

# Specific Ways YOU Can Help

# Service

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

### GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

**Serving breakfast** Saturday mornings at our Health Clinic from 8:00am-noon

**Deep cleaning** - Shepherd's Jireh Sports Ministry building needs to be deep cleaned on a weekly basis, as well as our main Shepherd building

**Skilled laborers** - miscellaneous projects available

### INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES (some may require orientation)

**Mentoring** - One-on-one mentoring with a student, minimum of one hour per week

**After-School tutors** for students in 1st through 12th grade

**Club leaders** for the After-School Program

**Kitchen** - Help staff prepare and serve meals

**Coaches needed** for Shepherd's Jireh Sports Ministries in gymnastics and wrestling

**Medical professionals, interpreters, and administrators** needed for Shepherd's free weekly Health Clinic

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

**FOOD PANTRY SUPPLIES:** Canned vegetables and fruits, canned meat, dry pastas, instant potatoes, and rice (side dishes)

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, please **contact Phil Merki at 317-375-0203 or philm@shepherdcommunity.org.**

# 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.

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## Volunteers Make the Difference



Over 1,500 volunteers served more than 28,127 hours at Shepherd Community Center during 2013. During those hours, they assembled food boxes, helped kids with homework in the After-School Program, cleaned Shepherd facilities, and much more. Most importantly, volunteers made an impact in the lives of Shepherd's children.

Nearly every Shepherd child has a favorite volunteer. When asked why, their answers vary from: "He gives great examples in homework" to "She's my best friend" to "He's just like me." But the children at Shepherd aren't the only ones who see the impact.

A group of Warren Central High School students volunteered in Shepherd's After-School this past fall as a way to practice their Spanish skills. Several of them discovered their volunteer work meant even more to them than it did to the kids. "I can see an impact through volunteering by the simple way the kids trust me to help them," said Jesus (last name?), a volunteer from Warren Central High School. (continued next page)

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YOU Can Help



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## Volunteers Make the Difference *(continued)*

Mary Powell is in her third year of volunteering at Shepherd. "I think when you first start to volunteer you think about how you are going to help the kids," she said. "However it's the relationships that are built that have the real impact—for the student, but even more for the volunteer."

Julia Williams began volunteering last fall after hearing about Shepherd through one of her classes at Butler University. She views the impact she can have on the kids as something that goes beyond her time here. "One of the things I like the most about helping kids with homework, for example, is I want to not only help them understand the work, but I want them to understand they are smart and have the ability to accomplish anything if they have confidence and are willing to work hard," said Julia.



It is volunteers like these who have given students the confidence they need to succeed in life. At Shepherd Community Center, more than fifty of our young people have graduated high school - with most going on to pursue

a college education or military service. Out of those fifty plus graduates, several have returned to Shepherd as volunteers. By volunteering in programs they once participated in, graduates are able to give back to kids the same way volunteers and staff members once gave to them.

Shepherd graduates volunteer in unique ways. Several have taken part in the After-School Pen Pal club for 5th and 6th graders. As part of Shepherd's Graduation & Beyond Program, Shepherd seeks to create a "college eager" environment and encourages children to think about their individual gifts and dreams for the future. As part of this program, each student is paired with a college-aged pen pal. Younger students have the opportunity to ask questions such as: "What are classes like?", "What do you do on a college campus?", and "What have you learned in college?"

Shepherd graduates also stay involved through visiting their previous After-School clubs. Steel Pan program leader, David Chase, said he loves having graduates return. "The younger kids love it because someone older than them, but still young enough to be 'cool,' is excited about what they are doing. It's also a time when younger students can receive some personal tips I may overlook while trying to move the entire group through a song."

A few Shepherd graduates have returned as interns during the Summer EXCEL Program, where they teach academics, Bible, crafts, and games. Allyson Bartley was one such Shepherd graduate. "I met kids who, like me, saw and heard things little people should never experience. To give back was a fantastic feeling," she said. "To see the look in kids' eyes when they finally believe you care about them, is the most rewarding feeling I have ever experienced."

Graduates who succeed in breaking the cycle of poverty are the reason Shepherd does what it does. Every person who invests in the lives of Shepherd children by keeping their classrooms clean, helping them with math problems, or simply telling them they can succeed, helps our kids take a step closer to that goal. ■

## VOLUNTEER PROFILES

### Bob Helmsley

**Bob Helmsley is a familiar face to anyone who has eaten a meal at Shepherd Community Center. For the past year and a half, he has volunteered every day in Shepherd's Kitchen. After retirement, Bob began looking for volunteer opportunities to keep him busy and give back to the community. Bob heard great things about Shepherd Community, so he showed up one day to see how he could serve. Shepherd put Bob right to work, helping with some mailings. After the mailings were complete, Bob wanted to do more. So, Shepherd's volunteer coordinator asked Bob if he might want to serve in Shepherd's Kitchen. It was a natural fit and Bob rarely misses a day. "I had never been in a kitchen before, but I decided to give it a shot! My wife never believed me and still can't believe I'm in the kitchen," Bob said with a laugh.**

**Bob appreciates the education Shepherd provides to the children, as well as the nourishing meals the kitchen serves every day. However, the most important reason why Bob volunteers at Shepherd is the chance to show Christ to Shepherd's families. "It's important to have a Christ-like impact because it gives children the hope and love they need, not only for today but for their future."**

## Did You Know?

### In 2013 Shepherd had:

**713 patient visits** in Shepherd's Health Clinic

**Over 50,000** meals served

**51 kids** in college

**186 kids** receive child sponsorship

**Over 400** Thanksgiving totes go to families

**Over 950** Christmas totes go to families

**43 mentors** paired with Shepherd kids

**250 kids** waiting to be paired with mentors

## Other Ways to Give

### Did you know that for only \$27 a month you can sponsor a child at Shepherd?

It costs \$27 a day to serve one child in Shepherd's programming. Your sponsorship gives a child a day of education, safety, hope, and God's love. With your help, more children on the near Eastside can receive these precious, life-changing gifts every day.

If you're interested in sponsoring a child through Shepherd's Hand Up Program, contact Ruthie Burrell at 317-375-0203 or [ruthieb@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:ruthieb@shepherdcommunity.org).

### Run for a Cause

Help Shepherd Community break the cycle of poverty by running the Indy Mini Marathon on May 3, 2014. All proceeds will go towards Shepherd's Summer EXCEL Program - a fun, academic day camp for inner city youth. If you are interested in running the Indy Mini Marathon or supporting a runner on Shepherd's behalf, contact Jeff Boxell at [jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org) or call 317-375-0203.

### Save the Date

The 6th Annual Shepherd Community Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 22, 2014 at the Bridgewater Club in Carmel, Indiana. If you are interested in sponsoring or attending the outing, contact Jeff Boxell at [jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org) or call 317-375-0203.



## BUILDING A FUTURE.



### Cathedral Builders

I once read a book that told the story of building a cathedral. It took four generations to build the beautiful structure. The first generation simply planted trees and hauled rocks so the final generation could harvest the trees and complete the ceiling.

At Shepherd, we spend a lot of time hauling rocks and planting trees to build a future for the families and children we serve.

Sometimes we have to wait to see the finished buildings, yet other times get to see the beautiful cathedrals completed in our community. The most beautiful are the students who have come through Shepherd's programming, and come back to serve and lead.

There are no better cathedral builders than those whose lives were built here.

**Thank you for laboring with us as we build cathedrals for future generations!**

**Jay Height**  
Executive Director