

# Fletcher Flashes

## Watch Us Grow!

### Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Re-Imagined Spaces

Fletcher Place Community Center (FPCC) celebrated the grand opening event of the REACH Early Learning Center sponsored by Stansfield Circle on Thursday, August 30.

Three short years ago, the FPCC board was having tough discussions about the future of the preschool. For more than 85 years, FPCC, in collaboration with Stansfield Circle, has hosted a “pay as you can” preschool program; but, with few students able to pay, the community center was often left praying they would receive enough donations to get through the school year. Recognizing the southeast neighborhood of Indianapolis houses the largest number of children under 5 years of age and the role education can play in breaking the cycle of poverty, the FPCC board recommitted to investing in a quality preschool program.

As a safe, traditional Paths-to-Quality Level 3 preschool, the REACH Early Learning Center is focused on encouraging children to recognize their value and REACH for their full potential by building a preschool community as diverse as the community surrounding FPCC. REACH Early Learning Center will enroll full pay, “On My Way” voucher, and need based scholarship students.

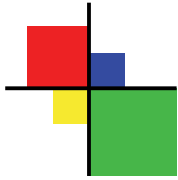
*“We are honored that United Way and the Ruth Lilly Philanthropic Foundation selected us to invest in the future of preschool in this area,”* said Melissa Drew, executive director.

*“This year, we plan to enroll a diverse class of 30 students ages 3 and 4 in our four classrooms. We look forward to building that up to a full enrollment of 80 in the future.”*

*“We’ve long been known for our immediate need services, but looking at the importance of this new project, we realize the first place you start to break the cycle of poverty is little kids and education,”* said Randy Sorrell, Chairman of the Board.

To handle this unpredictability and fully fund our scholarship students, today we were also happy to announce the REACH Early Learning scholarship fund, which will ensure annual preschool seats for at least 30 students.





## REACH Early Learning Hosts Family Engagement Night

REACH Early Learning hosted its first family engagement night for the 2018-19 school year. It was literacy night. Parents and children wrote stories and shared them with the group. Southeast Community Services was also on hand to discuss their services and share information about upcoming job opportunities in our community.

We look forward to our next family engagement night! We are camping, focusing on s'more learning!



## Help Pack the Pantry & FREE Thrift Store

### Food Pantry Needs:

- Fresh/Canned Veggies and Fruit
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Snack Packs with Instant Oatmeal, Ramen Noodles, Cracker Packs, Granola Bars, Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups, and Cans of Pop-Top Soup and Tuna for Homeless Snack Packs.

### Free Thrift Store Needs:

- Gently Used Fall/Winter Clothing (especially sweatshirts and jackets, all ages & sizes)
- Men's Jeans
- Socks
- Underwear
- Shoes/Boots
- Gently Used Towels & Wash Clothes
- Blankets
- Household Items Including Water Bottles

Interested in serving a hot meal? Dates are available for 2019. Contact Holly via e-mail at [holly@fletcherplacecc.org](mailto:holly@fletcherplacecc.org) or call 317.636.3466 ext. 1



# It's Christmas Time at Fletcher Place!



Join us for a  
**VERY MERRY**  
Fletcher Place Christmas

**HELP US SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!**

Our annual Christmas Shopping Program allows struggling families the opportunity to shop for their children's Christmas gifts at no cost. Each family also receives a food order and a special gift for the parents. Our program provides for over 400 children and their families every year!

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Applications Available: **Mon, October 29th**  
Applications Due by: **Fri, November 16th**  
Acceptance Letters Mailed: **Wed, November 21st**

This year's **BIG DISTRIBUTION DAY** is  
**SAT, DECEMBER 8th**

**HOW CAN I HELP?**

**Financial Donations**  
Help cover the cost of offering the program! You can make donations online at [www.FletcherPlaceCC.org](http://www.FletcherPlaceCC.org) or by sending a check to:  
P.O. Box 825  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

**Collect Gift Items for Our Families**

- **Clothing** for ages 2-10: Leggings, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, and underwear
- **Homeless Backpacks** filled with hats, gloves, hygiene items, and snack items
- **Toys & Games** for teenage boys & girls! Especially board games, books, art supplies, and sports equipment (basketballs, footballs, volleyballs)
- **Winter Wear (NEW)** Mittens, gloves, hats and scarves
- **Blankets (NEW)** All Sizes

**Volunteer!**

**Where Do I Drop Off Items?**

The best time to drop off your donations is 10:00 am - 2:00 pm STARTING Saturday, November 24th and the following week through Friday, November 30th from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. If a special drop off time is needed, please call Holly @ 317.636.3466 ext 1 to make arrangements!

Fletcher Place Community Center | 1037 Phyllis St., Indianapolis, IN 46203 | 317.636.3466 | [FletcherPlaceCC.org](http://FletcherPlaceCC.org)



**OPERATION: FILL OUR FOOD PANTRY**

**Our Food Pantry Needs the Following:**  
Canned Fruit (Peaches, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Mixed Fruit)  
Canned Vegetables (Peas, Black Beans, Tomatoes) - Canned Soups  
Rolled Oats - Cake Mixes - Toilet Paper - Feminine Hygiene Products

**We ♥ Our Volunteers**  
OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE! It would be wonderful to help our Christmas Program, please contact the following regarding our needs and sign up for a volunteer day. Healthy snacks will be provided and parking is free.

**CHOOSE YOUR VOLUNTEER date**

**NEW LOCATION!** Due to our recent renovations and space limitations, this year's Christmas Event will be at **Yeshua's House** located at **1849 N. Pleasant Run Pkwy S. Dr.**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
Yeshua's House (1849 N. Pleasant Run Pkwy S. Dr.)  
Assisting with the set up of the various areas of Christmas shopping (toys, clothing, food). A great opportunity for families with children 8 and older, youth groups, and senior groups.

**DECEMBER 3rd - 7th | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
Yeshua's House (1849 N. Pleasant Run Pkwy S. Dr.)  
Setting up each area for shopping. Organization of gift and clothing items (by gender, age, size, etc.) as well as sorting food items for the pantry and packing food orders. We will also need assistance with keeping an ongoing inventory of all donated items.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th | DISTRIBUTION DAY!**  
Yeshua's House (1849 N. Pleasant Run Pkwy S. Dr.)  
**Shift #1 8:30 am - 12:30 pm | Shift #2 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm**  
This is a special day as you assist a parent in selecting clothes and gifts for their children. **WE WILL NEED 40 VOLUNTEERS FOR EACH SHIFT!**

**CLEAN UP!**  
We will need 30 volunteers on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th** from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm to help clean up, distribute any remaining items, and return items back to Fletcher Place.

**Signing Up is Easy!** You can sign up through **VOLUNTEER MATTERS** (online), or by contacting Holly at 317.636.3466 ext 1 or by emailing her at [holly@fletcherplacecc.org](mailto:holly@fletcherplacecc.org).

## SAVE THE DATE: Culinary Collage Turns 10!

The 10th Annual Culinary Collage is taking place Sunday, May 19, 2019 on the campus of the University of Indianapolis, Schwitzer Student Center. The event is Fletcher Place Community Center's annual fundraiser and has been helping FPCC "take a bite out of poverty" since 2010.

For more information, please contact Robin Heldman at 317.694.5096 or by e-mailing [robin@directconnectprinting.net](mailto:robin@directconnectprinting.net)



## Community Garden

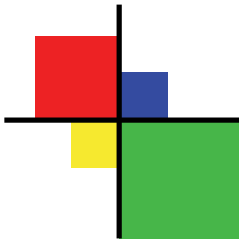
**Grow it! Prep it! Preserve it! Eat it!**

The 2018 growing season has been awesome! Check out our stats below - Wowza!

- Harvested over 2,000 lbs. of produce
- 2,200 lbs. donated from our friends Corteva Agriscience H4H program
- Almost 400 families received FREE fresh produce

**Our happy farmer Ted Letherer, intern Megan Gokey, and all the volunteers ROCK!**





## **Fletcher Place Community Center: Breaking the cycle of poverty through Hope, Compassion and Renewal**

*Fletcher Place Community Center has been serving our most vulnerable neighbors since 1872. Our roots are in the United Methodist Church as we began as part of a local Methodist Church's outreach. Today we continue to reach out "to the least" in ways that help alleviate the pain of poverty. Current outreach includes hot meals served Monday - Friday, Food Pantry, Community Garden, Free Thrift Store, Preschool, Senior Luncheons and Christmas Assistance.*

### **Location:**

1637 Prospect Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

### **Mailing Address:**

PO BOX 825  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**Website:** [www.fletcherplacecc.org](http://www.fletcherplacecc.org)

**Phone:** (317) 636-3466

**Email:** [holly@fletcherplacecc.org](mailto:holly@fletcherplacecc.org)



For more information about Fletcher Place check out our website, "Like Us" on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter!

## **Support Fletcher Place**

**Monetary Donations:** Money is always needed to maintain our programming, maintain our building, and pay our staff. Planned giving and stock gifts are also a great way to support the cause. Please consider going to our website and making a donation to support FPCC today! Make your donation recur on a monthly basis to help on an ongoing basis.

### **HOW YOUR DONATION HELPS FLETCHER PLACE FAMILIES:**

**\$50** feeds 20 people a hot meal

**\$100** provides 50 food pantry baskets for families in need

**\$150** provides hygiene kits & snack packs through our Free Thrift Store

**\$250** supports our Community Garden

**\$800** covers a month of tuition for a student in Preschool