“It’s like God has opened the sky and let me into Heaven... I think this is as close to Heaven as I am going to get here on earth.”

– Durrell Patton

Dear Friend,

I wish you could see the difference in Durrell, both where he came from and where he is now.

He struggled mightily for decades, particularly with alcohol. His disease led him to unemployment, long-term homelessness, even prison.

But now he’s stable, sober, and working a new job as a cook at BuffaLouie’s.

Durrell said, “When I was homeless, I couldn’t get the proper nutrition and rest to apply for a job. My main objective was finding a place to sleep that night. Now, having my own apartment, I can get out there and fight for a job.”

And that’s exactly what he’s done.

Durrell is one of 59 men, women, and children who experienced long-term homelessness due to disability but now has a home and much needed support through Shalom’s Crawford Homes program.

When you give to Shalom, you are guaranteed to make an impact. Please make a donation right now to help us continue to do this amazing work and more!!

The Crawford Homes program has shown some jaw-dropping results. Through the first year:

- The program has a 92% housing retention rate.
- The residents collectively increased their income by 29%.
- The number of residents with health care rose from 30% to 64%.
- Residents saw an 88% reduction in incarcerations, dropping from 141 in the year prior to 17 in the first year.
- Residents’ use of the emergency room dropped 65% as compared to the year prior.

But what’s perhaps most amazing about Crawford is that we intentionally select not the easiest clients, but those with the most significant difficulties. Rather than first-come, first-served or most likely to succeed, we use an assessment that helps us determine who is most likely to die in the next year. Horrible as it sounds, that helps us ensure that we are helping the people MOST in need. With
forty-seven as the average age of death for a chronically homelessness person, Crawford is truly a lifesaving venture.

If that were all that Shalom did, your support would already of great impact. But Shalom uses your investment to do so much more. Last year, Shalom served over 1200 clients, 60% of whom were women and children, and provided:

- 71,696 meals
- 7,335 case management sessions
- 1,194 job counseling sessions
- a GED program with Broadview that had the highest graduation rate in the region
- Outreach services to more than 20 social service organizations, including the VA which has housed 60 homeless veterans through our partnership
- 2,800 loads of laundry, 5,300 showers, 5,400 diapers, 166 IDs, and mail for over 650 people

Plus, this past year, we began two amazing new programs – our rapid re-housing program, which over the last 9 months has helped rehouse more than 100 working homeless individuals and families and our new street outreach program, providing support out on the streets seven days a week.

That’s impact! And that’s what you get when you give to Shalom. Please write a check right now to help us expand this amazing work.

**Our 2020 Vision**

In early November at a public event with over 150 people in attendance, Shalom launched our 2020 Vision for tackling homelessness in Bloomington. Over the next five years, we hope to:

- End Chronic Homelessness
- End Family Homelessness
- Reduce Overall Homelessness by 50%

I’ve included a flyer with more of the details on our strategic plan.

To make that plan possible, we hope to double the membership of our Visionary Society over the next year. Our Visionary Society members contribute $10,000 or more to the Center over 5 years. For those who can go the extra mile, indicate your interest in the enclosed response card.

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

With blessings,

Rev. Forrest Gilmore
Executive Director

**P.S. What greater holiday gift could you give than to feed those who are hungry and house those without a home?!?** Please help people like Durrell by supporting Shalom and Crawford Homes!! Write us a check right now to make a difference in lives just like his. Now, more than ever, your generosity makes a difference!!