



shalom community center
helping people in need

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“I’ve spent most of my life, professionally, helping other people. Now, I’m on the receiving end and going through hard times, so when someone reaches out and does something unexpected like that, it catches me off guard. It really touches me.”
– Douglas James

Dear Friend,

Sometimes all it takes is a bowl of soup.

Doug approached me with tears in his eyes. Doug has a Masters of Social Work and for 30 years, he put that degree to good use, serving as a mental health therapist, case manager, and a direct service professional for people with developmental disabilities.

Recently, though, he’d been struggling with major health problems. Last June, he was diagnosed with Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP), an autoimmune disorder with a low platelet count, and venous insufficiency, which led to cellulitis and slow-to-heal lesions in his legs.

Due to his illnesses, he lost his job and was at risk of losing his home. Struggling to walk, he had been holed up in his home for a week when he came out to see his doctor and visit the Shalom Center for a meal.

Shalom served a carrot-ginger soup that day and Doug loved it so much that he mentioned it to Ron Kerner, our Director of Hunger Relief. After lunch, Ron surprised Doug with a Tupperware container of some extra soup for Doug to take home.

That’s what brought the tears... an extra bowl of soup and a simple act of kindness.

Doug said, “I was having a bad day and it was such a nice thing for him to do that. I felt vulnerable, and it just made my day.”

That’s what your support provides. Your generosity expresses itself through Shalom as that extra meal and simple care. Please make a donation right now to support Shalom’s hunger relief program.

Shalom remains the only provider of free breakfast and lunch every weekday, while offering the most sit-down meals of any social service organization in Monroe County. **Because of you, over 72,000 meals were served to hungry souls through our kitchen last year.**

Plus, for a short time, your gift will go even further.

(over)

Two very generous donors have stepped up to **match by 50% every donation we receive towards our hunger relief program between now and April 30.**

Amazingly, it costs us less than \$1 to provide a meal to our guests, so with the match, a donation from you of:

\$100 before April 30th would provide over 150 meals,

\$500 before April 30th would provide over 750 meals,

\$1,000 before April 30th would provide over 1,500 meals.

This is a great opportunity for you to make your donation go further in helping combat hunger in our community... and to help people like Doug make it through. **Please fill out the enclosed response card right now and send us a gift to support people who are hungry.**

With blessings,



Rev. Forrest Gilmore
Executive Director

P.S. Did you know that, thanks to you, Shalom is the 2nd largest meal provider and the largest provider of sit-down meals in Monroe County? **For a short time, you can multiply your impact even more through matching funds. Thanks to two very generous donors, every gift you give by April 30th will grow by 50%, making your impact that much larger.** Please help us ensure that no one goes hungry in Monroe County by making a gift right now to Shalom.