

# community.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



SPRING2022

p2 Meet a Board Member

p3 Message from Jay

p4 YOU Can Help



## **Does Shepherd Really Make a Difference?** *Reducing Dependency and Growing Capacity*

Shepherd Community Center stands proudly behind our mission to break the cycle of poverty, but we often get asked the question, *“How does Shepherd know if they are really making a difference?”*

Obviously, it is not possible to break the cycle of poverty for everyone. But we can surely make a difference – and do – in the lives of everyone who comes through our doors. At the core of everything we do at Shepherd Community is hope. How? By building authentic

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# Does Shepherd Really Make a Difference? Reducing Dependency and Growing Capacity

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relationships with our neighbors that create hope. **We call this model 10 Assets for holistic change: faith, health, support, stability, skills, models, advocacy, knowledge, future, and income.** Building our 10 Assets reduces dependency and grows capacity for our neighbors to live lives of hope.

We have many stories, where individuals have a different story – a different life – thanks to our 10 Assets model of support, care, and hope. Stories like De’Niece.

Shepherd came into De’Niece’s life when she was in 3rd grade. Raised by a single

shelters. It wasn’t uncommon for us to not have food. I didn’t know the things that happened weren’t normal until I was much older.”

Shepherd became the place where bright De’Niece could be safe and find hope for a different life. “What Shepherd gave me was wrap around support and stability,” said De’Niece. “Shepherd helped cultivate my interests and modeled for me the skills, knowledge, and opportunities I needed to flourish and achieve those dreams. **Shepherd never let me give up on myself. They encouraged my strengths and showed me how I could succeed. They gave me hope.**”

“For me, hope is the expectation that things will get better,” says De’Niece with a giant smile. **“Hope saved my mom’s life and got her clean. Hope helped me get to and through college. Hope keeps me going every day.”**

With her current job at One America as a Pathways Program Director, De’Niece now creates safe spaces for kids to help them see the hope for a future and new life. Just as Shepherd advocated for her, De’Niece now stands in the gap and advocates for students who were just like her. “I want kids to see for themselves that there is hope. I want to help them – even if they are starting from nothing – and make it,” De’Niece proudly expresses. **“I get to pay that forward the same way that Shepherd did that for me.”**

If we build and grow assets, then we will help reduce dependency and grow capacity for our neighbors to live stable lives of hope, breaking the cycle of poverty for themselves and future generations – just like De’Niece.

mother, De’Niece was the youngest of three. “Before I got involved at Shepherd, I would describe my life as unstable and toxic,” recalls De’Niece. “We experienced abuse. We bounced around homeless



## meet

**Chris Lowery**  
board member

Chris Lowery is Senior Vice President, Workforce, Careers, and Adult Strategy at Ivy Tech Community College where he works to develop deep collaborative partnerships to pursue workforce and economic development and training solutions for Indiana. Before coming to Ivy Tech, Chris worked for Hillenbrand, Inc. for 20 years.

Chris has worked alongside Shepherd Community since 2010 to develop intentional strategies and help tie together relief, opportunity, and transformation for our neighbors to break the cycle of poverty and provide a pathway to social and economic mobility.

“As someone interested in and supporting K-12 education choice and reform, Shepherd’s work in this space has impressed me for years,” says Chris. “My belief is that the braiding together of Shepherd with other key organizations can only serve to strengthen outcomes for neighbors being served.”

Chris and his wife Jerilyn, a writer and columnist, have a grown son and daughter, Jarrod and Jordan, and are proud grandparents to two-year-old Eloise Margaret.



**Learn more about Shepherd’s relationship-based model of 10 Assets at [ShepherdCommunity.org/Learn/About/](https://ShepherdCommunity.org/Learn/About/)**

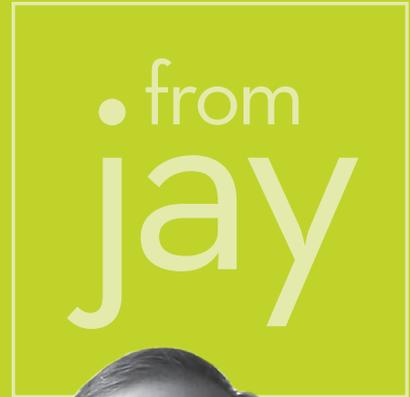
**New Year, Same Shepherd!** We start the new year much as we ended the last: challenges, blessings, and questions. But, most of all, we begin 2022 with lots of great friends – like you – who are journeying with us to bring hope to our neighbors. Thank you!

We can't say enough how much we appreciate all those who give, volunteer, help, and pray for Shepherd, our families and staff, and our neighborhood. You are truly part of an amazing team that is making miracles happen every day. We could not do it without your continued support.

## Working Together for an Amazing 2022!

We want to continue to keep you informed on the important work we are doing at Shepherd. Let us know how we can do that better. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We're always here to listen and help.

**Let's work together for an amazing 2022!**



**Jay Height**  
Executive Director

## Development

### Support Summer EXCEL 2022

Each summer, Shepherd hosts a six-week day camp called Summer EXCEL, which provides over 120 kids in Shepherd's neighborhood healthy meals, educational programming to strengthen math, English, and reading skills, and a safe place to play games, make friends, and learn about Jesus.

Please consider a gift to support kids through Summer EXCEL. Visit [ShepherdCommunity.org/Summer2022](https://ShepherdCommunity.org/Summer2022) to give today!

### Sponsor A Child at Shepherd

For just \$35 a month, you can help Shepherd feed, educate, equip, and empower our students and families as a child sponsor. Through the wrap-around support provided by Shepherd's programs and opportunities, your sponsorship provides the meals, in and out of school learning, resources, and consistent relationships needed to help our students break the cycle of poverty and work towards a more vibrant future.

Contact Karalee White at [karaleew@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:karaleew@shepherdcommunity.org) or call (317) 375-0203 ext. 265 to learn more about child sponsorship.



## Volunteers

# Volunteer to Make a Difference

**Weekly Food Delivery:** Help to drive food boxes full of healthy food to over 300 neighbors each week. Drivers most needed 9 - 11:30am Thursdays and Fridays but can volunteer any day Monday - Friday. Ten volunteers are needed each of these days.

**After-School Tutoring:** Be a positive influence and help students grow academically. Volunteers would be given materials to use in assisting students. Volunteers are needed:

• **Elementary Grades 1-5:** Tutoring Mon - Thurs from 3:15 - 4:30pm at Shepherd Community. Need five to ten volunteers a day.

• **IPS #58 Grades 1-6:** Tutoring Mon - Thurs 3:45 - 6pm at IPS School #58 (located about 3 miles from Shepherd). Need five volunteers a day.

**Childcare for Celebrate Recovery:** Provide childcare for neighbors who come to the Celebrate Recovery Program at Shepherd Community Church on Tuesday nights from 5:45 - 8pm. Volunteers must be over eighteen.

**Weekend Food Packs:** Packing weekend food packs for Academy students. Flexible volunteer times available.

**Food Pantry:** Help set up and assist neighbors with picking out food items every Saturday, 8 - 10:30am. Need five to eight volunteers each week.

**Questions? Contact Director of Volunteer Engagement, Donna Alexander at [DonnaA@shepherdcommunity.org](mailto:DonnaA@shepherdcommunity.org) or (317) 375-0203.**



## Give In-Kind to Shepherd

For a full list of our in-kind needs, visit [shepherdcommunity.org/give/critical-needs/](http://shepherdcommunity.org/give/critical-needs/)

Individual Snacks for Academy  
Clorox Wipes  
Bus Passes (single fair or 1 day)  
Paper Towels  
Canned Soup  
Canned Vegetables

10oz Styrofoam Cups  
Plastic Forks  
Glue Sticks for Minnie Hartmann Neighborhood Childcare  
Washable Markers for Minnie Hartmann Neighborhood Childcare

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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[www.shepherdcommunity.org](http://www.shepherdcommunity.org)

breaking the cycle of poverty

**shepherd**  
community center

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