



shalom community center

helping people in need



Member Agency

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day shelter: (812) 334-5728
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“If Shalom wasn’t here, I don’t know where I’d be. Their help was amazing because it really changed my life around. I still come to Shalom because it’s like a home to me. They never deny me. Whenever I’m in trouble, they help me out.”

– Claude Sanders

Dear Friend,

People like Claude need your help right now.

Claude served in the Marines for five years, including 18 months in the Vietnam war. After his wife of 17 years, the mother of their 12 children, passed away, Claude couldn’t handle the loss. He lost his 25-year manufacturing job and turned to alcohol to lessen the pain. He became homeless, living on park benches and sleeping in the woods.

Then he turned to Shalom.

Shalom lessened his pangs of hunger. Shalom warmed his chilled body. And we began the process of putting this Marine back together.

Claude has been sober now for several years. He had been working until an unfortunate job-related accident severely damaged his shoulder and wrist. Shalom supported him through that, and also helped him connect with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which uses Shalom as an outreach center, to take part in their housing program for disabled vets.

Claude is just one example of those who need your support this moment. Please send Shalom a financial gift right now to help those who need your support.

Due to the support of people like you, *Shalom helped over 1,400 people last year, nearly two-thirds of whom were women and children and over a third of the rest veterans like Claude.* And the numbers are up by 10% this year. But these are not statistics on a page. These are real people, real lives, just like Claude’s, surviving despite the disaster that is poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

Honestly, I’m a bit worried. The recent media attention has spread enormous misinformation and stirred prejudice and even hatred for those experiencing homelessness. (I’m including a copy of my guest column in the Herald-Times in response to one such article.) **Our guests need your help now more than ever.**

Shalom is the primary homelessness organization in town that not only invests in life essentials, but also in solutions: case management, employment support, homelessness prevention, and very soon, our new permanent supportive housing program for people experiencing long-term homelessness due to disabilities.

But we're also investing in the future. We're playing a major role in the development of a ten-year plan to end homelessness. We are actively exploring national best practices. Shalom is perfectly situated to enact some of these exciting and effective ideas, including triage, rapid-rehousing, and our upcoming permanent supportive housing program.

But we need your support to make that possible. Please fill out the enclosed supporter response card this moment and send us a gift to help the hungry and the homeless. **Forgive me for being so pressing, but the urgency is stronger than ever.**

Thank you! I am so grateful for all your support.

With blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Forrest Gilmore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Forrest Gilmore
Executive Director

P.S. Please help people like Claude get home for the holidays by supporting us!! Write us a check right now to make a difference in lives just like his. Now, more than ever, your support really matters!!