



SHALOM CENTER  
PHIL'S KITCHEN  
FRIEND'S PLACE  
STREET OUTREACH  
RAPID RE-HOUSING  
CRAWFORD HOMES

The Newsletter of Beacon, Inc.

Winter 2024

# DIGNITY

Aiding and empowering people experiencing extreme poverty, especially hunger and homelessness

## How You Make a Difference

Your support of Beacon changes lives, just like Josiah's. At just 19 years old, Josiah found himself facing homelessness with no friends, no family, and no money. Prior to that, Josiah had lived with his mother while also attending school. The academic pressure began to add up over time, causing stress and tension within the household. It ultimately resulted in an unsafe living environment and his decision to leave.

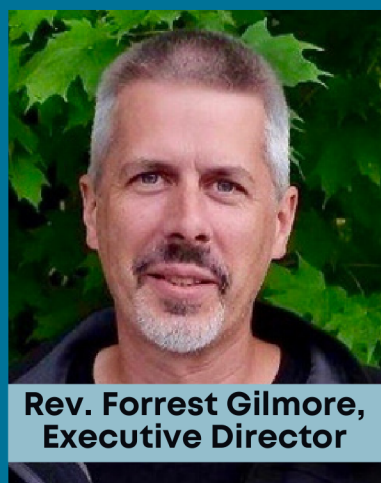
"Being homeless, made me lose some friends. It made me lose, honestly, dignity in myself for a while. Love for myself, even. It was rough on so many different levels. And it's not really something that I wanted to go through in life, but it's something that I'm glad actually that I have because I can say 100%, without a doubt, I am a stronger man than what I would have been if I wasn't."

Someone told Josiah about Friend's Place, Beacon's overnight shelter, and he decided to try staying there. Once he moved into Friend's Place, Josiah began to feel supported in ways he hadn't before. In his time living there, he felt heard by staff members willing to listen, he received guidance and financial support applying for apartments, and he finally felt his sense of safety return.



**Josiah**

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**Rev. Forrest Gilmore,  
Executive Director**

## Where Do Women Go For Shelter?

When a major shelter for women in Bloomington closed this summer, our community was abruptly faced with a crisis.

### Where do women without homes go for shelter?

Many said loudly (and some still do) that there was no shelter for women at all in our community. That's when Beacon stepped in to meet an essential community need. Very suddenly, our emergency shelter became **the only emergency shelter for women** experiencing homelessness in Bloomington. A forty-bed shelter for Monroe County residents, Beacon's Friend's Place shelter was sheltering about 12 women each night.

But seeing the demand, we expanded our women's beds and now are sheltering 28 women every evening. And just as suddenly, the importance of Friend's Place shelter became that much more clear.

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## How You Make a Difference

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"[Beacon] just helped me so much. I really don't have anything but positive things for Beacon. They helped me so much I don't really, you know, I couldn't really give any kind of pros or cons, or just...They just helped me...It is a good place for people who are struggling, to come in, have shelter, have food, have a place to shower and lay your head. It's a good place for getting back on your feet."

After spending three months at Friend's Place and receiving life changing casework, access to resources he didn't have before, and consistency in feeling safe, Josiah was able to secure and move into a home of his own. Coming from a world and life of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation, through this experience, Josiah has felt himself grow, change, and mature as a person. In addition to securing housing for himself, he has made new friends, remains close with his girlfriend, and has dreams of being a boxing champion and good father to his future children.

With parting words, Josiah said "I am thankful for Beacon because it gave a safe environment for people to be in...having Beacon helps everybody."

## Where Do Women Go For Shelter?

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Truthfully, before the loss of this other shelter, I had been worried that we wouldn't be able to keep Friend's Place going as the struggle to raise the funds for such an endeavor is very real. But, now I know we have no choice. We have to fight to keep it alive. Women must have a safe place to shelter in Monroe County when they are struck with perhaps the greatest challenge anyone can face – the loss of their home. On April 26th, adults and children will be intentionally sleeping outside so others don't have to, drawing attention to the challenges of homelessness and raising essential funds for Friend's Place shelter. Please make it a priority to participate as a sleeper and as a donor to make sure that no woman in our community goes without a safe place to sleep at night.

## Sponsor Highlights



*The patient comes first with Indiana Center for Recovery. With an experienced staff, campus community environment, proven treatment processes, and commitment to generating the best outcomes, Indiana Center for Recovery has created a model unique to Indiana in which they strive to make each patient's experience truly individual and grounded in a commitment to lifelong recovery.*

*Loren Wood Builders is a locally-owned company with guiding principles that focus on community investment, client experience, attention to detail, and a deep commitment to lowering the environmental impact of the construction process. From products, to techniques, to labor practices, Loren Wood Builders works to set a high bar for quality craftsmanship and a high-quality workplace.*



*Milestone Ventures is credited as the premier partner for non-profit organizations with processes suited to their needs. They have developed in both rural and urban communities, creating developments for families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities while specializing in expanding and enhancing capacity of nonprofits to undertake complex affordable housing developments.*

**Thanks to these great companies that help Beacon provide services and solutions to people living in poverty!**



# JOIN BEACON'S 6TH ANNUAL **SOLIDARITY SLEEP OUT**

HELP RAISE CRITICAL FUNDS AND AWARENESS  
FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

BEACON



**FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH AT 7:00PM TO  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH AT 8:00AM**

Sleep out so others don't have to! This April, dedicated adults, teens, and children will sleep out to raise awareness and critical funds to benefit Friend's Place, Beacon's overnight shelter. Friend's Place is the region's only secular, LGBTQ+ affirming, year-round emergency shelter for adults experiencing homelessness. With sleeping bags, tarps, and tents, participants will gather on the grounds of First United Methodist Church or sleep in their backyards while asking friends and family to sponsor them.

## WHAT YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES:

- \$15** SPONSORS ONE NIGHT OF SHELTER AND CARE
- \$105** SPONSORS ONE WEEK OF SHELTER AND CARE
- \$675** SPONSORS THE AVERAGE STAY OF ONE PERSON
- \$4,200** SPONSORS THE ENTIRE SHELTER FOR ONE WEEK



**SIGN UP TO SLEEP OUT AT:  
[GIVEBUTTER.COM/SLEEPOUT2024](https://givebutter.com/sleepout2024)**

**SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO!**

Questions? Contact McKalah Meier at [mckalah@beaconinc.org](mailto:mckalah@beaconinc.org) or 812-334-5734, ext. 115

# You Make a Difference

When you make a monthly gift to Beacon, you provide a sustainable future for people experiencing homelessness

**Sign up for a monthly gift at [beaconinc.org](https://beaconinc.org)**

**or mail a check to:**

**Beacon, PO Box 451, Bloomington, IN 47402**



**\$10** a month provides 60 hot, nutritious meals for people experiencing food insecurity



**\$50** a month pays the security deposit for a family moving into a new home



**\$25** a month shelters a person facing homelessness for nearly three weeks



**\$100** a month covers a month of rent and supportive services for a person experiencing chronic homelessness due to a disability

**Contact Amy Kendall at [amykendall@beaconinc.org](mailto:amykendall@beaconinc.org)  
or 812-334-5734, ext. 123 to talk about the power of your gift**

*Monthly gifts can be changed or stopped at any time*

## Beacon, Inc. - Solutions for People in Poverty

### Coming Soon

#### **Hunger Relief Campaign**

February and March 2024

Surprise donor matching all gifts up to \$20,000!!!

#### **Target Circle Voting**

Now until March 31, 2024

#### **6th Annual Solidarity Sleepout**

April 26 - April 27, 2024

#### **NAP Credits Become Available**

July or August 2024

#### **Supporter Celebration**

July 2024

#### **Homeless Memorial Vigil**

September 2024

#### **Beacon's Halloween Bash**

October 24, 2024

### Contact Us:



**PO Box 451**

**Bloomington, IN 47402**



**812-334-5734**



**[beaconinc.org](https://beaconinc.org)**

