

Faith Church,

Greetings from Shepherd Community Center! It has been a busy end of the summer and beginning of the school year here for Shepherd.

New at Shepherd!

Shepherd Academy began in person classes on Monday, August 17th. This year, students will be learning on-site Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday being dedicated to deep cleaning the facility. Students will be E-learning from home on Wednesdays.

We have invested heavily in updates this summer to help keep students, teachers, and other staff safe this school year. A second janitor was hired to clean the building throughout the school day. All of our restrooms received upgraded touchless appliances. A thermal scanner was purchased to read the temperature of every individual entering the building, as well as touchless thermometers purchased and distributed for our families to use at home.

Minnie Hartmann

Our new early childcare facility, Minnie Hartmann Neighborhood Childcare, opened its doors to the community on August 10th, just a few blocks away from our main campus. Minnie Hartmann was the response to a growing need for affordable, quality childcare located directly in the community. To see the space, [check out this video update about Minnie Hartmann](#).

We are excited to begin offering tours of Minnie Hartmann Neighborhood Childcare to the public. Please contact me at phile@shepherdcommunity.org to schedule a personal or small group tour. For safety precautions, we are requiring that masks be worn inside the building as well temperatures be taken upon entry. If you are feeling symptomatic or have been around someone within the last 14 days that has contracted COVID-19, we would also kindly ask that you would refrain from this opportunity at this time.

Connectivity

When the pandemic hit in March, Shepherd was able to temporarily provide devices with internet capabilities in the homes of our students. With the uncertainty surrounding this Fall, as well as a hybrid model for our Academy students, a more permanent solution was needed. We have partnered with Charter Communications (Spectrum) to be able to provide internet access to our families at no cost to them. We are grateful for this opportunity and know that this is a huge benefit for our families.

In addition to this, we are excited to announce that we have partnered with Kids Inc, Cornerstone Lutheran Church Downtown, and IPS School 58 to launch E-learning sites at four different locations on the Eastside. These are places where students can come during the day to access the internet for E-learning, build relationships with program adults and volunteers proctoring the sites, receive homework

help, and receive a hot meal. As we open these sites, we are in need of additional PPE (hand sanitizer, gloves, thermometers) to help keep students, staff and volunteers safe.

Relief

Shepherd Community Center continues to provide relief on the near Eastside of Indianapolis. As of March 16, we have been able to help provide over **129,000** meals to those in need in our community (see the chart below for the breakdown of meals). In addition to this, we have been able to step in and help provide over **\$280,000** in bill and utility assistance during this difficult season. We are grateful for your support in making this possible.

Statistics

Dates/Meals	March	April	May	June	July	August
Food Boxes	3920	7184	6360	9600	13200	16000
Food Pantry Bags	113	39	223	161	297	470
Indianapolis Courageous Kitchen		4200	5600	5600	7000	5600
FamMin Food Packs	144	174	48	30	20	17
School Breakfast						747
School Lunch						1039
Send Home Meals						1143
Weekend Packs						572
Breakfast in a Bag		8898	8274	7200		
Breakfast	646	1541	1179	1154	1170	
Lunch	672	1788	1189	1276	1233	
Dinner	167	1574	832	710	151	
Easter Food Bags		220				

Partners:

Minnie Hartman		435	275	279	180	203
Colonial		215	125	50	30	
Gladstone		25	125	95	50	30
Blue Triangle		0	120		15	55
Youth for Christ		160	160	240	160	370
Outreach		364	375	255	165	200
SENSE		30	45	20		25
Kids Inc		30	45			

Wallace Street Church		120	180			
Irvington						116
Grand Total:						
129,375	Meals Served in 46201 in COVID Relief					

Trainings

We offer training for churches, Sunday School classes, and small groups. Feel free to reach out for more information or to book a training session.

- Poverty 101 - Poverty 101 is the educational outreach ministry of Shepherd Community Center. Taught by Assistant Executive Director, Tim Streett, Poverty 101 aims to equip and empower God's people to work with individuals and families entrapped in poverty.
- Racial Reconciliation - Taught by Phil Edwards, Chief Volunteer Engagement & Diversity Officer. This training aims to educate churches on race relations. The training is designed to engage individuals in biblical teachings as well as provide practical applications for building unity and peace within the church body and the greater community.
- Engaging the Next Generation - Taught by Church Relations Coordinator, Gabe Short, a young 20's himself, this training aims at helping church leaders understand the next generation better as well as tips about how to engage them as the church.

Volunteer Opportunities

Here are a few volunteer opportunities that we currently have at Shepherd:

Food Packing: Each Monday from 9:00-12:00, we pack 400 boxes of food to go out in our weekly drive thru food distribution. We need a total of 10-15 volunteers every week for packing to run smoothly. This is a great opportunity for small groups or individuals. We are spending about \$5,000 per week to cover the cost of our weekly food distribution. Let me know if your church would be interested in helping cover some of this cost of this.

Food Distribution: Volunteers are needed every Wednesday morning from 8:30-11:30 for our weekly food distribution. Volunteers are needed to help carry the food boxes, set up tables, and distribute food into neighbor's cars. A total of 10-15 volunteers are needed each week. This is also a great opportunity for small groups.

Virtual Reading: Volunteers are needed to help our Shepherd Academy students practice their reading skills. A virtual reading program has been created using an easy to follow established curriculum. In the virtual reading sessions, a student will read to the volunteer and in turn the volunteer will also read to the students for better comprehension. Virtual reading programs can be established according to the volunteer's schedule and can be done from the comfort of their home. We need as many volunteers as possible for this opportunity.

Food Pantry: Volunteers are needed from 7:45-11:00am every Saturday to sort, bag, and distribute food to our neighbors at Shepherd. This opportunity is currently being held outside in front of the community center. The food pantry needs 5-8 volunteers each week in order to run smoothly.

Meal Deliveries: Volunteers are needed to take meals provided by Shepherd to a route of individuals who are homebound. Social distancing is followed by ringing the doorbell or knocking on the door to let the neighbor know that the meal has been delivered. This opportunity needs to occur between 11:00-1:00 every weekday. Each route takes about an hour to an hour and a half to complete.

Thank you again for your support of the ministry and work of Shepherd Community Center. Know that we are praying for you and your family during these unprecedented times. Feel free to reach out if there is anything that we here at Shepherd can do for you.

In Christ,

Phil Edwards