

Your gift goes far. A monthly gift goes even farther!

Change lives today by becoming a monthly donor.

Contact your bank to see how you can set up automatic monthly* “bill payment” to Shalom Community Center. Please e-mail dorothy@shalomcommunitycenter.org or call 812-334-5734, ext. 34 for any questions about becoming a monthly supporter.

You can set up a monthly online gift with your credit card through our donate button at our website:

www.shalomcommunitycenter.org.

-OR- mail a check to:

Shalom Community Center
PO Box 451
Bloomington, IN 47402-0451

**Please note that automatic, ongoing monthly contributions can change or stop at any time.*

Shalom—For All Who Seek Home

Our Mission

The Shalom Community Center is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to aiding and empowering people experiencing homelessness and poverty. As a resource center for people who are living in poverty and experiencing its ultimate expressions, Shalom provides day and overnight shelter, hunger relief, life essentials, case management, street outreach, housing support, including rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing, employment assistance, and access to many government and social service agencies.

Our Vision

Shalom Community Center envisions a community that honors every person’s fundamental right to sustenance, a safe home, quality health care, and meaningful work.



To Contact Us:

PO Box 451
Bloomington, IN 47402-0451
(812) 334-5728
shalom@shalomcommunitycenter.org
www.shalomcommunitycenter.org



On the Front Lines of Hunger and Homelessness

DIGNITY

The Newsletter of Shalom Community Center

Winter 2018

A Story of Success—Selena Rozzo

“A lot of families are one paycheck away from being homeless...it’s scary!”

This was the case for Selena as well.

Selena was in the hospital when staff referred her to Shalom and Friend’s Place. Coming from Florida and due to a strained relationship with her sister, she had nowhere to turn.

She arrived at Friend’s Place already with an income, but struggled to find an affordable home.

While talking about her time at Friend’s Place, Selena expressed fond memories.

She is especially grateful for the staff at Friend’s Place, and their ability to establish a support system simply through communication.

“[The staff] helped me get my meds at a nearby hospital...and I came back that night and told the [shelter monitor] ...and he said, yeah I know already...it was amazing!”

Selena tells people that Shalom will help people experiencing homelessness get what they need.

Within 88 days, Selena secured an apartment with help from the staff.

“It’s very quiet!” she notes.

Selena talks about how she no longer sleeps in a room with 11 women, some of whom snored and others who tossed and turned in their bunks.

“And I miss it...but they are coming over tonight at 7pm to watch Big Brother.”



Crawford II: There’s no place like home



There really is no place like home.

Due to Shalom’s newest program, Crawford II, 43+ chronically homeless people will have permanent, supporting housing. This past December, new residents were able to move in, some of whom had been homeless for almost 20 years! Bobby Ray, shown in the left picture, had been homeless for 16.

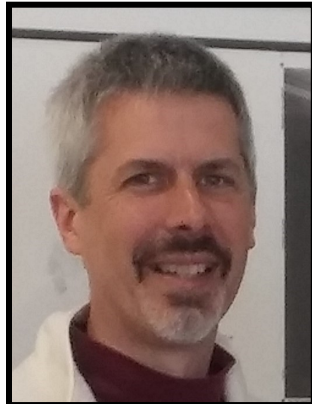
“I’m so happy for him! It’s a beautiful thing. He told me he sat on the bed and cried for a half hour after we left,” says Danielle Stevens-Sorden, Director of Housing First Programs at Shalom.

“I can’t tell you what it feels like to stand next to a person as he walks into his new home after being homeless since 2001,” added Executive Director Forrest Gilmore.

Crawford II is a part of Shalom’s Housing First initiative, an approach to quickly and successfully place long-term homeless individuals and families with disabilities into permanent housing without any preconditions or disqualifications due to barriers. Without your support, this wouldn’t have been possible.

A Prayer for the Future

Rev Forrest Gilmore



This blessing was shared as part of the Opening Ceremony for Monroe County's Bicentennial—January 14th, 2018 in the County Courthouse.

Spirit of Life, Liberty, and Love,

We bow our heads in gratitude for 200 years in dedication to the common good.

We ask for your blessing of abundance for all the good we have done over these 200 years, so that we may do more of it.

We ask for the blessing of your forgiveness for all the times we have fallen short, so that we may turn our ways.

We are a people from every curve of your earth, every shade of color you have chosen to bestow upon us, countless languages and cultures, innumerable religious attempts to honor your

mystery, genders, sexual orientations, rich, poor, and in between. We are many and we strive to be one like the great driving vision of our nation, E Pluribus Unum.

Whenever county or country would stand against such a vision, may we be a force of resistance to such injustice and an embodiment of the best that we are capable of.

May we remember that we are on the hunting grounds of the Delaware, the Miami, and the Potawatomi and may that inspire us to live equitable and sustainable lives, in harmony with each other and the land.

As we center ourselves before you, O Spirit, focusing on the next 200 years, may we be inspired by the good that's being done right now in our community.

The nonprofit staff and volunteers helping people through the struggles of poverty, trauma, illness, disability, and violence...

The EMTs, doctors, and nurses keeping people alive after heart attacks and drug overdoses...

The fire fighters, the police officers, and sanitation crews preserving our safety...

The teachers and social workers empowering us to greater capacities...

The politicians taking risks for the greater good...

The business owners employing those with living wages and offering of their bounty to those with so little...

The faith communities living up to the mandate to tend to the least of these...

The neighbors helping neighbors, shoveling snowy sidewalks, sharing meals, connecting in friendship...

O Spirit, may we also call to mind the work we still have yet to do.

Let us remember that right now in our community there's a disabled veteran without a home walking the streets in these bitter temperatures.

Let us remember that right now there is a young woman unexpectedly pregnant, struggling with what to do.

Let us remember that right now there is a transgender child who has no idea where to turn, terrified to reveal who they really are.

Let us remember that right now there is a dreamer, living in a land that does not recognize their right to be here, fearful of that knock on the door.

Let us remember that right now there is a person alienated and without hope, fighting an addiction to heroin, knowing this could be the last fix of their life and still finding themselves unable to stop.

Let us remember that right now there is a family of four, trying to decide whether to buy food or medicine.

O Spirit, as we dedicate ourselves today to tomorrow, we ask for the blessing of your courage, your wisdom, and your love so that we can come even closer to being that shining city on a hill, that beloved community, that "kin-dom" of heaven made manifest on earth.

In the name of all this is holy and good,

Shalom, Amen, and Blessed Be.

Brain Injury, Homelessness, and Moving Forward

People experiencing homelessness are much more likely to have experienced a brain injury at some point in their lives (45-50% compared to 8.5% of the general population). Seventy-five to 80% of the time, the brain injury occurred before the person became homeless and the effects of the brain injury often contribute to financial instability and housing insecurity, leading to homelessness.

Making the situation even worse, people who are homeless are at higher risk of sustaining another brain injury due to a variety of risks—victimization from violence, drug or alcohol-related overdoses, falls, etc. We know that the effects of brain injury—memory and concentration problems, difficulty with problem-solving, increased irritability, and others—make it harder to get back on one's feet and obtain housing or a steady income. People with brain injuries are also more likely to develop depression, anxiety, anger issues, and substance abuse disorders, which are also barriers to housing and employment.

There are a number of supports to assist a person in addressing the effects of brain injury, building some stability, and moving forward. It is crucial that an injury be identified and that training on brain injury screening be provided to staff in homeless shelters and service centers.

Once such a screening has taken place, an individual can seek a full evaluation from a neurologist. A full evaluation will determine what issues a person is struggling with due to a brain injury, and make recommendations for what might be helpful.

These therapies can help a person's brain get better at functioning. Like physical therapy helps muscles and joints get stronger, cognitive rehabilitation therapy helps the brain rewire and get



Jean Capler, LCSW
Local Support Network Leader
RHI Resource Facilitation

stronger while helping a person develop adaptive strategies to be able to function better in his or her everyday activities. These therapies can be helpful even years after the brain injury.

For someone with a brain injury exploring work options or wanting to be more stable in their job, programs like Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation and the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana's Resource Facilitation can help.

Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation helps a person gain employment by authorizing and paying for an employment consultant to help the person find and learn a job.

Resource Facilitation is a unique program for people with any sort of brain injury. It provides an in-depth evaluation of the person with recommendations and then a resource facilitator helps the person find and access supports that help them become healthier, function better, and increase their stability.

For more information about services helpful to people with brain injuries, email jean.capler@rhin.com. For more information about brain injury, please go to biausa.org, brainline.org, or strokeassociation.org.

Street Retreat Coming to Town

The Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco has a saying, "We discover on the streets our common humanity."

The street retreat is an opportunity to encounter ourselves in engagement with the streets of Bloomington and its residents. As we examine our fears, prejudices, strengths, and openings, we find connection and beauty. We learn. We grow. We open. And in doing so, we create space inside ourselves to hold the stories, experiences, and perhaps even the very being of others.

The street retreat will start with group sharing, then a 4-5 hour solo walk in our city, followed by a closing meal and reflection.

A \$50 donation to the work of Shalom Community is requested, but ability to give financially will not be a barrier to participation. Only eight spots available.

March 24th, 9am– 4pm
At Shalom Community Center
RSVP by March 19th to
dorothy@shalomcommunitycenter.org

Can't Miss Events

March—Hunger Relief month

March 8, 5:15-6:15pm
Crawford Homes Tour
2440 S Henderson St

March 24, 9am-4pm
Street Retreat
620 S Walnut St

April 12, 5-7pm
2017 Supporter Celebration
Upland Banquet Hall
350 W 11th St

April 30, 12-1pm
Friend's Place Tour
919 S Rogers St

Because of space limits, RSVP to
dorothy@shalomcommunitycenter.org