



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

# DIGNITY

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

## Lighting the Way

It is easy to assume that homelessness only impacts others, and that it could never be you who ends up with nowhere to go, sleeping on the street. Candace thought the same way, until she began to struggle with addiction and became homeless. **“I never thought I would be that person,” Candace said.**

While struggling with addiction, Candace had an accident where she was hit by a train and lost her arm. After her hospital stay, she lost her apartment, and her boyfriend’s mother kicked her out. Her boyfriend had a warrant out for his arrest, so they struggled to find places to stay and were homeless for five years. She had nowhere to go and was staying at a local shelter or sleeping on the street. (continued on page 2)



**Candace & Lilly**



**Rev. Forrest Gilmore,  
 Executive Director**

## Building a Beacon

I introduce to you the new Beacon Center!

Nearly five years in the making, Beacon Center is a 45,000 square foot, two story facility, built with the goal of tackling the challenges of homelessness. The Center will bring together all our services into one building while also growing into new and better partnerships and programs.

First and foremost, Beacon will tackle the homeless issue with housing. The Center will include 25 new homes! Twenty of these homes will be for long-term homeless people with disabilities. Permanent supportive housing, as it is called, is a proven method for housing people with severe mental illness and substance use disorder, helping them stabilize, heal, and live to their highest potential. The other five homes will be work exchange apartments where residents will work at the Center and in the neighborhood in exchange for housing.

Secondly, Beacon Center will address the increase in unsheltered homelessness with a beautiful new shelter that will solve some of our community’s barriers to sheltering. The shelter will have beds for couples and allow pets, two major obstacles (continued on page 2)

Once Candace met with a caseworker at Beacon, she was able to be placed into an apartment through Crawford Homes. **“The word ‘Beacon’ means a light,” Candace said, “and that’s how I think of everything Beacon’s provided for me.”** Moving into her apartment was the “best day ever” for Candace. She was able to create her own safe space and she got a dog, Lilly, who she cares for in her new home. **“Homeless is not who you are,” Candace says, “but the situation you’re in.”**

Candace never knew how important having a home was until she moved back into one of her own. Feeling safe and having somewhere to go where she can leave her personal belongings is so important to her, and it would not be possible without your kind support. Candace says Beacon “lit the way” for her. **Thank you for helping Beacon light the way for Candace and so many others in our community.**

## Building a Beacon

(continued from page 1)

for those seeking shelter, making Beacon the first shelter to have these services in our community. Additionally, the shelter will move away from bunkbed/dormitory sheltering to single beds and semi-private rooms. Each guest will have their own space, ensuring a greater feeling of safety and dignity.

Lastly, our day center will fulfill a long-time dream that our community has had: a place where services from many different organizations can come together to do their work. In addition to Beacon’s many services, HealthNet will have a clinic, Centerstone will have offices for a therapist and caseworkers, and the Bloomington Police Department’s social workers and downtown resource officers will work onsite with an office of their own. The new center will also allow Beacon to move into a new service that has long been an unfulfilled part of our mission: employment. In addition to the work exchange apartments, we’ll have an employment center and a training kitchen, providing employment support services and job training.

All of these programs will combine to create the most innovative approach to homelessness our region has ever seen.

Beacon, of course, needs you to make this dream a reality. A \$20M project, this goal is a lofty one! With over \$11M raised already, we are well on our way to making it a real one!

Most of the funding for this project will come from grants. But, we still need \$5M to raise from you, our local families, faith communities, and businesses. You have donated \$3M already with \$2M to go. We hope to break ground on this amazing project this spring, leaving us about 6 months to achieve this very urgent goal.

I’d like to invite you into this very powerful mission. If you feel inclined to learn more about this special project, please contact Amy Kendall, our Development Director, at 812-334-5734, x123, or amykendall@beaconinc.org.

HELP US BUILD THE NEW BEACON CENTER

# Light the Way



Beacon has acquired the old Weddle Brothers Construction property located on West Third Street, south of Rose Hill Cemetery, and plans to build a 45,000 square foot, two story housing and service center. This facility will bring together Beacon's programs of shelter, resource center, and housing, with a special emphasis on community partnerships and improving the quality of care available to people experiencing extreme poverty in our community.

More than a shelter, Beacon is a lifeline. Your financial contribution toward our new facility is a beacon guiding individuals from despair and uncertainty to stability and opportunity. Together, we can build a community where homelessness is a memory of the past. Join us today to shape a future where everyone finds a place to call home.

**For more information on how you can 'Light the Way' with your financial contribution to the Beacon Capital Campaign, contact: Amy Kendall, Development Director at 812-334-5734, ext. 123 or [amykendall@beaconinc.org](mailto:amykendall@beaconinc.org).**



## The Big Three Impacts: In September Beacon..



**served 4,985 meals**



**provided 1,140  
nights of shelter**



**housed or prevented  
homelessness for 238 people**

# 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:

**Beacon featured in  
City Hall Display Case**

November 1 - 26, 2024

**Bloomingsfoods Positive  
Change Recipient**

November 1 - 30, 2024

**Giving Tuesday:  
Home For The Holidays**

December 3, 2024

### Contact Us:



**PO Box 451  
Bloomington, IN 47402**



**812-334-5734**



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



Member Agency