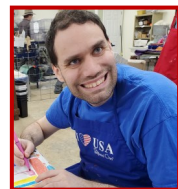


Another Way to Give



Scan the QR code with your camera phone and tap the link. Follow the steps. Contact Lon at SHALOM with questions.



For updates and news, follow us on Facebook!

shalom kazoo

Property Development 2024

While the list of maintenance and repair projects never seems to get done (*finish one, add two*), the major development list is really just a short three!

First up, with funding and permit in place, is the long awaited and much needed Storage Barn and Workshop.

With this building, we will be able to store equipment, tools and materials inside, out of the weather and away from vandalism.

What happened to the workshop we built into the Woolery Barn? Well—it was taken over by the Woolery Woodshop, a new and exciting offering for Participants! This is most fitting, because after all, we are in the people business! But still—we have stuff!

Once the Storage Barn is finished (slow and easy as a DIY project), we plan to build a Prayer Patio!

The Prayer Patio, under the oak tree next to the Woolery Barn, will be dedicated to our Lord Jesus in memory of Glen & Sara, co-founders of SHALOM.

It will be a place of prayer and fellowship with God and each other, for all broken people seeking our wholeness and peace in Jesus Christ.

The Prayer Patio was part of the Woolery Barn vision from the begin-

ning. Funding is over 80%, with much given in memory of Glen and Sara.

Finally, SHALOM plans to build a Farm Barn! In 2018 the adored “Lil Barn,” built by Glen, burned. So what if we built a new barn, for the people who love the animals, our Participants and community?

Plans for this project are developing, so please pray for clarity and final funding. We hope to begin by the end of the year—and finish in 2025. Maybe!

And after that? Yes, the board is already praying and talking about what’s next! Will you please pray with us?

What does God want for SHALOM’s future ministry?

THAT’S WHAT WE WANT!

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 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

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145:8-9



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SHALOM!



April 2024
vol. 33 is. 1

SHALOM Coffee Connection Turns One!

March 24 marked the one-year anniversary of SHALOM Coffee Connection and what a blessed year it has been!

While it has been wonderful to have the Connection Deport Thrift Store faithful become regular supporters of the coffee shop, we have also built relationships with many new customers. We have experienced steady growth over the last year and now serve our community with 21 Participant baristas, 8 volunteers, and 5 coaches.

We serve a variety of delicious drinks, such as our super smoothie, strawberry lemonade, and many seasonal specialty drinks. Our Maple Cinnamon Latte, made with SHALOM maple syrup is a community favorite.

SHALOM Coffee Connection also features Karen’s Wonderful Cookies, baked by one of our very own baristas in SHALOM’s licensed kitchen. Many years ago, Karen started a baking business with her caregiver and friend Julie.



learned, grown, and served our customers over the past year.

The coffee shop has become a weekend hang out for Participants, volunteers, and community members. It has truly connected people - through the love of coffee, people, and most of all... through the love of Jesus.

SHALOM Coffee Connection is located at 6276 N Riverview Dr. north of Parchment and is open Fridays and Saturdays, from 9-3, while closed on holiday weekends.



Her business has expanded, and she now has a regular volunteer and another Participant helping her grow her business. Karen always dreamed of her cookies being served in a coffee shop and her dream has come true! Not only does Karen provide the coffee shop with delicious, sweet treats, but she is the also the lead barista, and provides training to new baristas.

SHALOM Coffee Connection began as the dream of a few people with a shared vision, a place where Participants could learn new skills, integrate with the local community, and share the love of Jesus with others. We took a leap of faith and trusted the Lord’s guidance. His provision has been evident as we have



People of SHALOM

A frequent comment of people new to SHALOM is, “I feel welcomed and accepted.” Many residents, Participants, volunteers, and staff describe their experience at SHALOM as being part of a “family”.

In many families, there is a member who is willing to help in any situation. They are always there to lend a helping hand and are dependable and faithful for supporting other members of the family. Sheri is that member of the SHALOM family.

Sheri moved into The Homestead AFC in July of 2021 and started with the SHALOM Woolery shortly after. She was kind, eager to learn and wanted to be active and engaged in the SHALOM community.

If there is a SHALOM Woolery task that no one has volunteered for, Sheri will volunteer. If something unexpected comes up, Sheri is there to help. If a friend needs encouragement, Sheri is there to provide it. Sheri is a tenderhearted, wonderful, faithful friend. She is active within SHALOM, but also out in the local community. She participates with the SHALOM Woolery, serves as a barista at SHALOM Coffee Connection, and works part-time at Little Caesars. She is a busy lady!

Sheri shared that one of the first things she noticed at SHALOM was how nice and friendly people are. She enjoys being part of a community and working with other people. Initially, Sheri was quiet and unsure, but now she is an integral and eager part of the SHALOM community. It is hard to imagine SHALOM without her. We love you, Sheri! You are a blessing to SHALOM!



FAITH LIKE PETER

One of the newest members of SHALOM's family, Peter, sat down with me (Sheila) at SHALOM Coffee Connection, along with Peter's sister Katie. They shared their "Faith Like Peter" journey. This is their story of faith, trust, patience, and storms with huge waves. This journey brought Peter and his family home to SHALOM.

Peter was born one year before Katie in Wyoming, Michigan. He lived with his parents in the comfort of their home for 46 years. Katie went to

CMU to study Elementary Education and landed a job teaching first grade in the Plainwell School District.

It was in her classroom eleven years ago when she first heard about SHALOM from LeAnn, the teacher's aide in Katie's classroom. Katie knew SHALOM sounded like a unique place, but at the time it wasn't a need, so she tucked the idea away.

As believers in Jesus, life was sailing along quite well until Peter and Katie's mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's dementia in 2019. This was the first huge wave.

The second huge wave was when Katie had open heart surgery in June of 2022. During her healing, Katie and her husband Aaron spent nine months preparing for her parents and Peter to move in with them. They felt strongly it was their calling to help Dad with the caregiving of Mom and Peter. Those months helped Peter get used to the idea of a new city and surroundings.

The move came about in November 2022, and they all lived together for four and a half months. It was a full house with Katie and Aaron, their two kids Libby and Wesley, her parents and Peter.

Katie noted with interest that when her family moved in, she also started noticing Facebook posts about SHALOM from her previous school co-worker and friend, LeAnn, who was now SHALOM's Farm Coach and Animal Manager.

The third huge wave came in the form of another move for greater care for their mom. The parents were happy to find a senior living facility that met their needs. However, it wasn't too long after the big move that memory care services ended abruptly.

Despite the setback, life moved on as Peter and Katie's parents found another senior-care home. Finally, Katie felt like she could focus on Peter's needs and desires. Their main priorities for him were health, friends, and community. Peter was hired at a restaurant and was

able to be much more active. However, the restaurant position ended up not being a good fit for Peter, so Katie pulled out that tucked-away idea and sought out SHALOM in December of 2023.

Then another big wave came rumbling in. God used this storm to prove His provision to this family as they kept

As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, and not the storm around him, he kept his faith. (Matthew 14:25-32)

their eyes on Jesus. They did not allow the waves rolling at them over the years to take away their faith. Mom was declin-

ing to the point that Dad needed to separate and move into the Senior Living side while she stayed on the Memory Care side. It was heartbreaking to move Dad once again, especially away from his wife.

Then, during moving day, SHALOM's Executive Director, Lon Bouma, reached out to Katie with the news that Peter would be a perfect fit for the only SHALOM home that had an opening.

There was no doubt in her or Peter's mind that this was a gift from the Lord. They both shared with tears in their eyes how they felt the first time they walked



Peter & Katie

into the SHALOM Woolery the day of the Christmas Bazaar. Peter felt at home. Katie joyfully shares that SHALOM is everything they ever wanted for Peter.

It is smooth sailing at SHALOM for Peter as he feels the happiest ever. He speaks of his love for his SHALOM home, his house parent Esmeralda, and his new best friend Billy.

Peter lit up when he talked about making things in the SHALOM Woolery Woodshop. He is excited about the newly designed cell phone holder and sound enhancer he helped make in the woodshop. He described it as a speaker that will, "make the sound pop!"

Welcome home Peter and family. You deserve rest in God's shalom!

GIVING CARE - A Lifetime Calling

This June, our partner and friend, LeAnn Hayward, is retiring from coaching at the SHALOM Woolery to become a daytime caregiver for her first grandchild. Her desire to care for her new granddaughter should come as no surprise as she has always had a calling to give care to the vulnerable.

In 2019, LeAnn began serving as a SHALOM Woolery Coach and soon after became the Animal Manager. Her son Tommy was living at The Homestead when LeAnn's neighbor Pat, then a SHALOM board member, invited LeAnn to apply for the job.

LeAnn says, "I fit here like a puzzle piece. I loved that I didn't have to try to impress. It just felt natural to love, encourage, and cheer others on."

Early in life, LeAnn discovered that God had given her a special gift.

As an elementary student, she signed up to be the "hugger" for the special needs Track and Field Day at her school. She states, "I feel like I was born with a sparkle that drew me towards people with disabilities."

It seems God was already preparing LeAnn for her lifetime calling of giving care. The birth of her first child Tommy, who was born with disabilities as the result of a car accident, and the adoption of Makenna, the Hayward's first foster child, only solidified God's special calling toward the vulnerable. Throughout the years, the Haywards shared the love of Jesus, and their home, with 27 foster children!

At SHALOM, we often remind ourselves *we are all broken people seeking wholeness in Christ*. When asked how she has grown in wholeness while at SHALOM, LeAnn answered, "When I started at SHALOM, my anxiety was my weakness. I learned that I need Jesus' strength to be whole. To access that strength, I learned to become a person of prayer. I found God's strength in my weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

As the animal manager, I was the one responsible for acquiring hay, hoof trimming, vaccinations, maintaining pens, scheduling volunteers, moving animals to pasture and back and much more. It challenged me...but transformed me! I learned to respond to anxiety with prayer instead of my own effort!"

(see CALLING next page)



GIFT REMEMBRANCES December 1, 2023—March 29, 2024

Correction for December
Honor of Frank Spitters
David & Paula Nieboer

Honor of Aktion Club
Arthur Roberts & Betty Lujan-Roberts

Memory of Jim Bacon
Ruth Bacon
Mark & Kim Balkema
Mary Branch
Jerry & Paula Cameruci
Jim & Dianna Devisser
Kalica Good

Keith & Kathy Hurst
Dan & Markie Vandermeer
Chuck & Joyce Van Laar
Bob & Deb Withee

Memory of James Bishop
George & Gladys Manley

Honor of Lon Bouma
Peter & Marilyn Cake

Memory of Gary Broekhuizen
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Mark Brown
Joyce McNally

Memory of Ed Burkett
James & Dianna Devisser
Dave & Deanna Lingg

Honor of Tommy Carter
Larry & Patsy Aldrich

Memory of Glen & Sara Collison
Daniel Hageman
Doc & Julie Stevens
Donald & Genevieve Veldt

Memory of Sara Collison
Karen Sheridan
Julie Stevens

Memory of Tom Coyne
Mary Jo Strehlow

Memory of Peter Deritter
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra
(Bosker)

Memory of Carol Dexter
Tom Dexter

Memory of Ed Gasaway
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra
(Bosker)

Memory of Linda Hinds
Karen Sheridan
Julie Stevens

Memory of Hope King
Karen Sheridan
Julie Stevens

Memory of Robert & Charlotte Koestner
Thomas L. & Priscilla M. Swiat

Honor of Scott Lokers
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Ruth Melwiki
JoAnn & Mark VanderBorgh

Memory of Michelle Odehnal
Mary Ruth DeForest
John & Marcia Savoie
Mary Savoie

Honor of David O'Keefe
Mary Beth & Bernie Buescher

Memory of John C. Pike
Beverly Pike

Memory of Elroy John Schaefer
George & Gladys Manley

Memory of Marty Schau
Susan Miller

Memory of Charles Shoemaker
Elta Shoemaker

Memory of Kenneth Schoonbeck
Phyllis Norman

Honor of John & Sarita Sparks
David & Paula Nieboer

Honor of Doc & Julie Stevens
Patrick & Virginia Burnham

Honor of Julie Stevens
Doc Stevens

Memory of Sheri A. Stiger
Beverly Pike

Memory of Thomas & Jetta Swiat
Thomas L. & Priscilla M. Swiat

Memory of Jerry Tacoma
Steve & Nanette Kokmeyer

Memory of William "Bill" VandenBroek
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

Memory of Dewayne Wallace
Karen Sheridan
Julie Stevens

Honor of Woolery Coaches
Peter & Marilyn Cake

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

(CALLING, from previous page)

When asked about great memories, LeAnn pointed to Bethlehem Journey, an annual outreach event put on by First Reformed Portage. LeAnn has led many Participant service groups from SHALOM to provide our farm animals for their live nativity. LeAnn states, "Even though I stress out about it, I went through Bethlehem Journey and felt honored that we were able to serve by providing animals. Here I am stressing out about animals and logistics and our Participants are teaching me with their attitudes – we GET to do this!"

When asked for words of wisdom for her fellow coaches, LeAnn said, "Look



around for the person who looks like they don't know what to do. Approach them with a smile and meet them where they are at. Take the time to get to know Participants and build relationships."

