

**QR CODE**

Here is a convenient way to donate to SHALOM with your phone!

Scan the code below with the camera on your phone and tap the link. Then you can type in your credit card information to give, or you can sign into your PayPal account and follow the steps.

This is a secure process so have no fear...give to your heart's content!

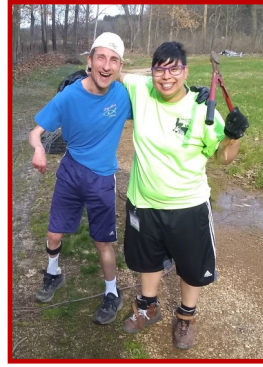
Please contact Lon at the SHALOM office with questions.



For updates and news, follow us on Facebook!



**SHALOM! FARM DAYS**



**FARM DAYS**  
Sat. & Sun.  
Sept. 30 & Oct. 1  
2 - 5 pm



SHALOM depends on the financial gifts of individuals, churches and civic organizations. We are a non-profit, 501c3, faith-based public charity. Please consider using the QR CODE or the enclosed Gift Planning card to partner with SHALOM!



**Board of Directors**

Keith Lohman, Pres; Janan Zimmerman, V.P.; Michelle Baird, Clerk; Barb Patterson, Treas., Gary Steensma, Robin Ipema, Garry Walton  
STAFF: Lon Bouma, Exec. Director; Kelly Lewis, Enrichment Coordinator

Assisting adults with disabilities to find new abilities in the context of Christian family.

SHALOM! is published to keep our support base informed of blessings and opportunities for ministry. To add or remove your name from the mailing list, please write SHALOM, P.O. Box 265, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 or call 269-382-3840 or e-mail at shalomkazoo@aol.com.

The SHALOM Network includes adult foster care homes, supported living and homes, other adults with disabilities and our many partners in ministry of the same heart and purpose.

Self Help Alternative Living Opportunities of Michigan, Inc. PO Box 265 Kalamazoo, MI 49004 269-382-3840

So whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31



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2 - 5 pm



August 2023  
volume 32 issue 2

**SHALOM's Greatest Needs are Great...**

**...Opportunities!**

We often receive requests to serve at SHALOM from individuals, churches, or other organizations. Most often, SHALOM receives an offer for a service team for a specific date and time. While this is very helpful for SHALOM (and we love it!), there are other services that would be even *more helpful*.

*SHALOM's greatest need is for volunteer partners to invest in the lives of the people of SHALOM.*

This type of investment is more costly, and more rewarding, than a one-time service project. I can tell you from personal experience...it is well worth it!

**FARM DAYS volunteers:** This is SHALOM's largest event of the year. Over 900 people visited SHALOM last year over the two-day event. We need many volunteers and would love to have partner churches or organizations each send five people to volunteer each day. This year, **SHALOM Farm Days is on Sept 30 and Oct 1 from 2- 5pm each day.** Training is required ahead of time. Farm Days volunteers work alongside SHALOM Participants in serving our guests. Contact SHALOM by September 7!

Another need at SHALOM is for **individual volunteers to provide respite for SHALOM resident caregivers** as needed. This would take development, investment, and relationship building. Each volunteer must have a heart for SHALOM residents and would have to be willing to build relationships with residents and caregivers so that over time they all feel comfortable with each other.

**Friday Night Fun Night** volunteers serve with a team on either the 2nd or 3rd Friday night each month, providing a meal and activities for SHALOM residents from 5-8pm.

*The purpose of the event is to provide a break (respite) for caregivers of SHALOM homes.*

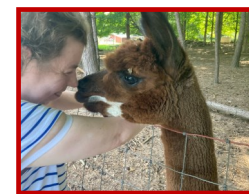
Our hope is for a church/organization to sign up to take one night each month (or whatever your frequency), or partner with another church/organization in the same manner. We want teams to feel comfortable and supported, so SHALOM provides a staff person to supervise and provide expertise.



The **Meal Blessings Team** provides meals for SHALOM homes so that caregivers can take the night off from cooking. Volunteers are trained and equipped with meal ideas and scheduling. Team members can provide meals at their preferred frequency.

The **Worship Transportation Team** provides transportation for SHALOM residents to and from our monthly SHALOM worship. The service is on the first Saturday of each month. Pizza is provided at 5:45 pm and worship starts at 6:30 pm, ending around 7:45 pm. Volunteers use SHALOM's van to provide this service and are fully trained for the task.

SHALOM requires a simple background check for volunteers serving in areas where Participants are present.



Thank you for your interest in SHALOM!

Contact Lon at SHALOM at 269-382-3840 or shalomkazoo@aol.com.

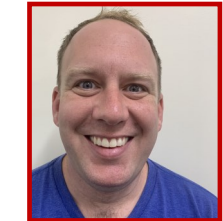
**Meet SHALOM Woolery Coaches - Matt and Sheila**

SHALOM now employs 11 part-time coaches at the SHALOM Woolery. *Sheila Brown and Matt Plantenga are the newest additions to our team.*

Sheila had several life experiences which helped cultivate her heart for the people we serve. After teaching for ten years and then working closely with an individual living with disabilities, Sheila spent the past five years caring for her father who suffers from dementia.

Sheila states, "My love for SHALOM started in the 1990's at Haven Church where I worshiped with SHALOM residents. When the Connection Depot Thrift Store opened, I started volunteering. I started praying fervently for what God had for me next. I asked Him to place me where my talents and life experiences would be able to help and bless others. I admit I often prayed to serve at SHALOM. I believe with all my heart that God was preparing me, with my art education and loving on people with all types of special needs, to be a SHALOM Coach."

"Each day has brought friendships, appreciation, acceptance, love, and the Lord. SHALOM is an answered prayer!"



Matt Plantenga was drawn to SHALOM by family friend and SHALOM board member, Robin Ipema. Matt states, "I have had so much fun since starting! So far, I have learned so much from our Participants. One Participant taught me how to 'skirt wool' and another taught me how to feed the animals on the farm! It has truly been a blessing!" Matt's servant heart is clearly seen as he often volunteers to do less glamorous tasks with a smile on his face.



Please welcome Sheila and Matt!



## Through the Eyes of an Intern

SHALOM is blessed by OT student interns! These Occupational Therapy interns from Western Michigan University each spend 12-14 weeks at SHALOM learning, teaching, and helping Participants grow in wholeness.

Currently, OT intern Sydni Rodriguez is with us, spending time with Participants at the Woolery, Farm, Coffee Shop, and at SHALOM events.



After her very first week, Sydni wrote a reflection paper as part of a Fieldwork class at Western. She kindly shared her thoughts:

*“Personally, I could not imagine a more perfect place for me, a place that encompasses all I could ever ask for during this season of life: peace, joy, communication, Jesus, daily devotion, prayer, hard work, teamwork, compassion, physical support, emotional support, spiritual support, and so much more.*

*“I can confidently say that these Participants have taught me much more than I have taught them, and they have not failed to exceed my expectations each day. I have spent my days coaching inside doing crafts, eating lunch with Participants, watering flowers, cleaning, working hard on the farm in the heat, and*

*working in the coffee shop, empowering, and encouraging important work and personal development skills in all areas of occupation.*

*“I have found the importance of presence, humility, appreciation for the small things, the love of work, vulnerability even when it is difficult, and perseverance through struggles and setbacks in life. At SHALOM, we have the mentality - focus on what you can do, not what you cannot do - which is exactly where occupational therapy fits in. I think everyone should have the opportunity to experience SHALOM and let it transform their mind, not only as an occupational therapist, but as a person, on this journey of life.*

**“SHALOM means “peace” in Hebrew, and that is exactly what I have found at SHALOM...and it’s only been ONE week!”**

What Sydni speaks of is what so many have experienced. *Jesus is present, moving, and working among our people.*

Thank you, Sydni, for sharing your thoughts. We are thankful God brought you to SHALOM and cannot wait to see how He blesses others through you.



## A Meaningful Work Opportunity

Part of the mission of SHALOM is to provide meaningful work opportunities for adults living with disabilities. The SHALOM Woolery, Farm, Connection Depot Thrift Store, and SHALOM Coffee Connection provide opportunities to grow in meaning, purpose, team approach, life skills, and wholeness.

We desire to see people flourish by engaging in activities they are interested in and by using the gifts they have been given. We love to see someone try something they have never done...and love it!



This certainly happened when SHALOM was given a new Cricut Machine. Linda VandenBerg blessed

SHALOM tremendously with her gift and also with her presence. She helped us set up and learn the machine and has also come back to spend time with Participants. The Cricut machine has become an integral part of projects we create at the Woolery, and we use it daily. (It designs, cuts and personalizes almost anything with the creative touch of the operator!)

One Participant in particular, Courtney, learned very quickly how to create using the new machine and she is now the SHALOM expert. Anytime someone needs a Cricut project, Courtney is on it!

It’s a joy to see Participants take on new challenges and discover new gifts. Linda and Courtney have certainly used the gifts God has given them to bless others!



## Volunteer Blessings

SHALOM is blessed by a large number of wonderful volunteers who give their time and share their talents and gifts at SHALOM! We could not do what we do without their tremendous efforts. In June, we took an afternoon to share a meal and thank our volunteers for how they have impacted people. We had a delicious lunch, worship music and most touching, Participants wrote, rehearsed, and spoke words of gratitude to our volunteers. **The day was filled with thankfulness and joy.**

At the SHALOM Woolery alone, we have over 27 volunteers who work alongside coaches and Participants sharing the love of Jesus and enriching the lives of all!

One of our faithful volunteers is Bonnie Flora. She and her husband, Dave, have served at SHALOM for many years in several different capacities. They have chaperoned on trips and outings, attended many SHALOM events, worked on construction and now faithfully serve every week at the SHALOM Woolery.

Bonnie is gentle and quiet and often lends a listening ear to Participants who need to talk. She is our resident card maker and is always thinking of ways to bless others. She often helps with cleaning the Woolery, but is up for helping wherever there is a need.

Bonnie loves Jesus and people, which is evident in her kind and gentle spirit. She selflessly gives of her time and we are thankful to have both her and her husband, Dave, in the SHALOM family.



**Thank you for all you do Bonnie & Dave!**



## GIFT REMEMBRANCES March 25, 2023—August 4, 2023

**Honor of Aktion Club**  
Arthur Roberts & Betty Lujan-Roberts

**Memory of Glen & Sara Collison**  
Patrick & Cathy Ober  
Doc & Julie Stevens

**Memory of Sara Collison**  
Deborah Stoneburner

**Memory of Delores M. Bosker**  
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

**Memory of Jack & Pearl Doorn**  
Linda Hinds

**Honor of Ezra’s First Birthday**  
Bob & Michelle Baird

**Honor of Tom Fawley & Roxanne James Wedding**  
Robert Duhan & Jane Hazzard Duhan  
Layla Jabboori  
Mary Jo Strehlow  
Taggett Family  
Agatha Vanderkooi  
Allen & Robin Vlietstra  
Susan Wilson

**Memory of Tony & Julie Genovese**  
Susan Wilson

**Memory of Dennis Hassing**  
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)



**Memory of Jeanne Hoard**  
Merton & Phyllis Norman

**Memory of Esther Korzilius**  
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

**Honor of Jim Kuiper**  
Ronald & Linda Lance

**Honor of Ellen Lehman**  
Glenn & Joyce Bridges

**Honor of Keith & Andie Lohman**  
Elta Shoemaker

**Memory of Angie Moore**  
Bonnie Emerson  
Sidney Shank

**Memory of Merton Norman**  
Al & Karen Dixon  
Dennis Duval  
D. David & Barbara Eshuis  
Larry & Alida Fish  
Sidney Shank  
Laurel Sherburn  
Allen & Judith Smith  
Donald & Lynette VanderMeer  
Frank & Adele Walters

**Memory of Marcia Poolman**  
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

**Honor of Charles Shoemaker**  
Elta Shoemaker



**Honor of Julie Stevens**  
Teresa Bright  
Doc Stevens

**Memory of Celeste Stoneburner**  
Deborah Stoneburner

**Memory of Tom VandenBerg**  
Linda VandenBerg

**Memory of Pete Veldt**  
Donald & Genevieve Veldt

**Memory of Ken Visscher**  
Mary Visscher

**Memory of Bob Walton**  
Daniel & Karen Bradley  
Daniel & Ellen Bradley  
Jim & Connie Chadderdon  
John & Susan Izenbaard  
Robert Mulder  
Scott & Karen Ossewaarde  
Rod Reith  
Doc & Julie Stevens  
Edward Stinson

**Honor of the Woolery Staff**  
Jim & Sue Lewis

**THANK YOU FOR THESE GIFTS OF LOVE GIVEN ON BEHALF OF THESE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE!**

## Stellar SHALOM Summer

Summer is a busy and fun time at SHALOM. We have many outdoor events, including cook outs, bonfires and events out and about in the community.

It has become a tradition to participate in the Kindleberger Craft Show and to attend our local Kalamazoo Growlers baseball game.

This year, over 65 people from the SHALOM community headed to the Growlers game! We took up most of a whole section!

We enjoyed food, fellowship, and a beautiful evening for baseball. Having time like this to relax, unwind, and hangout with friends is good for the soul and a precious time for our community!

The Kindleberger Craft Show was a smashing success this year, not because we sold out of our unique products, but because SHALOM Participants and

volunteers had the opportunity to share SHALOM and to share the love of Jesus with our community. It was a hot, but great day, with a coach, several volunteers and Participants showcasing the cool stuff Participants are making at the SHALOM Woolery and mingling with MANY people at the craft show.

We have an awesome community to live in and we are thankful for this time together!

