

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 weed, plant, and maintain the garden

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 & FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES

The Shalom Project: Assist your neighbors with their needs of hunger, health and housing by helping Shepherd to renovate homes and the neighborhood at large. Both high and low skill repairs are needed. Contact Gabe Bockus at gabeb@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.

Kitchen: Prepare and serve breakfast on mornings 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.

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

IN-KIND NEEDS: Bottled Water / Diapers (Sizes 4, 5, & 6) / Individually Wrapped Candy (for Fall Festival) / Hand Sanitizer / Paper Products (plates, napkins, toilet paper) / Large, Black Trash Bags



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



COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center

CELEBRATING

30

YEARS OF SERVICE

shepherd 1985-2015
community center



Breaking the Cycle: Graduation to Career

Did you know that Indiana determines how much prison space they will need in 15 years based on the test results of third graders?

It's sad, but true. **And what's worse, at 10 years of age, a child's life is predicted as success or failure.** How can children see a future for themselves when the state has already made a place



for them in prison? How can they see themselves succeeding when the rest of their family likely never graduated high school?

These are the harsh realities our students face every day. Family circumstances, lack of quality education, and access to needed resources are stacked against these children. But Shepherd offers them the stability, resources, education, and hope they need to not only succeed but thrive.

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YOU Can Help

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



At Shepherd, we prepare and challenge our students to graduate high school and see a future beyond the here and now. We want them to create a career and build a new, successful life free from poverty.

Throughout their high school years our students will be exposed to a wide variety of jobs, colleges, and military options they can pursue after high school. We connect them with and visit businesses where they are given opportunities to shadow different jobs they are interested in. We take students on numerous college and university campus visits, including trade schools, so students can find their individual paths to achieve their dreams.

Once students know which path they want to take, we work with them to achieve it. Starting college or any type of schooling is not an easy task, especially when you are the first in your family to do so. Therefore, we teach a College 101 course during the summer, where students will learn all about how to prepare for college, apply for scholarships and FAFSA, manage their finances, create a resume, network, interview for a job, and build community. Although these classes encourage students to continue their education, we know that college isn't for everyone and this course also helps students who decide to jump directly into the workforce or enroll in the military.

But, Shepherd doesn't stop there. We equip students with what they need to not only succeed academically but also physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Upon graduating high school, each student receives a new laptop to take to college. Additionally, we connect them to campus Christian groups that will help them build community as well as grow spiritually. We also put together care packages and letters to send students at school to let them know they are loved and supported by their Shepherd family.

We believe that each student has the ability to make a difference in this world, and if even just one student can succeed, they can transform their family and community for generations to come.

Our goal is to help each student find his or her own unique path. We know there is not going to be a set way that will work for everyone so we tailor our help to each student. High School Program

Coordinator, Colby Grindean says it best: "My goal is to find their passion. If they are doing what they love and can make a living at it, then I consider that a success." ■



THE POWER OF ONE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jake Stamper



In 2005, Jake Stamper started volunteering at Shepherd in his free time. After 5 years of volunteering, Jake was asked to serve on Shepherd's Board. Since then, Jake has served in multiple capacities with the Board, and in the fall of 2014, Jake was elected as the new Board Chairman. "My responsibility as the Board Chairman is to provide a level of eldership, wisdom, and guidance to help break the cycle of poverty and provide hope through a Continuum of Care. Shepherd's method really works to break the cycle of poverty because it addresses each person through a holistic model - physically, emotionally, spiritually, and academically."

A child of generational poverty himself, Jake's passion for Shepherd stems from a place of both compassion and conviction. "I grew up in poverty in California and I had to learn on my own how to break the cycle of poverty. So, when I saw Shepherd and what they did, I became extremely passionate to help the kids that remind me of myself."

Jake graduated from Western Kentucky University with a dual degree in corporate and organizational communications as well as marketing. Jake is the owner and president of Eclipse Marketing & Advertising. In addition to Eclipse, Jake has traveled internationally, serving as an expert in marketing, advertising, and philanthropy; serves as an advisor to the school of business at Western Kentucky University; and also guest lectures at the IU School of Philanthropy on the integration of philanthropic principles, marketing strategy, and tactics.

"One of the things that most excites me is that Shepherd truly practices the same level of stewardship as they teach the kids and families in our programs."

Did You Know?

In our neighborhoods, less than 50% of students will actually graduate from high school, with some schools graduating only one-third of their students.

However, students who are engaged in the Shepherd High School program have a much brighter outcome. Since 2007, Shepherd has had 84%* of students graduate from high school.

Of that 84% who graduated high school:

- 47% went on to College
- 41% did not attend College
- 8% went into the Military
- 3% working to go to College
- 1% went to Trade School

*Of the remaining 16% who did not graduate:

- 1% Received a GED
- 8% are unknown
- 7% simply did not graduate

**Data has only been tracked since 2007

Development

Save the Date: Shepherd Community 30-Year Celebration Banquet

Help us celebrate Shepherd Community Center's *Thriving Thirty* years of service with a fundraising banquet to support the next 30 years.



Date: Thursday, November 12, 2015
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Colts Complex - Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center
 7001 W. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46254
 (Located between Reed Road & Longwoods Drive)
Guest Speaker: Lee Strobel, Award-Winning Author

For more information, please contact Jeff Boxell at jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org or call 317-375-0203.

7th Annual Golf Outing

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.

INVESTMENT.



For the past 30 years Shepherd has invested in countless neighbors' lives. We celebrate not only the transformations that have happened for our neighbors to break the cycle of poverty, but also the faithfulness of so many to help us continually invest in the lives of our neighbors.

Your investment is transforming our community one person at a time and making a difference for eternity. Because of you, we can celebrate a Thriving Thirty years of service.

It has been my family's privilege to be part of that journey for the past 20 years. We have seen the faithfulness of so many make a huge difference. Thank you for sacrificially giving of your time, talent, and treasure to those in need.

We expectantly look ahead to what God has in store for all of us in the next *Thriving Thirty* years. **We invite you to join us as we continue to work to bring hope to the near Eastside of Indianapolis and changes lives.**

Jay Height
Executive Director