family. "God used Shepherd to change my life and save my family... from me," he said. "God wanted me here and I knew it. God has ordained my steps back to Him." David's hope for families is that they understand and know, "they do not have to continue on with the bondage that comes from poverty. There is hope in Christ to overcome." David has served on Shepherd's staff for two and a half years as Operations Team Leader. His wife, Kelly, also serves on staff in Shepherd's Academy.

**The high schools within our neighborhoods** include Arsenal Technical High School (Tech) and Thomas Carr Howe Community High School (Howe). Tech and Howe are community high schools within Indianapolis Public Schools. According to the most recent statistics from the Indiana Department of Education, the average ACT composite score for college-bound seniors at these two schools is 17.2, compared to 21.7 statewide.

**What does this mean?** The average ACT composite scores of the two high schools are below state average. Not every student is going to take the ACT, only students wishing to go to college - sacrificing time and money to take this test. Yet, most colleges won't accept an ACT score below 17 or 18, meaning the majority of these students would not even meet college admittance standards. High school students in our neighborhoods are not academically prepared to further their education.

**What is Shepherd doing?** Shepherd works with students from a young age to develop their reading level and problem solving skills. Once our students are in high school, we assist them through ACT/SAT prep courses - at no cost to the student. Shepherd is dedicated to helping our students succeed, every step of the way. ■



## VISION.



### *So what's our vision?*

What plan do we have to help the families we serve? For the vast majority of our parents, the working poor, there are many ways we can support them. Our vision is to help them help themselves.

We are continuing to look for ways to better engage parents in their child's education. This is one reason we encourage parents to volunteer in our academy. Every day at Shepherd we see parents investing time to help us help their children.

Our mentoring program is not just about the student but engaging the entire family. Our goal is to not replace the parents, but rather encourage them by serving alongside them. We do this through our After-School and Summer Programs as well.

We also offer support services to assist our families where they do not have access. Services such as our Health Clinic, which provides quality health care to those who do not have health insurance, and our Legal Clinic, which partners with the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic to help our families navigate through struggles that require legal assistance. During tax season, we provide free tax preparation for our families. We also provide numerous counseling sessions, family advocacy, job training, and simple, honest friendship. Everything we do is part of the strategy to help our families help themselves.

**So what is our vision...You + Families + Shepherd = Families empowered to break the cycle of poverty. Thanks for being a part of the equation!**