



shalom community center
helping people in need

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***“I’m grateful that we have this place because if we didn’t we’d probably all starve to death. I don’t want nobody to starve to death... Cause there’s places... that don’t have this... It’s changed my whole life.”
– Cathy Jo. Sprinkle***



Dear Friend,

Cathy was in and out of homelessness for more than 15 years.

She was born into horrible circumstances.

Both her parents were alcoholics and her mother was also addicted to drugs. Her mother gave her up to fostering when she was four and her new family physically abused her. She described fleeing her foster’s mom’s boyfriend when she was eight years old, having to call the police and escape out a window. That boyfriend later murdered another mom and daughter.

Cathy turned to alcohol when she was seventeen as a means to cope with all her struggles. This led to alcoholism and being thrown out of her home. For years, she went from one bad boyfriend to the next until she finally ended up homeless on the streets of Bloomington.

It was then that she turned to Shalom.

Without Shalom, she said, *“I probably would be dead... I’d probably starve to death. I would barely make it. We need this place very much. Everybody does... There’s a lot of people out there who don’t have very much at all.”*

You save lives with every donation you make. Please make a gift right now to support Shalom’s efforts to make sure no one goes hungry.

You make a great impact through your support of Shalom. Because of you, Shalom is one of the most important meal providers in our community, serving more sit-down meals than any other nonprofit. Because of you, *74,604 meals*

(over)

were served to hungry souls through our kitchen last year, the largest number since the Recession.

Nonetheless, hunger remains strong and people like Cathy need your help.

And if you hurry, any gift you give to Shalom will be multiplied. Thanks to two very generous donors, every Hunger Relief donation we receive between now and April 30 will be matched by 50%.

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

\$100 would provide over 150 meals,

\$500 would provide over 750 meals,

\$1,000 would provide over 1,500 meals.

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

Cathy is doing well now. She has a home and is working towards sobriety and getting a job.

She said, "This place has put me in a place that I never thought I would be. I have a home now. And I'm getting a future. And I'm getting ready to get a job... You guys have been so wonderful to me. I'm very grateful."

With blessings,



Rev. Forrest Gilmore
Executive Director

P.S. For a short time, you can multiply your impact even more through matching funds. Thanks to two very generous donors, every Hunger Relief gift you give by April 30th will grow by 50%, making your impact that much larger. Please help us ensure that people such as Cathy have access to free and healthy meals by making a gift right now to Shalom.