



Above, SHALOM Participants gather for devotions at the new cross near the SHALOM Woolery Barn. Below, Participants with a service team from Westwood CRC after landscaping, demolition and sheep shelter projects.



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 enclosed Gift Planning card to partner with SHALOM!

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

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SHALOM FARM DAYS!
Saturday & Sunday,
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2-5 pm



Church Service Team Highlight Todd Stevens, Bridge Church Volunteer

It was a great delight to discover that Todd Stevens, one of the service team volunteers from The Bridge Church, was also a former co-worker of mine (Lon). The Bridge Church does service projects every second Saturday, and they regularly reach out to SHALOM to see if we need a hand. What a blessing!

I was surprised to discover that Todd's connection to SHALOM runs deep. As it turns out, when Todd was younger, he had a group of friends that included our own Julie Stevens! Todd and his friends would regularly join Julie and parents, Glen & Sara Collison, and The Homestead crew on outings. Members of that group even helped build the gazebo behind Homestead South!

When Todd showed up to serve SHALOM this past April, he was happy to see Julie, Karen, and Diane are still part of SHALOM. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship while working and eating a dinner provided by Julie.

Todd described his time as "a blast", "working well together," and "fun, physical work." He reported enjoying his time working side by side with Micah, a SHALOM resident. Todd plans to serve SHALOM again very soon.

Thank you, brother!

Left, Lon and Todd.
Below, the Bridge service team



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

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 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



SHALOM!



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Summer Success!

Summer is in full swing with many fun activities planned and some that we've already enjoyed! SHALOM had the opportunity to honor our wonderful volunteers with a lady's luncheon in May and a men's grill out in June. It was awesome to have many of our volunteers together at one time and to spend the day enjoying each others' company.

In July, SHALOM had a fun evening enjoying Growlers baseball, food, and fellowship with Participants, staff, and volunteers. We even ended up the night with a win!!

SHALOM also managed a table at the Kindleberger Craft Show in July. This was a wonderful opportunity to share SHALOM with our community and for Participants to talk with old and new friends about SHALOM and the projects they make. It was an awesome day!

A couple weeks ago the SHALOM Woolery held a Summer Bazaar. We invited the community to come shop, take tours, enjoy Karen's Wonderful Cookies and coffee, and to experience life at SHALOM.

One of our faithful volunteers, Dianne, spent many hours helping us prepare and set up for the bazaar. She served during the bazaar and later that evening shared some of her thoughts with me regarding the event.

"The world would say the bazaar was successful for we managed to make a good deal of money for supporting our

activities. For SHALOM, however, successful means many other things:

"Success means our team of Participants, coaches, and volunteers have worked together to produce some wonderful works of art that highlights everyone's specific God given talents.

"Success means that over the last month, new items have been introduced, new skills have been uncovered, and present skills have been refined to produce many interesting items to buy.

"Success means the bazaar brought out so many people to see and experience the SHALOM Christian community at its best.

"Success is that so many of our Participants were able to interact with visitors by being enthusiastic greeters and tour guides!



"Success in our little world at the SHALOM Woolery made us joyful and happy to be part of a team working together for the good of our shared life together in true love and Christian fellowship.

"These definitions of success encompass what all SHALOM events

mean to us. From the smallest outing to an overnight trip, success at SHALOM is about relationships, sharing the love of Jesus, and growing together in wholeness in Jesus Christ."



SHALOM Farm Days Sept. 17-18

You are officially invited! The people of SHALOM invite you to share in the sense of love and community that Jesus has blessed us with at Farm Days 2022.

SHALOM Farm Days will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 17-18 from 2-5pm.

Where can you take the whole family and experience all that SHALOM has to offer... for free?

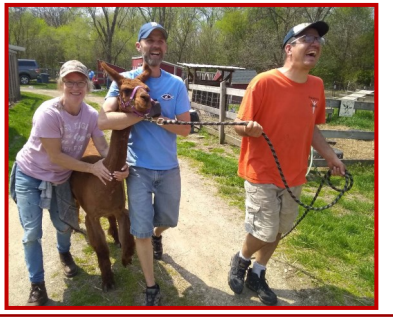
There will be activities for all ages, including a bounce house, live music, yard games, bonfires with s'mores & hot dogs, pumpkin and face painting, farm animal interaction, apple cider making, trail rides, and SHALOM Woolery demonstrations.

Additionally, you will be able to purchase items that Participants have made at the SHALOM Woolery.

Our wonderful Participants, volunteers, staff, and residents of SHALOM cannot wait to serve and bless you on this special weekend!



See you at FARM DAYS!



O.T. Intern Pride

The purpose of the SHALOM Woolery is to grow in the wholeness of Jesus Christ physically, emotionally, relationally, mentally, and spiritually. This same mission of SHALOM is also at the core of an O.T. (occupational therapist).

SHALOM has benefitted greatly from having O.T. students spend time at SHALOM while completing their internships and using their unique skills to enrich the lives of SHALOM Participants and residents.

Our most recent O.T. intern, Keira, spent three months at SHALOM helping Participants grow in different skills. She also emphasized how valuable and important each Participant is, no matter their abilities or disabilities.

Keira shared some of her experience with me (Kelly).

“Over the past ten weeks I have had the opportunity to support the Participants of SHALOM in many ways. I have taken time to build relationships, while using therapeutic insight and OT assessments to provide individualized education, training, adaptations, and environmental modifications. This allowed Participants to experience success and increase safety and independence in activities they value.



“With these supports, Participants can better engage in their daily occupations, enhancing one of the missions of SHALOM: ‘engaging adults living with developmental disabilities in meaningful occupations and community.’”

The unique perspective our OT students bring to SHALOM is invaluable! Interns have beautifully added to what SHALOM strives to sow into Participants:

**YOU are valuable,
YOU are loved,
YOU are CAPABLE!!**



Meet the People of SHALOM

JJ is a newer Participant at the SHALOM Woolery. Some time ago he had a conversation with his friend Calvin, a SHALOM resident, and decided he wanted to check out the Woolery.

JJ was looking for somewhere he could attend that had variety, new activities he could try, and new people to meet. I (Kelly) asked JJ about his experience so far and what he enjoys about being part of the SHALOM community.

He enjoys being around people and learning about God. Learning about God is very important to him, and he has enjoyed making new friends! He said it’s different here



because we stop and pray, and praying helps him to calm down when he’s feeling overwhelmed.

When asked about what he’s learned at SHALOM, JJ talked about learning to take care of the animals, learning new art projects, learning more about God, and growing in different skills he would need to have a job.

JJ told me he feels happy and excited when his day starts. “SHALOM gets me up in the morning, and I know today is going to be a good day.”

We are thankful for JJ and his kind and helpful spirit!!



Welcome to the Board!

In recent months SHALOM has said goodbye to several board members. We thank these individuals for their team spirit, dedication and passion for the people and mission of SHALOM: **Cali Mohney** (two years), **Rod Rieth** (treasurer, eight years), and **Dee Crittenden** (about 19 years).

These three sensed it was God’s timing to move on, making room for new people. We love you all and thank you for sharing your amazing dedication, engagement and joy of serving!

Also completing her service, **Sara Collison**, SHALOM’s co-founder with her late husband, Glen, passed into the presence of our Lord in December, saddening the board and the SHALOM community. Sara was our historian, cheerleader, visionary, spark plug, prayer warrior and friend. Sara had served on the board in various roles since SHALOM’s beginning in 1990, most recently as president. We are getting over the shock, but we will never recover from the deep gratitude we have for our sister in Christ, this servant of God, Sara.

Now, meet our new directors!

Barb Patterson – “A lifelong resident of Kalamazoo, I am married to Jack Patterson. We have two children and 5 grandchildren. In the process of asking God, ‘What’s next?’ I was asked if I’d consider being on SHALOM’s board as treasurer. I have seen SHALOM grow from its beginning under the careful nurturing of Glen and Sara to what it is becoming today. I am excited to now have a small



Michelle, Barb, Janan

part in helping SHALOM succeed. I look forward to getting to know the SHALOM family.”

Janan Zimmerman – “I was raised in a Christian home in Parchment where I continue to reside. I have worked for the public school system for the past 42 years in the area of special education. I was blessed to work with Glen and Sara Collison while employed at Parchment Schools and after a visit to the SHALOM Woolery, I knew SHALOM was an organization I wanted to be involved with.”

“Greetings! My name is **Michelle Baird**. My husband, Bob, and I live in Richland and attend Gracespring Bible Church. We have two adult children who are both married and living in the Kalamazoo area. I am a retired second grade teacher. I enjoy gardening, sewing, reading, camping, hiking, and traveling. My passion is serving the Lord in a variety of ways in my neighborhood, church, Camp Barakel, and SHALOM where I volunteer at the Woolery. I am excited to serve on the SHALOM board and act as an advocate and bridge between our Participants and the board as we work toward enriching lives. SHALOM!”

GIFT REMEMBRANCES February 19 - June 21, 2022

Memory of Mary Bliss
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Honor of Tommy Carter
Larry & Patsy Aldrich

Memory of Glen & Sara Collison
Dean & Cynthia Blanchard
Dee Crittenden
Linda Hinds
Patrick & Cathy Ober
Doc & Julie Stevens

Memory of Sara Collison
Gary & Carol Steensma
Garry & Esther VandenBerg
J.D. & Janet Vander Meer
Lorraine Vlietstra

Memory of Neal R. (Dick) Cronkite
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Floyd & Tillie Cronkright
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Alida DenHartigh
Donald & Penny DenHartigh

Honor of Jan & Paul DenHartigh
Donald & Penny DenHartigh

Memory of Ethlyn Dewitt
Ethy & Mark Denardo
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Herm & Lois DeYoung
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Mark Dingman
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Fred & Esther Drenth
David & Paula Nieboer

Honor of Gideon
Larry & Margaret Huffman

Memory of Ardath Joy Gillette
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Mirelle Huntington
Cheri Bice

Honor of Layla Jabboori
Pamela Chapman
Victor Downing
Joanna Hartenstein-Mcintyre
Amanda Haskins
Laurel Stravers
Joyce Webster

Memory of Ben Kanipe
Ramon Piazza

Memory of Len Lesman
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Dale Miller
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Pat & Tom Nicholson
Linda Hinds

Memory of Linda Kay Nordin (McCall)
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Samuel Davis Parker
George & Gladys Manley

Honor of Karen Sheridan
Myra Holliday

Memory of JoAnne Smit
Jacob Smit

Memory of Cecile Spitters
Alan Spitters

Honor of Julie Stevens
Doc Stevens

Memory of Sue Stewart
Layla Jabboori

Honor of Tommy
Larry & Margaret Huffman

Memory of James Louis Tubergen
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Mary Tyler
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Dale VanHamerveld
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Kenneth Visscher
Henry & Sue Balkema
Denise Champion

Kenneth & Barbara Dyk
Steve & Joanne Griffioen

Richard Loncharich
Carol Scheffers

Robert & Deborah Withee
Brian & Deb Youngblood

Memory of Shirley Wilbur
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Barb Zoutman
Donna Budden
Dorothy Hall

Steve & Sandy Hart
David & Kelly Lewis

Keith & Andie Lohman
Susan Miller

Deborah Moore
Brenda Scott

Mark & Gail Van Daff
Tim Van Daff & Tom Angers

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

Volunteer Highlight - Andie Lohman, Connection Depot Store Coordinator

Did you know the SHALOM Connection Depot Thrift Store just passed its 12-year anniversary on July 10? That is an amazing feat, especially if you saw *the old chicken, dairy and horse barn* before it was transformed into the Shepherd’s Barn where the Connection Depot lives!

From the very beginning Andie Lohman, along with husband Keith, embraced the store’s vision to work alongside adults living with disabilities, while reaching out and connecting with the community.

The story is a natural fit for the Lohmans. Andie reports they gained valuable experience by helping to run giant rummage sales with their small

group at Haven Church. “Every year we sold more than the last.”

Andie took the experience she gained there and brought it to her volunteer role as the *store coordinator* for Connection Depot.

Enjoying all aspects of her role, Andie values some therapeutic alone-time, worshipping to Christian music while sorting and planning. She works alongside and trains volunteers and Participants. She also loves to interact with customers, seeing them purchase an item that will be put to good use.



She says, “*It takes a team.* We have a wonderful team of volunteers. The store couldn’t be what it is without them. And we are so happy for the generosity of our donors.”

Andie is a *wonderful volunteer* who puts in many hours each week. She states, “My payment is seeing the joy on customer’s faces.”

If you haven’t stopped in recently, come see Andie at the Connection Depot at 6276 N Riverview Dr., Fridays and Saturdays, 9am-3pm.

She would love to see you!