

The Sanctuary

A place for Community, Connection, and Care in the heart of Vestal



The Vision

A neighborhood pay-as-you-can café that offers Connection, Community, and Care in the name of Christ.

Vestal is a tight-knit community in South Knox that has been largely forgotten over many years. It's not thought of as a great place to live. There are many strengths in the neighborhood, including deep multigenerational ties between families and friends. Still, addiction, poverty, and loneliness are prevalent. Parents are afraid to let their kids go to the park and keep them inside because they don't want their children exposed to drug trafficking, violence, and other dangers common in the neighborhood.

BLOC wants to change this narrative. One of the ways we can do that is through the Sanctuary. We envision a place where neighbors can gather safely, connect with one another, share a light meal or cup of coffee at our pay-as-you-can café, and get to know each other without being afraid. A place where kids can come after school and adults can gather to learn, care about one another, and contribute to their own well-being and the well-being of their neighborhood. A place where people want to come for Connection, Community, and Care.

The Timeline



How You Can Help

Give Financially to Help Unlock Matching Funds

This property was not listed, and we had to act quickly to purchase it. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we secured \$75,000 of the \$156,000 purchase price, with the stipulation that we raise the remainder. Our goal is to match the \$75,000 gift by October 31!

Help Bring the Sanctuary to Life

The Sanctuary needs a lot of work to bring it to the welcoming state we envision. We'd like to secure either through donations or discounts the labor, services, and materials to bring the property back to life. We'll be working through the fall and winter to spruce everything up, with our big Grand Opening at Easter 2024! Bring some friends and spend some time rehabbing the building or clearing the grounds, or consider helping us with our Sanctuary Wish List. Contact Ben Paddock at (317) 402-5273 if you can help.

Contact: Ben Paddock at (317) 402-5273 to help with renovation!



Visit www.blocknox.org for more info or to donate!

The Wish List

Things we'd love to have donated or provided at a discount to bring the Sanctuary to life!

Could you or someone you know contribute anything from our Wish List? Could you and your friends, small group, or employer give a day of service?

The Sanctuary is an ideal type of project for volunteers to come together and make a big difference in a brief amount of time. There are lots of opportunities for your family, group, or company to contribute time or materials. For more information, contact Ben Paddock via email at ben.paddock@onebloc.org or (317) 402-5273. Below is our Wish List of projects and needed materials.

- Group(s) with yard tools and chainsaws
- Usage of a Bobcat
- 80 tons of gravel, which will also need to be spread
- Truck / trailer or Dumpster to dispose of garbage in the backyard; 1-2 Dumpsters for renovation work
- 120' of 4" gutter, 60' of downspouts
- Group(s) to install gutters
- Group(s) to paint interior
- Group(s) to paint exterior
- 30 gallons of exterior paint
- 15 gallons of interior paint
- Group(s) to refinish interior floors, including sanders, sandpaper, polyurethane, and tools to put down the polyurethane
- Power washer and/or an individual to power wash the Sanctuary's exterior, including the
- Wood and labor to repair wood-damaged exterior
- 6-2" x 6" x 8'
- 2—sheets of plywood
- Lumber for an ADA-compliant entrance ramp and a group to install the ramp after the ramp is designed
- Materials for raised bed gardens
- Labor for garden preparation
- Group(s) to help with wall removal on the interior and foundation support
- At least one window replacement
- Group(s) and materials for possible bathroom tear out and rebuild
- Commercial toilet, vanity, mirror, towel holder, toilet paper holder, soap dispenser
- 4 fan lights
- Stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, quick cook ovens
- Cabinets and hardware
- Alarm system
- Tables, chairs, and interior design items
- Chalkboards and/or whiteboards

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The Prayer List

Ways you can support the Sanctuary project through its renovation phase and beyond

We seek your prayers!

We earnestly seek your prayers as we embark on this next phase of BLOC's ministry to Vestal. We believe God is shining His light on this place and inviting us to love Vestal in His name. Below is a specific list of prayers for this project and our work in Vestal.

Please Pray:

- That the Sanctuary will be a place of Connection, Community, and Care in the name of Christ.
- That it will be a place that becomes known on the community "grapevine" as a place where all are loved.
- That God will identify the "right" person to establish and operate the café portion of the Sanctuary.
- That as we continue to meet our neighbors, we will have discernment as to what kind of programming and ministry to house in the Sanctuary.
- That we will recognize and affirm the strengths of our neighbors and not just their needs.
- For safety for all who work on the construction and renovation.
- That God will draw individuals who will support the Sanctuary financially, materially, and spiritually through gifts to the Matching Gift campaign, ongoing financial support of BLOC, gifts in kind, prayer, and healthy partnerships.
- For every individual who comes into the Sanctuary, that they may find peace, hope, and Christ.
- That the Sanctuary becomes a launching point for future fruitful ministry in Vestal, Montgomery Village, and South Knox.







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