



**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL:** *Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 6:00 a.m. EST*  
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## **YMCA of Central Ohio and Community Shelter Board Announce Next Chapter of Van Buren Center Operations**

*Organizations reaffirm shared commitment to uninterrupted shelter services, long-term housing stability and the surrounding community*

**[COLUMBUS, Ohio — October 21, 2026]** — Today, YMCA of Central Ohio and Community Shelter Board (CSB) announced a coordinated transition of operations at Van Buren Center (Van Buren), reflecting a shared commitment to the continuity of care for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and long-term housing stability.

YMCA of Central Ohio will transition out of operating the Van Buren Center effective June 30, 2027, while continuing to provide case management services that help individuals and families move from shelter to stable housing.

The YMCA's decision reflects a broader evolution of its social services portfolio, shifting its operational focus from 24-hour crisis care to prevention and family stability. Housing and Family Stability remains a strategic priority in the YMCA's 10-year vision to serve 1 in 5 people across Central Ohio by 2035, with several projects underway to expand access to childcare and community center hubs for health and well-being resources.

Both organizations are committed to a thoughtful, coordinated transition that maintains continuity of services and supports the people and employees who rely on and make this work possible.

"For more than a decade, our partnership with Community Shelter Board has allowed us to walk alongside individuals and families during some of their most difficult moments," said Tony Collins, president and CEO of YMCA of Central Ohio. "As we look toward the future, we're being intentional about how the YMCA can make the greatest long-term impact. This transition allows us to deepen our focus on prevention and housing services to help individuals and families build stability earlier and create stronger pathways from crisis toward prosperity while continuing to work alongside our partners."

Since the YMCA began operating Van Buren, thousands of individuals and families have received shelter and support through the dedication of employees, volunteers and community partners.

"For the past 10 years, the YMCA has served our community with extraordinary compassion, benevolence, and dedication. We are grateful for their partnership and the difference they have made in the lives of thousands of our neighbors," said Shannon TL Isom, president and CEO of CSB.

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"As we look ahead, our responsibility is to ensure people continue to have access to safe shelter while strengthening pathways to permanent housing. This is also an opportunity to renew our commitment to the surrounding neighborhood, activate new partnerships, and ensure Van Buren serves as a safety net, and also a housing portal."

As the owner of Van Buren and coordinator of the homelessness response system in Columbus and Franklin County, CSB will lead planning for the center's future operations, focusing on reducing reliance on emergency shelter and strengthening pathways to permanent housing.

Emergency shelter remains an essential part of the community's response to homelessness. Over the coming months, CSB and the YMCA will work together to ensure a coordinated transition, maintain continuity of care, and communicate with employees, individuals and families receiving services, partner agencies, funders, businesses, and neighborhood stakeholders as plans are finalized.

While the YMCA's operating role at Van Buren will change, the organizations remain united in their shared goal of helping people move from crisis toward greater stability and strengthening the system of care Central Ohio depends upon.

#### **About YMCA of Central Ohio**

The YMCA of Central Ohio is one of the region's leading nonprofits, strengthening community by providing access to child care, health and housing to 1 in 10 Central Ohio residents. For more than 171 years, we've been a place of belonging and hope — empowering children, supporting families, and standing alongside our neighbors in their time of need. Together, we nurture potential, strengthen health and well-being, and inspire lasting change so every neighbor can reach their full potential. For more information, visit [www.ymcacolumbus.org](http://www.ymcacolumbus.org).

#### **About CSB**

CSB leads the coordinated, communitywide response to homelessness in Columbus and Franklin County. As the first Unified Funding Agency (UFA) designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and one of only 15 nationwide, CSB brings together public, private, and philanthropic resources to support a network of nonprofit partners providing homelessness prevention, street outreach, emergency shelter, and permanent housing solutions. Through strategic investments, data-driven decision-making, and community partnerships, CSB works to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. For more information, visit [www.csb.org](http://www.csb.org).

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