



shalom community center

helping people in need



620 S. Walnut, P.O. Box 451  
Bloomington, IN 47402-0451  
www.shalomcommunitycenter.org  
day shelter: (812) 334-5728  
administration: (812) 334-5734  
fax: (812) 334-5736

**President**

Karen Boswell

**Executive Director**

Forrest Gilmore

**Board of Directors**

Alan Backler

Karen Boswell

Vivian Counts

Ross Martinie Eiler

Jim Harvey

Connie Hegarty

Diana Hoffman

Diana Lehner

Jane Martin

Nancy Nerad

Dick Rose

Nicole Schonemann

Judy Simic

Sarah Wasserman

Billy Young

**“People have forgotten that people out here are moms and little kids. I’m on the streets because I thought I was too good to ask for help, but now I know that I need it. I work hard, don’t get me wrong, but it’s not enough.”**

**– Jami Sullivan**



Dear Friend,

**329**

*That’s how many people are homeless in Bloomington this very night:* children,

parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, neighbors. They have names: Shawn, Natilee, Isaac, Deidre, Randy, Bethany.

Homelessness is a national tragedy that expresses itself locally. **With your support, we can move every one of those very real people off the streets, out of the shelters, and into their own homes.** Please make a donation right now to help us end homelessness in Bloomington.

**Jami and her daughter were sadly once among them.**

Jami has had a hard life: beaten and molested through childhood, giving birth at 13 years old, fostered at 16, physically abused in her former marriage, single mom to 3 children, disabled from a severe back injury. It’s remarkable she has carried on at all...

She said, “I thought I could do it on my own. But it’s not that simple when your babies are on the line. No matter how old they are, **when they’re looking at you asking, ‘What’s for dinner, mom?’ and you’re going, ‘Well...crackers and ketchup sounds good,’** that eats at your backbone a bit. When your daughter is taking a shower and says, ‘Mom, something’s coming up through the tub,’ and you have to tell her, ‘It’s okay, honey. That’s normal,’ it’s kind of hard.”

Soon, she and her youngest daughter were evicted by the slumlord they rented from and they found themselves homeless.

Jami struggled finding help anywhere, but then turned to Shalom.

She says, **“Before I came to Shalom Center there was no help for me, there was nothing.** ... Being homeless is the hardest job you'll ever have. You work from the minute you open your eyes. But I'm not going to settle, and it's all thanks to [Shalom]... This place is a godsend.”

**Please make a donation right now to help this essential work by filling out the enclosed supporter card. Together, we can end this heartbreak.**

We helped Jami and her daughter move into a new home through our rapid re-housing program. We helped her enroll in college, where's she on the path to getting a culinary degree, and also working part-time.

She wrote of her new home, "Our house was a blessing. I've been living off 17th Street, a little 2-bedroom house. It's just perfect. I love to be able to cook in my own kitchen. It's nice to have food again and be able to shower in the mornings, to have a warm bed to sleep in, to be able to see my daughter warm. I've lived there since December, but **when the heat kicks on I still wake up and take a deep breath that the heat is on for my daughter.**"

She dreams one day of opening her own restaurant. She even has her ideal location already picked out on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and all she thinks about is giving back. She says, "**When I get a restaurant I'm gonna stock the whole place with homeless people. I want to give them all jobs.**"

Because of supporters like you, Shalom has helped find homes for 256 people through the rapid re-housing program, including 80 children just like Jami's daughter.

Because of supporters like you, our Housing First/Crawford Homes program for people with disabilities experiencing long-term homelessness ended 300 years of collective homelessness and provides a warm home and a helping hand to nearly 60 adults and children. And we recently learned that we will be able to open Crawford II, likely to start in 2017, helping another 40-50 disabled, homeless adults find homes.

Because of supporters like you, our day shelter serves 6,000 meals every month and our caseworkers helped 1,636 people experiencing extreme poverty last year, providing eviction prevention, employment assistance, health care support, and so much more.

**The Shalom Community Center is the most comprehensive, solutions-based approach to addressing homelessness in Bloomington. But we only can do what we do because of YOU.**

Please make a donation right now to help us continue to do this amazing work and more!! You can fill out the enclosed support card right now, because when you give to Shalom, you are guaranteed to make an impact.

Three hundred twenty-nine people without homes need you and they need you now. Forgive me for being so pressing, but the urgency is stronger than ever.

With blessings,



Rev. Forrest Gilmore  
Executive Director

**P.S. What greater holiday gift could you give than to feed those who are hungry and shelter those without a home!?! Write a check right now to make a difference in the lives of children and adults who would be lost without you. Now, more than ever, your support really matters!**