

Specific Ways YOU Can Help

Service

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

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday Morning Breakfast: bring, prepare, and serve food to up to 50 neighbors and Health Clinic volunteers from 8:00am - noon

The Shalom Project: painting, drywalling, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, roofing, insulation, siding, demolition, and general cleaning for our neighborhood homes

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES

The Shalom Project: painting, drywalling, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, roofing, insulation, siding, demolition, and general cleaning for our neighborhood homes.

Food Pantry: prayer partners and help neighbors choose food from the pantry on Saturday mornings

Health Clinic: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, interpreters, and administrative helpers needed on Saturday mornings from 8am - noon (flexible monthly scheduling)

Kitchen: help needed with serving lunch to Summer EXCEL students (needed every day but Thursdays)

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: Toilet paper / Paper towels / All-purpose cleaner / Batteries / Band-Aids / Sunscreen / Disinfecting wipes / Magic erasers / Exercise hand weights and kettlebells / Used Cars



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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COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



CELEBRATING
30
YEARS OF SERVICE
shepherd 1985-2015
community center

Program Feature: Shepherd Academy (K-5th)

Quality education is one of the keys to breaking the cycle of poverty. Education can open new doors and provide opportunities otherwise not available to children living in poverty. Quality education is about more than simply learning; it's about building one-on-one relationships, encouraging growth and imagination, and helping children grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually as well.



In 2000, Shepherd expanded outreach to cover a pressing need we saw for those we served: Pre-School and elementary education. We started small with a Pre-School, serving 12 little three and four-year-olds a few days a week.

Fast-forward to today, over 15 years later, and so many things have changed! We have grown from serving only three and four-year-olds to serving not only the Preschool, but also kindergarten through fifth grade. We now serve close to 150 students in what we call our Shepherd Academy. *(continued next page)*

p2

The Power of One

p3

Message from Jay

p4

YOU Can Help

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



After growing through the years, serving more students, and maxing out all the space we have, we decided to partner with Horizon Christian School in 2012. Through this key partnership, the Shepherd Academy became a fully accredited educational institution. We want to give our children the best education, and allow them to continue in a private, Christian education once they complete fifth grade. Through our partnership, we bus these students each day to Horizon Christian School and pick them up each afternoon while they attend sixth through twelfth grades.



The Academy allows us to meet students' needs in more ways than academics. Each day, when the students arrive, they receive breakfast before heading to their class, because we know it's hard to learn when you are hungry. With 8 out of 10 children in our neighborhood only receiving two meals a day if they are in school, we know how important it is to provide good, healthy meals for the students. Through government funding and donors, we are able to provide the meals at no cost to our families at breakfast and lunch as well as snacks as they transition into After-School Programs. All the meals are prepared and made on-site by our chef and served by staff and volunteers. We have come a long way in our meals and do our best to serve the students the highest quality meals that will keep their bodies and brains healthy.

We also have many dedicated teachers, assistants, and volunteers who daily invest into the lives of our students. We also encourage and have many parents who volunteer their time in the classrooms, taking an active role in their child's education. The number of hours everyone puts into working with the children in the classroom and one-on-one tutoring has become evident through the improving test scores and grades. We are very proud to announce this year the state graded the Shepherd Academy as a B school, which ranks us higher than the majority of schools accessible to our families. It is evident that our children are learning and growing so much through our Academy. As many of the scores for other school plummeted this year, we are proud to be improving.



If you were to spend some time with the students and ask them about school you would hear them share everything from how much they love playing at recess, reading with a volunteer, making new friends, and learning from their teacher to how much they love learning about Jesus.

We know without all of our dedicated donors, volunteers, and staff we would not be able to care for the children in our Academy in the way we do. Thank you to all of those who sacrifice to make our students' lives better: physically, emotionally, spiritually, and academically. ■

THE POWER OF ONE BOARD MEMBER

Matt Carter



Current Board Position: Member
Volunteer & Board Service: 5 Years
About his family: Proud husband to Leslie and father to four daughters

Why am I passionate about Shepherd?

My professional work at Visit Indy and my civic responsibilities with other organizations continued to cross paths with the undeniable truth that, as proud as I am of the progress of our great city, it isn't a progress our neighbors feel nor able to reach. In pursuit of how I hear God calling me to respond, my path kept leading to Shepherd and their model of breaking the cycle of generational poverty on the near Eastside of Indianapolis.

I love the heart of Shepherd and their compassion for our neighbors. Shepherd is determined and willing to roll up their collective sleeves to do the work God commands us to - loving our neighbors. Shepherd cares for our neighbors with respect and dignity, not as a project or act of charity. Shepherd meets the needs of others with the same grace God affords us.

Did You Know?

The Academy is ranked as a B school for the 2015-2016 school year, placing Shepherd among the highest-ranked school options available for our neighbors.

The Shepherd Academy students raised nearly \$250 in pennies and donated them to the American Heart Associate for Healthy Heart Month in February 2016.

Almost 70% of our families attend a monthly parent meeting to learn more about their child's education and other services offered at Shepherd.

All students receive a weekend pack of snacks so they have food and snacks over the weekend.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Honey Bees - Two bee colonies have been reserved for Shepherd at Hunter's Honey Farm in Martinsville. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor a colony.

Donation Needs:

- Douglas Fir or red cedar Lumber to build two new Langstroth Bee Hives
- Primer and paint
- Two beekeeper suits
- One beehive smoker

Garden & Chickens Coop - We are working on expanding our chicken coop so we can host more chickens and give more families fresh, healthy eggs

Donation Needs:

- Wood chips or mulch
- Sealed redwood, cedar, or pine lumber for extending the chicken coop
- Potting soil

Development

Shepherd Golf Outing

The 8th Annual Shepherd Community Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 26, 2016 at the Bridgewater Club in Carmel, Indiana. For more information on attending the Golf Outing, visit ShepherdCommunity.org/Golf2016 or call **Jeff Boxell at 317-375-0203**.

Planning for a Future of Giving

You can leave a legacy of giving that lasts far beyond your lifetime and give a lasting hope to families living in poverty. By including Shepherd Community in your estate planning, your planned gift can help you leave a legacy and impact lives for years to come. For more information on planned giving options, contact **Perry Hines at perryh@shepherdcommunity.org or call 317-375-0203**.

WINNING THE RACE



In just a few weeks, Indianapolis will celebrate the 100th running of the Indy 500. This race is more than simply driving a car really fast around a track. The Indy 500 is truly a team sport, with many people filling multiple roles. The key to winning is having the right equipment and the right team members doing their jobs.

It's the same for our students. They need to right tools and equipment to win the race against poverty. And we start the race at birth through Project Jordan, then to our Academy with Pre-school through fifth grade education.

We start working with them between birth to three-years-old to make sure they are prepared for the race of life.

It's more than coloring pages, recess, breakfast, and lunch; it's about building relationships and giving these children hope. We work hard to lay a strong foundation for their educational experience. We start them early by building and investing in their lives.

This is a key part of our Continuum of Care. From birth through college, we are helping give our students the chance to break the cycle of poverty - physically, emotionally, spiritually, and academically. But we cannot do it without your help and support.

You are helping us make a difference!

Jay Height
Executive Director