

# Fletcher Flashes



## A Food Desert?!

Bud Martin retired this past November. Now this might not seem like a big deal except for the fact that he owned Bud's Supermarket, which closed with his retirement. The store will become a Goodwill clothing store, or so we hear.

The closing of this local grocery store places our clients and our surrounding neighborhoods in a category called "Food Desert". The US Department of Agriculture defines a food desert as an urban or rural town without ready access to affordable, fresh produce - generally no affordable grocery store within a mile. Yep, that is now us.

So if transportation is difficult to secure, just where do you go for groceries? Most end up frequenting gas stations and convenience stores. According to Pogue's Run co-op's Blog last month, "In 2014, Indianapolis was ranked the worst city in the country for food deserts." The health department has stated that neighborhoods that are in a food desert begin to see a high rate of diet related diseases such as heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, etc.



*Bud's Supermarket stands empty in 2016*

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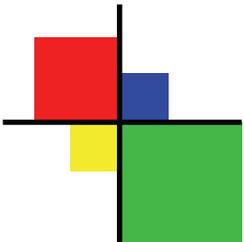
## How Can I Help?

Now our Food Pantry is more important than ever as we continue to provide fresh produce and low processed foods. In 2015, we were able to provide 42,246 meals including fresh potatoes and apples along with produce from our Seeds of Hope Garden Project. Volunteers are needed in the Pantry on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am to Noon. Our Garden Project needs volunteers most Tuesday afternoons and Saturdays.

You can also create a Food Drive to help stock our Food Pantry with fresh, healthy food items. Sign your group up to prepare and serve a healthy hot meal this year.

Contact Charity via e-mail at [Charity@fletcherplacecc.org](mailto:Charity@fletcherplacecc.org) to sign up!





## Staff News

In early December we said good-bye to Terri as she made the decision to work along side her husband in his business. Fletcher Place is better off because Terri was here, and she is still an energetic volunteer and advocate for Fletcher. Fortunately for Fletcher, Charity was wrapping up her degree at IUPUI and was in job search mode. She was looking for a way to use her talents to help people and improve the city. Charity (yes, that really is her name), brings enthusiasm and energy to the position of Assistant Director. If you volunteer, or want to volunteer, you will get to know her. If you are interested in helping support our Annual Fund, the Fletcher Place 500 Club you will find that she will be more than happy to assist you. If you follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram - Charity is there, too!



*Charity Shultz, Assistant Director*

## Director's Blog: Message from Jessi

2015 was an interesting year! We nearly doubled our attendance at the Culinary Collage 'Take a Bite Out of Poverty', we finally sold our 1831 property and paid off the mortgage on our current building. Volunteers put in an enormous amount of hours from work crews of 100 people to individuals coming in weekly to do their bit. The Food Pantry provided 42,246 meals through fresh groceries, 41 % of those meals went to children. We fellowshiped with our hungry neighbors while providing 23,831 hot meals. Over 250 homeless neighbors were able to find us and access our Free Store and Hot Meals. December found us opening our doors for the Christmas Shopping Program - creating a Free Gift Store in our dining hall for parents to select gifts for their children, all 415 of them! The great Potato Drop allowed us to provide 10 pound bags of fresh spuds to everyone that came through our doors. Our Art in The City summer staff were so awesome they even won awards for their great work with our youth! Our only short fall in 2015 was our budget as we came in \$42,971 short. Thankfully, we have cash reserves to keep us moving forward.

In 2016 we are trying to get ahead of the funding issues by having an Annual Fund Program. Our Annual Fund is the **Fletcher Place 500 Club**. Our goal is to find 500 people that believe in Fletcher Place Community Center and are willing to donate \$500 to our annual fund. This will provide the bulk of our general operating costs each year. \$500 is a lot of money, but if you divide it into monthly amounts it can be quite manageable (approx. \$41.66 a month, or more depending on what month you start). You can set up a recurring monthly donation on our webpage using your credit or debit card; or stop by Charity's office here at the center. Thanks in advance for your support in 2016!



*Each FP 500 Club member will receive a magnet as a token of our appreciation!*

## Help Wanted

We are always in need of volunteers to donate their time. Here are just some of the things that can be done in an hour!

- **Sorting/dating food donations**
- **Sorting Clothing donations for the Free Store**
- **Pre-packing grocery orders**
- **Moving clothing to the Free Store**
- **Planting/Harvesting/Weeding in the Garden**
- **Participate in our Preschool**

Volunteer opportunities are typically Monday-Friday 9-5. Please contact our assistant director at [Charity@fletcherplacecc.org](mailto:Charity@fletcherplacecc.org) if your are interested.

## A Place to Meet our Neighbors

We happen to be a place where a variety of lives intersect. The high school students from Plainfield Christian Church, the IPS students in *Dream Alive!*, the homeless and hungry neighbors we serve and more. Fletcher Place Community Center is the place to meet our neighbors, especially those that might not live right next door to us. We find that getting to know our neighbors over a warm meal or while working in our garden helps us to learn more about ourselves.



*Volunteers from **Dream Alive!** spend a late afternoon, after a long day at school, helping us out!*

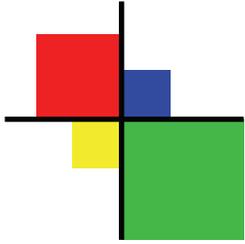


*Donations waiting to be sorted*



*Plainfield Christian Church youth help us by serving a hot meal once a month throughout the school year.*

Every month we have youth that come to us in work teams of 10-20 people to experience the neighborhoods that we serve. Often times this is the first time a youth has actually met someone who is homeless or dealing with hardships. It doesn't take long for conversations to change the way we think about people that are different than us. It doesn't take long before we realize that we all have so much more in common than not. And it doesn't take long to realize that we are all much more than what we might at first assume. Fletcher Place is all that and more, come join us!



## Fletcher Place Community Center

1637 Prospect Street  
PO BOX 825, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
Phone: (317) 636-3466  
E-mail: [charity@fletcherplacecc.org](mailto:charity@fletcherplacecc.org)

### Food Pantry Needs List

Our pantry works to provide low processed, fresh food as much as possible. Please help fill our shelves with the following items:

- Rice
- Dry Beans/Lentils/15 bean soup bags
- Old Fashioned Oats
- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce (in plastic or cans)
- Fresh Potatoes, Carrots, Onions, Apples
- Canned Veggies (low salt)
- Canned Fruit (in own juice)
- Tuna
- Mac & Cheese

Additional:  
Toiletries (especially toilet paper)

Fletcher Place Community Center has been serving our most vulnerable neighbors since 1872. Today we continue to reach out 'to the least' in ways that help to lessen the pain of poverty. Current outreach includes hot meals served M-F, a Food Pantry, Seeds of Hope Garden Project, Free Store, Preschool, Art in The City, Hands UP Staffing, Senior Luncheons and Christmas Assistance.

For more information about Fletcher Place check out our website @ [fletcherplacecc.org](http://fletcherplacecc.org) or "Like us" on Facebook!

**BILTWELL**  
EVENT CENTER  
presents

*The Culinary Collage*

Take a **Bite**  
out of  
**POVERTY**  
to benefit  
**FLETCHER PLACE**  
Community Center

**Save The Date**  
**Sunday, May 1, 2016**  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

**Biltwell Event Center**  
950 S. White River Parkway West Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46221



*New location this year, The Biltwell Event Center*