

Specific Ways YOU Can Help

Service

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

FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Set-Up (10 volunteers) - Help get the decorations, games, and tables ready for as well as traffic control. Arrive at 5 pm.

Trunk or Treat (50 volunteers) - Dress up in fun, family friendly (non-scary) costumes and line the parking lot with decorated cars handing out candy to the kids as they walk through. Please help provide candy and arrive at 5:30 pm.

Crafts (6-8 volunteers) - Help the kids create bags to put their candy in. Provide the materials: stickers and white paper lunch bags.

Games (6-10 volunteers) - Help run different carnival-like games and hand out candy (games can be provided by Shepherd).

Face Painting (8-10 volunteers) - Provide paint and put artistic skills to work on human canvases.

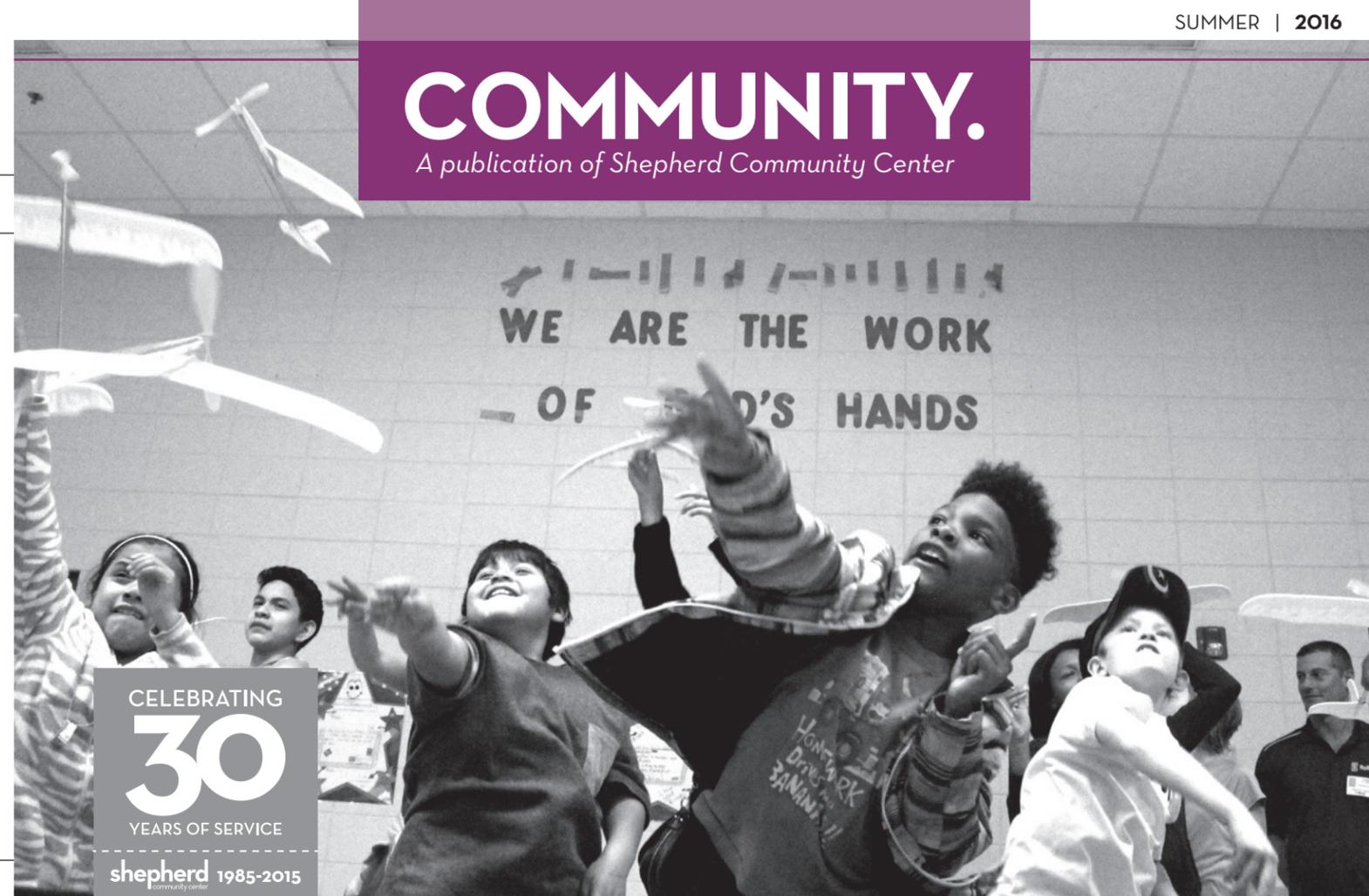
Greeters (2-4 volunteers) - Say hello to families as they come in and point them in the right direction (added bonus if you can speak Spanish).

Clean Up (Everyone!) - Cleaning up trash, putting tables and chairs in their rightful spots, and storing the games where they belong.

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: Crayons (8-pack sizes) / Glue Sticks / 2-pocket Folders / Water Color Paints / Paint / Construction Paper: Black, Blue, Red, Green, Pink, Brown / Water Beads / Paper Plates & Paper Towels / Shaving Cream / Disinfectant Wipes / Anything dealing with Space and the Human Body / Preschool-aged Microscopes / Small Prizes / Riding Lawn Mower



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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Every Child Deserves Hope - Shepherd Pre-School

"How are you breaking the cycle of poverty?" We get asked this question quite often at Shepherd. But, before we get to the how, we have to go to the heart of it all - the WHY. **Why do we want to break the cycle of poverty?** Depending on who you ask - a staff member, volunteer, donor, business, family - you'll get a different answer, filled with a passionate story about how poverty has impacted their lives. But at the heart of every story is the same theme: hope.



We believe every child, parent, family, and neighbor deserves hope. They deserve a future, and they deserve to know they have value, worth, and purpose. We want to break the cycle of poverty because we truly believe in the near Eastside of Indianapolis.

So HOW? How do we bring hope and accomplish our mission? **The Continuum of Care.** The Continuum of Care consists of two critical pieces. First, every Shepherd program works together to meet physical, emotional, spiritual, and academic needs of our neighborhood children and their families. *(continued next page)*

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YOU Can Help

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





Secondly, Shepherd programs span across every phase of life, from birth to career – and beyond. No matter the circumstance, every person who walks through our doors are supported with the tools they need to grow and have hope.

One beautiful picture of our Shepherd Continuum of Care is through the Shepherd Pre-School K3 and K4 Program. Through the eyes of these children, you see hope filling their lives – and our lives too. When the Shepherd Academy began in 2000, we served only 12 three- and four-year-olds in one room. This school year, we served over 40 children in the Pre-School with each age group in their own classroom.

Shepherd Pre-School Coordinator, Diana Petty, has helped to challenge and grow the Pre-School Program to what it is today. “This year and the kids we work with have been amazing! The surveys we received parents were all positive and encouraging. Another testament of how our staff and program is exceeding the

expectations of not only with the state, but also within our own neighborhood.”

And the students truly love learning – and they teach us a thing or two along the way as well. “When we were studying the planets, we would pretend to put on our space gear and float around the room to name the planets. Our students were not only able to name the planets, but also give me some information about each one. I got one of the one of the planets wrong, and they were right there to correct me. How embarrassing when a 4-year-old corrects you in naming the planets!”

The Shepherd Academy seeks to provide a loving, supportive educational environment where each child’s physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual needs are nurtured. Using A Beka Curriculum, a faith-based curriculum, Shepherd places a strong emphasis on phonics to help ensure that our students learn to read and build a solid foundation for a successful academic career. Students also receive quality time with teachers and volunteers as well as a safe place to play outside, imagine, laugh, and learn. Best of all, the entire family can receive the services and help they need.

“The staff of the Shepherd Academy Pre-School is dedicated to serving Christ and others. They are dedicated to giving each child an educational experience where each child will develop a love for learning and the ability to hope and dream,” says Diana.

“We are truly blessed to work at a place where family is important, and we are all welcome into the Shepherd family regardless of our past and continuous failures,” said Diana. “Shepherd is where we can get the support we need to help raise our children, grow spiritually, and exceed our own expectations of ourselves.” ■



THE POWER OF ONE BOARD MEMBER

Richard Cherry



Current Board Position: Member
Volunteer & Board Service: Since November 2015

About His Family: Happily married to Kristi for 21 years with 4 boys: Blake (17), John (15), Michael (14), and Matthew (12)

Why are you passionate about Shepherd?

I am relatively new to Indianapolis and the company I joined, DEFENDERS, is an active supporter of Shepherd. As part of the information technology team at DEFENDERS, we donated computer hardware, rewired and organized the server/network room, and volunteered time to help support Shepherd’s IT needs.

As a part of that project, I saw how Shepherd is passionate about the things I am passionate about: serving in my community and expanding the kingdom of God. As I have come to know Shepherd, I have really been impacted by their commitment to families in all aspects of life. Shepherd’s Continuum of Care that supports young children to adults makes them truly a great ministry that I am glad to be a part of.

As a Board Member, I desire to help Shepherd expand and improve the lives of those we impact here in Indianapolis. Whether it is through growing program support, increasing volunteer participation, funding, or with specific areas of knowledge I may bring, I am excited about the potential Shepherd has to transform this city!

Did You Know?

100% of Shepherd K3 and K4 students either met or exceeded their academic standards for the Indiana Standard Tool for Alternate Reporting of Kindergarten Readiness (ISTAR-KR).

Over 90% of Shepherd Academy students are eligible for free or reduced lunches according to federal standards.

The Shepherd Academy is a Level 3 Program as rated by the Paths to QUALITY System.

Fall Festival

This year at Shepherd Community we will be holding our **Annual Fall Festival on October 31 from 6 – 8 pm.**

It is a fun event – full of costumes, decorations, games, face painting, crafts, and a huge need for volunteers. It will take between **75 and 90 volunteers** to be able to provide the **adequate amount of help** that we need to provide our kids and families (almost 500 hundred people last year) with a **safe, fun Halloween alternative.**

See back page for specific Volunteer Opportunities »

Development

Shepherd Community Celebration Banquet on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:30pm at the Colts Complex – Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center (7001 W. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46254). This year’s guest speaker will be Ron Blue, founder of Ronald Blue & Co and Kingdom Advisors, as well as author of Master Your Money. Celebrate with us how the Power of One can transform our community. **For more information, please contact Jeff Boxell at 317-375-0203 or jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org.**

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.

STARTING EARLY, STARTING STRONG



The Shepherd Pre-School is critical in the development of our students’ lives as well as a critical part of the Continuum of Care. Learning more than colors, letters, and writing, these students are learning the foundation of a successful future. Our amazing Academy staff

We want our students to be life-long learners. We want them to build a future bigger than themselves. Our three- and four-year-old learners in our Pre-School are building on something that will help them succeed the rest of their lives. They are learning to dream and hope!

I was recently in the three-year-olds (K3) classroom as they told me the name of each planet. Their excitement struck me: smiles and learning. What a fantastic combination! It made my day. It was so rewarding to see the pride they took in their progress. And I felt it for them too.

Gym, phonics, math, science, music, art, and fun are all part of their week of learning every week. **Our Pre-School is starting early, and starting strong!**

Jay Height
Executive Director