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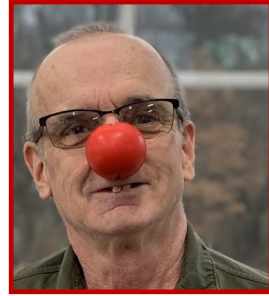
Scan the code below with the camera on your phone and tap the link. Then you can type in your credit card information to give, or you can sign into your PayPal account and follow the steps.

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 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!



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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

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Psalm 34:8



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SHALOM!



April 2023
volume 32 issue 1

SHALOM Coffee Connection is OPEN!

We are **OPEN!**

SHALOM Coffee Connection celebrated our grand opening on March 24-25! Located in the Shepherd's Barn at 6276 N Riverview Dr., SHALOM Coffee Connection occupies the former



SHALOM office and the porch that once housed our fiber machines.

Over six years ago, the SHALOM team met about a vision of opening a coffee shop—some day! It would be a place where Participants would have an opportunity to engage in meaningful work, serve others, and integrate with the community.

We had no idea where or how it would happen. But while we cannot see the way, God makes a way. A dream that God placed in many hearts is now a reality!

With the help of faithful volunteers and hardworking Participants, our team repurposed this area into a coffee bar and seating area for customers. What an amazing transformation it has been!

We have partnered with Foster Coffee, a company with a mission to foster community and provide excellent coffee. Foster provides ongoing support and expertise, along with all coffee served at SHALOM Coffee Connection.

We were also assisted by our occupational therapy doctoral student from Western Michigan University, Micah Taniguchi. He has completed his capstone project at SHALOM and helped write a training manual to educate coaches, volunteers, and Participants on use of the coffee brewing machines, cleaning procedures, and food safety.

Our Participants have been integral in the planning and preparation. Whether they were baking cookies, wood burning signs, or designing the SHALOM Coffee Connection logo, Participants have actively

taken ownership of this project. What a team!

God has guided and provided for us every step of the way through faithful foundations, donors and volunteers. We have patiently waited for this day, trusting in His timing.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement to have another area where Participants can learn, grow, and have meaningful work experience. The coffee shop will also provide the opportunity for Participants to interact with our community members, to serve them coffee, but most importantly to share SHALOM and the love of Jesus.

SHALOM Coffee Connection is open the same days and hours as The Connection Depot Thrift Store, Fridays and Saturdays from 9-3, closed on major holiday weekends.

See you there!



Karen's Wonderful Cookies

Discovering God's purpose for our life is an amazing journey as Christians. Knowing that God designed us with gifts that make a difference fills us with hope and gratitude.

Many years ago, Karen discovered one of the many gifts God had given her - baking to bless others. Karen had always enjoyed baking and when God brought her to the Homestead, she was able to work alongside her care provider and friend, Julie Stevens, to learn and grow her baking skills.

Julie and Karen worked together to perfect a chocolate chip cookie recipe, and **Karen's Wonderful Cookies** was born. The goal was, and continues to be, baking cookies to bless others. Karen's cookie making has expanded to include several different types of cookies, and now will go even further by baking and selling her cookies at SHALOM Coffee Connection.

Karen now uses SHALOM's licensed kitchen to expand her business and continue to live into God's plan for her, while doing something that she loves to do!

We love to see how God weaves our lives together. He planted a seed, watered it with love and support from a trusted friend, and grew Karen's skills and confidence. Now He has provided a kitchen where Karen can bake her cookies, and a coffee shop to share Karen's Wonderful Cookies with others. *God is so good!*



THROUGH THE EYES OF A VOLUNTEER

Layla Jabboori, a faithful volunteer, was asked to share her perspective on being a SHALOM volunteer:

"In October 2018, a client told me about a place she hoped her daughter, who lives with a developmental disability, would be able to go. That place was the SHALOM Woolery.

"My interest was piqued when I heard the word 'Woolery.' That evening I went home and googled SHALOM Woolery and decided that I would go to check it out that weekend.

"Someone gave me a tour of the Connection Depot and told me about all they do at the SHALOM Woolery. As I was standing in the main room in the Shepherds Barn, the Holy Spirit whispered to me, 'What you didn't get to do in your career you will do in retirement.'

"I felt so excited at my first opportunity to come see the Woolery in action. The prospect of volunteering at the SHALOM Woolery helped me in my last three years of work, knowing I had somewhere awesome to come and give of my time and talents.

"In 2019, when I took a week off for vacation, I came to the Woolery and informally volunteered. I continued to do this until July of 2022 when I formally filled out the volunteer paperwork and began showing up weekly.

"It is hard for me to describe the feeling I experience when I know it is 'volunteering day at the Woolery' or when I attend a special SHALOM event. I committed to volunteering on Tuesdays,

but I find myself going to the Woolery on Tuesdays and Thursdays because I enjoy the atmosphere we create.

"This is clearly one of those situations where my intention is to be a blessing but walk away being blessed.



"I never know what I will be doing when I arrive at the SHALOM Woolery - working with wool in some fashion, sewing a fabric project, repairing a sewing machine, cleaning/organizing, beading, gluing, painting, preparing a devotion to share in the morning meeting and the list goes on.

"The best part is being encouraged to work with a Participant(s) on projects which gives the opportunity for one-on-one talking and listening.

"The beauty of SHALOM is sharing the love of Jesus in all we do! One of my life verses is Hebrews 10:24-25:

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, encouraging one another and all the more as we see the day drawing near."

VOLUNTEER AT SHALOM COFFEE CONNECTION

Do you like the smell of fresh coffee and cookies coupled with the sounds of a wonderful community enjoying conversation? **SHALOM Coffee Connection is open!**

As with every facet of SHALOM, we could not do what we do without our wonderful volunteers.

If you love people, coffee, and serving Jesus, would you consider volunteering for a three-and-a-half-hour shift on a Friday or Saturday once or twice per month?

CARE PROVIDER HIGHLIGHT

Tom Youngblood has been a constant presence in the SHALOM community for over 25 years. In 1997, Tom met Julie (Collison) Stevens through his wife Audrey. At the time, Julie was operating Homestead South, a licensed adult foster care home just north of Parchment. Tom and Audrey began providing occasional respite care.

In 2003, the Youngbloods moved in and took over daily operations for Homestead South. When asked about his sense of calling, Tom acknowledged a sense of God's leading early on in this process. In 2006, Tom and Audrey agreed to buy the home from Julie and continue caring for residents as a licensed AFC. Homestead South houses six residents, five women and one man.

SHALOM network residents have appreciated Tom's willingness to serve in a variety of ways through the years. Tom often provides rides for residents going to SHALOM events and weekly takes a resident or two out bowling.

For over 20 years, Tom has taken a group of residents out for dinner on Friday nights, which is a very special service for the people of SHALOM! That service is now coming to an end since Tom has taken a weekend job at a local bowling alley.

When you see Tom or Audrey, thank them for their faithful years of service to the people of SHALOM. May God bless the Youngbloods!



Perhaps Jesus is using these words to stir your heart to use your gifts at SHALOM.

You may think you are coming to serve, but YOU too will be blessed!

If interested, please contact Kelly Lewis, SHALOM Coffee Connection manager, at klewis@shalomkazoo.org or 269-382-3840.



GIFT REMEMBRANCES November 5, 2022—March 24, 2023

Memory of Mary Abla
Linda Driscoll

Memory of Jean Ackley
Martha Bosch

Honor of Aktion Club
Arthur Roberts & Betty Lujan-Roberts

Memory of Mark Brown
Joyce McNally

Memory of Sr. Donna Brown
Susan Miller

Memory of Bill Burdick
Benjamin & Lynette Demink

Memory of Donald G. Burge
Donald & Velma Burge

Memory of Ed Burkett
James & Dianna Devisser

Honor of Tommy Carter
Larry & Patsy Aldrich

Memory of Dean F. Clark
Verda Clark

Memory of Glen & Sara Collison
Dean & Cynthia Blanchard
Allen & Norman Collison
Cindy Forshee
Susan Gitre

Daniel Hageman
DeWayne & Edith Leppke
David & Paula Nieboer
Patrick & Cathy Ober
Fred & Judy Rhem
Doc & Julie Stevens
J.D. & Janet VanderMeer
Donald & Genevieve Veldt

Memory of Sara Collison
Tom & Carolyn Harmon
Laurie Vanderlip

Memory of Al Crandle
Nancy Crandle

Memory of Barbara Cromrine
Benjamin & Lynette Demink

Memory of Billy DeMink
Billy DeMink Family

Memory of Carol Dexter
Tom Dexter

Memory of Al Dixon
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Memory of Matt Dixon
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Memory of Jack & Pearl Doorn
Linda Hinds

Memory of Esther Drenth
William & Terri Veldman

Memory of Ben & Marge Gahide
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of John & Lynn Gernaat
Dennis & Shirley Gernaat

Memory of Roger Haan
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Herm & Jo Hoekstra
David & Paula Nieboer

Honor of Myra Holliday
Paul & Rainbow Holliday

Memory of Dale Land
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Ron McLain
Marvin & Ebelina King

Memory of Angie Moore
Tracy Arra
Maria Boonzaayer
Bonnie Emerson & Clyde Daniel Rone
Dennis & Kay Lawton
Merton & Phyllis Norman
Laurel Sherburn
Frank & Adele Walters

Memory of Pat Nicholson
Linda Hinds

Memory of Don Paulsen
Peggy Smalley

Memory of Dick Poolman
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of John C. Pike
Beverly Pike

Memory of Marty Schau
Susan Miller

Memory of James H. Shank
Sidney Shank

Honor of Karen Sheridan
Peter & Ann Dieleman

Memory of Dick Slagell
Glenn & Judith Wolter

Memory of Karel R. Slatmyer
George & Gladys Manley

Memory of Cecile Spitters
Alan Spitters

Honor of Doc & Julie Stevens
Patrick & Virginia Burnham

Honor of Julie Stevens
Teresa Bright
Steve & Nanette Kokmeyer
Doc Stevens

Memory of Sheri Stiger
Beverly Pike

Memory of Sharon Terpstra
Fred & Judy Rhem

Memory of Pam Vanweelden
William & Terri Veldman

Memory of Clarence Vlietstra
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Memory of Dick Wissner
Brenda & Chris Sinkvoitz

Honor of Woolery Participants
Peter & Marilyn Cake



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



SHALOM FARM DAYS 2023



Thank you to those who attended SHALOM Farm Days last year! We estimate 900 people attended in 2022, outdistancing 2021 by a wide margin.

Each year, Participants look forward to this event where they meet new

people, serve our community, and enjoy the festivities.

Through events like Farm Days, Participants get the chance to use their gifts to share the love of Jesus with others.

We appreciate the interest, faithfulness, and partnership of our local community!

SHALOM Farm Days 2023 will be Saturday, September 30 and Sunday, October 1, 2-5 pm. Mark your calendars!

