



Specific Ways YOU Can Help

Service

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

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

- Health Clinic:** Serve breakfast on Saturday mornings from 8:00am - noon.
- Garden:** Help prep the garden for the summer growing season.
- Outdoor Landscaping:** Keep Shepherd looking beautiful by helping with upkeep on Shepherd's landscaping.
- Kitchen:** Deep cleaning needed at Shepherd's kitchen on a weekly basis

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Summer EXCEL & YLIFE: Volunteer 1 hour per week anytime between 8am - 2 pm, Monday through Friday.

- Kitchen:** Prepare and serve breakfast from 7-10 a.m., Monday through Friday.
- Health Clinic:** Doctors, nurses, translators, and administrative personnel needed Saturdays from 8am - noon (monthly scheduling flexible)
- Food Pantry:** Help sort and hand out food on Saturday's at 8am
- Project Jordan:** Perform home, mentoring visits for moms with children ages newborn to 3-year-old once a week
- Food Pantry:** Cut coupons and help Shepherd get much-needed Food Pantry items for our families
- IT:** Donate your services by helping Shepherd a few hours each week. Contact John DeMuth at johnd@shepherdcommunity.org for more information

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.

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

IN-KIND NEEDS: Empty egg cartons / Chicken feed or chicken coop supplies / Gardening supplies or tools / Bottled water / Plastic spoons and forks / Coffee / Paper products - paper plates, napkins, toilet paper / Large, heavy-duty trash bags



CELEBRATING
30
YEARS OF SERVICE
shepherd 1985-2015
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



The Power of One Summer: Gearing Up For Shepherd's Summer Programs

Summer. It's something every student looks forward to. A break from school and an opportunity to play, go to camp, and have fun with friends. Most of us remember these summer vacations fondly.

But for the students living in our neighborhoods, summer doesn't change the circumstances they find themselves in - struggling physically, emotionally, spiritually, and academically. That's



why 25 years ago Shepherd created two summer programs to meet the needs of our neighborhood children. These programs are about more than academics; they're about developing meaningful, one-on-one relationships with students for an entire summer with our volunteers, interns, and staff members.

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YOU Can Help

Thank you to our partners for making Shepherd's newsletter possible.



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The Power of One Summer *(continued)*

Our program for our elementary students Summer EXCEL, which stands for **Embracing eXcellence and Committing to Education for Life**, serves over 130 Kindergarten through fifth grade elementary students. EXCEL focuses around a school-like atmosphere, but integrates hands-on fun experiences so kids can learn



new concepts while re-enforcing core areas. Our programming also expands to include arts and crafts, gardening, swimming, hiking, zip lining, team building, parks, field trips, and worship services. The educational process keeps them learning all summer long, so they won't fall behind like many of their peers, while also keeping them safe, well fed, and encouraged. And they don't do any of it alone. We are blessed with church groups, college students,

Shepherd staff members and volunteers of all ages who do all of these activities right beside our students, teaching them their worth and importance in the eyes of God.

Best of all, nearly 85% of our Summer EXCEL kids are also involved in our After-School Program, helping us continue the meaningful relationships and care all year long.

Our middle and high school Summer YLiFe Program, which stands for **Young Leaders Investing in the Future**, serves over 50 sixth through twelfth grade students. Although this program runs concurrently with Summer EXCEL, the focus is quite different for these students.

The middle schoolers focus on life skills like networking, building a resume, managing finances, and exploring the wide variety of opportunities available to them after high school graduation. But students also get to have a lot of fun through activities like swimming, camping, bible studies, and horseback riding. This mix allows our middle school students to start thinking about their futures, while encouraging them to have fun.

The high school YLiFe is similar to the middle school experience but with higher intensity on the college visits, personal resume preparation, and deeper engagement with businesses, which may include some job shadowing. These opportunities encourage students to prepare for the reality of life after high school. Practical training like how to dress for job interviews, mock interviews, and managing finances becomes essential skills for students to help them see themselves succeeding in life.

"I can put all the knowledge into the students' heads but if our students are not applying themselves in school there is nothing we can do," said Colby Grindean, Director of YLiFe. "Connecting our students with adults like them who are succeeding in college, business, and life is key to motivating our students to do well. We have to provide them with real examples of success so they can see it for themselves. They need hope for a successful future."

Each summer, Shepherd serves over 200 kids through Summer EXCEL and YLiFe. All groups meet Monday through Friday from 8am - 2pm for 6 weeks. **That equates to 210 hours we are blessed to invest in the life of each child over the summer!**

Just one hour. One moment. One person can make a difference in the life of a child this summer. It can transform not only the child's life but also their family for future generations. If you, your church, or your business would like to be involved in Summer EXCEL or YLiFe this summer, please email Colby Grindean at colbyg@shepherdcommunity.org or Emilie Balliett at emilieb@shepherdcommunity.org or call 317-375-0203.

This summer every child at Shepherd will experience opportunities and meaningful relationships that will have a life-long impact, but we cannot do it without YOU. **The Power of One. YOU can make a difference in a child's life this summer. ■**

THE POWER OF ONE BOARD MEMBER

Ben Lotter



Ben Lotter first heard about Shepherd Community through a former board member and friend, Curt Brough. When Ben discovered his church, Grace Community, partnered with Shepherd, he knew Shepherd was a ministry in which he wanted to become involved. After volunteering for more than three years, Ben decided it was time to dig deeper in his partnership. In June 2014, Ben was elected to Shepherd's board, where he currently serves on the facilities committee.

Ben values the way Shepherd engages with the entire family as a unit, addressing the physical, spiritual, emotional and academic needs of the whole family. "I have a passion for families, especially for children, to grow up in a home where they are surrounded by God's love," said Ben. "I also love the diversity of community - both those serving and being served - because each one of us can make a difference."

In the future, Ben desires to see Shepherd's families reach out to others in their community. "As a board member, I hope to use my professional experiences in construction to help Shepherd develop and improve facilities in order to continue meeting the community's needs," said Ben.

Currently, Ben is a Senior Project Manager for Messer Construction where he oversees large commercial projects. He lives in Fishers, Indiana with his wife, Krista, whom he met when they were attending Purdue University. Ben and Krista have three young children: Caleb, Abigail, and Elianna.

Ben is a wonderful example of how one person's passion for those in need makes a difference.

The Power of One: Ben Lotter.

Did You Know?

100% of our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students increase their math skills according to the Algebra Project measurement standards based on Indiana state standards.

100% of middle school and 88% of our high school students demonstrate an increased leadership capacity, based on staff observation and average daily attendance.*

*Based on 94% average daily attendance

98% of the parents of our elementary school students believe that the Summer EXCEL Program has a positive impact on their son or daughter.

81% of parents state that their child would not be able to attend a summer camp if not for Shepherd.

96% of middle school and 86% of high school parents believe that the YLiFe Summer Program has a positive impact on their son or daughter.

Students from colleges and universities all across the country travel to Shepherd for their spring break and summer vacations to volunteer and learn more about breaking the cycle of poverty.

Development



Shalom Project

Help us connect deeper with our neighbors and bring peace to our community through the Shalom Project. Individuals, families, churches, and companies can all play a part in this initiative. To learn more about the Shalom Project, contact Gabe Bockus at gabeb@shepherdcommunity.org or call 317-375-0203.

Save the Date

The 7th Annual Shepherd Community Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at the Bridgewater Club in Carmel, Indiana. If you are interested in sponsoring or attending the outing, contact Jeff Boxell at jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org or call 317-375-0203.

THE SHALOM PROJECT.



Several months ago, the City of Indianapolis asked Shepherd to help address the challenges of our neighborhood and provide solutions. So we created a new program we are calling the Shalom Project. Shalom is a Hebrew word meaning "peace." And that's exactly what we hope to do - bring peace to our neighborhood.

Over the next several months, we will share how Shepherd will work with our neighbors and city to bring success and peace. We've already begun the initial steps by taking the time to go door-to-door and ask our neighbors about what challenges they face and how they want to see the neighborhood change. By listening to our neighbors, we're learning a lot. Many of our neighbors are excited about this new direction and want to help in any way they can. It is incredible to have the community supporting and working with us to create solutions and bring about change.

We plan to keep you updated about the successes, challenges, and progress we make as we empower our neighbors to create a community of peace and hope.

We want your help too! Join the Shalom Project and help us bring peace to not only our neighborhood, but also to the City of Indianapolis.

Shalom,

Jay Height
Executive Director