

Would YOU Become a Monthly Donor?

WHAT YOUR \$8.00 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:	WHAT YOUR \$10.00 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:	WHAT YOUR \$50 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:	WHAT YOUR \$200 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:
eight meals for our guests	ten meals for our guests	50 meals for our guests	200 meals for our guests
-or-	-or-	-or-	-or-
a combination lock for a guest staying at A Friend's Place emer- gency shelter	a copy of a birth certi- ficate for someone with- out ID	one month utilities for a newly-housed family	two weeks of emergen- cy shelter for one adult
-or-	-or-	-or-	-or-
bus tickets for a week's worth of trips to work	a prescription for a much needed medicine	four nights of emergen- cy shelter for one adult	*annual health care premiums for 15 peo- ple

When you become a monthly donor, your gift is combined with other monthly gifts to help provide Shalom with a steady and reliable stream of income that allows us to plan for a sustainable future.

For as little as \$8/month, you can increase the power of your gift and put more of your dollars into Shalom programs such as A Friend's Place, Rapid Re-Housing, guest daily personal services, Hunger Relief, effective case management, and so much more.

Contact Dorothy Granger at (812) 334-5734 X123 to discuss ways to increase the power of your gift.

You may also make a gift online with your credit card at: www.shalomcommunitycenter.org. or mail a check to: Shalom Community Center, PO Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402-0451.

Please note that monthly contributions can be changed or stopped at any time.

Shalom—For All Who Seek Home

Our Mission

Shalom Community Center is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to aiding and empowering people experiencing homelessness and poverty. As a home away from home 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 451/620 S Walnut St.
Bloomington, IN 47402-0451
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On the Front Lines of Hunger and Homelessness

DIGNITY

The Newsletter of Shalom Community Center

Winter 2019

"I'd Still Be on the Street!"

Ellen Erwin left an abusive marriage in 2010. Struggling with the separation and battling a drug addiction, she decided to give temporary custody of her three sons to her ex-husband and found herself on the streets of Bloomington.

"With my addiction, I never could keep anything long-term," she said. "It was hard for me to maintain anything."

Ellen stayed at local shelters, including Friend's Place, and often visited Shalom during the day.

"Shalom was a big help to me,"

she said. "It was a blessing, being able to go there and thank God for food and being able to wash my clothes... People don't know what a blessing it is when you don't have nothing, to have that."

Ellen continued to struggle with substance abuse. When she could, she would try and see her boys.

"I let our relationship go way downhill," she said. "I didn't even want to talk to them. I was too embarrassed to talk to them."

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Ellen and Chance

An Everyday Encounter

I was at Shalom on New Year's Day, talking with one of our homeless guests - a young man. He had no shoes and needed some.



Rev. Forrest Gilmore,
Executive Director

As I helped him, he told me he had a particularly vulnerable and virulent form of cancer. He told me he missed his treatment the day before, the horrible things the cancer was doing to his body, and how he was finding new lumps. He then told me his Dad died of the same cancer in the past year.

The seeming inevitability of this young man's end just sat there between us.

I listened, reflected back, and then got him the best pair of socks we had in the building.

He put on those socks and said, "Oh, yeah."

This is every day in our beloved community - real people, struggling with unimaginable hardships, finding a moment of joy in a dry pair of shoes and some warm socks.

Thanks to you, Shalom is the one of the most comprehensive, solutions-based responses to extreme poverty in our community.

But, perhaps, more than anything, I am grateful for these little moments of connection, moments when those suffering from some of the greatest hardships walk through our doors and know that they are not alone.

Volunteer Profile: Jane Martin

Jane Martin’s mother was the daughter of a sharecropper, her father the son of a coal miner. They had some success in life, but they always remembered where they came from. Because of this, Jane was raised in a family committed to lessening the effects of hunger and homelessness.

Jane graduated from Indiana University Bloomington with a degree in finance in 1971, and went on to get her Chartered Financial Analyst Certificate from the University of Chicago. During her time as a Venture Capitalist in San Francisco, she tried her best to balance advocacy and service with her busy career.

Twenty years ago, she and her husband, Pat, decided to retire here in Bloomington, where they met. Since then, Jane has become involved with Shalom and other local nonprofits.

“Shalom is a big passion of mine,” she said. “This is an extraordinary organization.”

After years of being a “passive advocate,” Jane joined the Shalom Community Center Board four years ago and re-



cently became board president.

“I have amped up my involvement, and it’s been very rewarding,” she said.

Jane described the Shalom staff that she has had a chance to get to know as high-caliber, hard-working, and dedicated professionals.

“[They’re] what help make it such a successful organization,” she said. “I’m really honored to be a part of their work.”

As the years have passed, Jane said that she continues to be amazed by the growth and expansion that Shalom has created to help the homeless and

hungry community.

“Sadly, the issue of homelessness is complex and not going away,” she said. “More than, I think, any other organization that I’ve been involved with, Shalom has been able to rise to the increasing challenge with great energy.”

Jane’s deep passion of advocating for the homeless community is inspiring. Shalom is proud to be an organization with values that mean so much to her and so many others.

“The dignity of every human being is one of the highest values of Shalom,” she said, “and that syncs up with my values.”

Most importantly, Jane is involved with Shalom because she has been raised with the values of compassion and connection, and she has been dedicated to them her whole life.

“That’s really what, I think, we forget so often, that we are all connected,” she said. “We share a common humanity. We’re better off when we remember that.”

*By Catherine Blankensop,
Bloomington Press Club Intern*

Coming Soon

19th Anniversary Tour
Thurs, Jan. 24th, 5:15-6:15pm
620 S Walnut St.

Hunger Relief Campaign
February and March

Shalom Tour
Thursday, March 7, 5:15-6:15
620 S. Walnut St.

Street Retreat
Saturday, March 23, 9am-4pm
620 S Walnut St.

Supporter Celebration
TBD in late March/Early April
Upland Brewery Banquet Room

Check out our Facebook page and website for additional events and details as the events get closer.

Open 365 Days a Year

A bit over a year ago, the Bloomington community came together to raise funds to help Shalom provide services seven days a week. This was life-changing for our guests.

Since then, we have served 21,504 meals on the weekends alone. That is 21,504 times that we helped a neighbor from going hungry for the day. But now that 2019 has begun, we are running low on funds to continue to help our homeless and hungry neighbors over the weekends.

But Terry Brandon, a frequent weekend guest, says it’s not just a warm meal.

“It’s a community,” he said. “And it makes a big difference, it really does.”

Though Terry does say that our famous weekend biscuits and gravy does keep him coming back.

“You can’t deprive people of that biscuits and gravy,” he said. “It’s great!”

But on a more serious note, Terry knows that with the cold January temperatures and snow storms, many people won’t be safe out on the streets.

“If you’re not open on the weekends, people will die,” he said.

Jessica Stump, another frequent weekend guest, agrees.

“This place saves people,” she said. “I just moved back to Bloomington, and finding out that you were open seven days a week was a blessing. It’s a great resource.”

In order to keep providing a safe, warm place to get a meal on the weekends, we are hoping we can receive the same support from our community as we did last year.

After all, we are what Jessica likes to call the “capital of the homeless community.” They are relying on us.

*By Catherine Blankensop,
Bloomington Press Club Intern*

Thank YOUs!!

THANK YOU to...

- * Jane Martin for her leadership and help establishing Shalom’s new Endowment named in honor of Joe and Gloria Emerson.
- * Congregation Beth Shalom for cooking Christmas brunch for our guests.
- * Black Lives Matter for their supplies drive for our guests.
- * Whole Sun Designs for donating a percentage of their 2018 profits to Shalom.
- * Crescent Donuts, Square Donuts, Jack’s Donuts and Bloomington Bagel Company for their monthly food donations.
- * One World Catering for helping make our inaugural Fireside Gala such a wonderful event.

Ellen (cont. from pg 1.)

Now that Ellen has an apartment through Crawford Homes, she is able to strengthen that relationship with her sons.

“[Family] means everything to me,” she said. “There ain’t nothing more important than family.”

Ellen has been in her apartment since December 2017, and she has been sober for a little over a year.

“I was really hard when I first got sober, living life on life’s terms,” she said.

With the help of her doctor, and new home, Ellen was able to stop using drugs. Having her own apartment through Crawford Homes helps give her the motivation to stay sober.

“It [was] life changing, and it means the world to me,” she said. “I’m so grateful, and it changed my life. If I hadn’t got this, if I was still out there on the streets, I probably would have went back to the same old ways.”

Now that Ellen has her own home, she sees her sons regularly. She also recently adopted a dog from the Bloomington Animal Shelter. She named him Chance and was able to register him as her emotional support animal.

“I love him so much,” she said. “He gives me purpose.”

This program gave Ellen the opportunity for a stable life.

“I’m so grateful to [Crawford and Shalom] for this... If it weren’t for them, I’d be still on the street. It’s a blessing, and I don’t take it lightly at all.”

*By Catherine Blankensop,
Bloomington Press Club Intern*