

# September 2018



## And...We're Off!



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Hello dear CAN supporters & friends,

This September, we were off to the races--meeting, greeting, adjusting, learning, exploring, and building newer, stronger relationships!

Green Baxter Court and Hikone kicked off their After School Programs, the Bryant team is partnering with Tappan to host a temporary homework club while the Bryant building is under construction, volunteers are partnering with teachers at Brick Elementary to develop literacy skills, and more!

Our sites have already partnered with awesome organizations like Kids' Kitchen, International Neighbors, Common Cycle, the College of Pharmacy, Project Outreach, UM Athletes, the School of Social Work, SLATE, and so many others! (And that is just in month #1 of CAN programs this school year.)

We could go on and on about the incredible community partners who are committed to working with CAN's families. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support! Because of you, CAN's

students get to experience "Cultural Encounters" workshops, cooking workshops, learn how to build and fix their bicycles, have full bellies, and live in a community that is full of safety and structure from caring adults.

Now we're ready to say "HELLO!!!" to October!



Sincerely,  
Your Friends at CAN

## What's Happening at CAN?

### After School Programs



Renovations at Bryant Community Center? Have no fear! We are



still here, engaged, and committed. You can find CAN at Tappan Middle School on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays helping students with homework before the late bus takes them home.

Questions about the human body? Danielle is there to support and explore with Nyla as she reads nonfiction during the literacy rotation.

Or, want to learn how to fix a bike? These skills are not just for the mechanically-minded, but for anyone and everyone ready to try.

## Bryant Market



Bryant's emergency food pantry and weekly distributions (The Bryant Market) are humming along! We are still operating at a smaller capacity during the renovations, but glad to be open and combating food insecurity one grocery bag at a time. We can't wait for our exciting grand re-opening come this winter!

## Bryant Renovations



Renovations are coming along nicely! Recently, the floors in the main room have been replaced, the addition between the center and the annex is being built, and there is clean, running water.

## CAN Spotlight

### Dave Ribar and Brittany Ruthven



Friendly, dependable, hard working and super talented carpenter and builder, Dave satellites around the city of Ann Arbor repairing Parks and Rec facilities- as well as the occasional community center. When Dave realized that a renovation of Bryant's well-loved and well-worn kitchen wasn't included in the plans, he took it upon himself to write work orders and then complete the job. So

far, he has rebuilt the kitchen and installed new floors in our main building and is planning on addressing the restrooms next. We adore and appreciate Dave's CAN-do attitude and kindness.

We also would like to recognize and thank Brittany, our longtime partner with CAN, being our go-to liaison at Parks and Rec and working closely with Dave and our staff during the renovation period. We definitely couldn't do this without you Brittany!!

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## Outstanding People at CAN



**Amir Joseph, Hikone**



**Joi Brewer, Hikone**

Amir and Joi are volunteers through the University of Michigan's Project Outreach course. This semester, they jumped right into Hikone's After School Program and instantly stood out as rock star volunteers.

These two did not hesitate to start getting to know the students and quickly began building connections with them. With their positive, engaged body language, the students knew that Amir and Joi were there to genuinely spend time with them. Your commitment to Hikone's kiddos is noticed and appreciated.

**Thank you for being AWESOME!**

## Upcoming Events

### Coming Soon!

CAN Crew (that's you!) -- it's time to keep your eyes and ears peeled for more information about some upcoming events and ways to contribute as we round the corner into the holidays:

- **Thanksgiving meals for CAN Families**



- Holiday gifts for kids & teens
- Giving Tuesday: November 27



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## Looking for Ways to Get Involved?

Volunteer with Community Action Network!

**CAN could not be successful without the help of countless volunteers like you.**

Visit

[www.canwashtenaw.org/volunteer](http://www.canwashtenaw.org/volunteer)

for more information about how you can help CAN.

Email Katie at [volunteers@canannarbor.org](mailto:volunteers@canannarbor.org)  
or call (734) 994-2985 to get in touch!



After School Program Volunteer



Art & Design Program Volunteer



Food Distribution Volunteer



Make a Meal Volunteer



Read to Succeed Volunteer



Summer Camp Volunteer

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Thanks to Mark Smokowicz, president of the Tri-County



Sportsmen's League, for ongoing food donations to CAN's Bryant Community Center After School Program!

VISIT CAN'S WEBSITE

Community Action Network partners with children, youth, and families from under-resourced Washtenaw County neighborhoods to create better futures for themselves and improve the communities in which they live.



Stay Connected



[www.canwashtenaw.org](http://www.canwashtenaw.org) || (734) 994-2985