



shalom community center

helping people in need



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“We lost everything... I had basically what I had on and one more shirt. That’s all I had when we left. We didn’t have towels, nothing. I just made a ham! I just made a ham three days before then. I just made it. I forgot to take my ham. We lost everything... We didn’t know what to do. We’d just sit and cry.”

Dear [First Name],

Peggy lost her home over \$1,100 in back taxes. Evicted by the Sheriff’s Department, she and her partner grabbed everything they could and fled to the streets.

Peggy worked most of her life but became disabled three years ago due to fibromyalgia, partial loss of functioning in her kidneys, massive muscle spasms, and seizures, which all grew progressively worse.

She and her partner were able to scrape by until he also became sick and was no longer able to work. **After much struggle to stay afloat, they lost everything and became homeless, living out of their truck for months.** Then they turned to Friend’s Place and to Shalom.

Peggy drew on the support of the shelter right away.

She said, “I’ve never seen a service like this... I loved it that first time coming in here to take a hot shower. The food. The people. They helped us with our food stamps. They helped us with any applications that we needed... Shalom does it all. I mean there’s nothing they don’t do. Literally... I’m so grateful for Shalom.”

Thanks to supporters like you, Peggy found a safe place to sleep, the care she needed to survive, and the support she needed to get back home. Please make a donation right now to continue this life-altering work.

After 8 months in homelessness, Peggy and her partner moved into their new home. She said, “We sat there on the couch... and were like, ‘Look, we’re in a room. We have walls.’ It was so quiet. We both almost cried... I can’t believe we made it through it. But we did. We made it... It’s been tough. It’s been real tough. I couldn’t have done it without Shalom. I couldn’t have done it.”

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You may know that Shalom has taken on the management of what was formerly known as Martha's House (now called **Friend's Place**). Without **Shalom's leadership**, the only year-round, nonreligious, emergency shelter for homeless adults would have closed its doors. **People like Peggy would have had nowhere to turn.** The impact would have been devastating for over 400 people each year, just like her.

Thanks to broad community support, **Shalom is keeping the shelter open**, making improvements to the physical space and the services, increasing access to people in need, and working with guests to help them get back on their feet with homes and jobs.

Friend's Place provides short-term stays for up to 40 people (28 men and 12 women) in a safe and sober living environment. But even more importantly, Friend's Place partners with the expansive services of Shalom, including case management, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing, to help guests not just survive but find their way home.

We need your help to keep the shelter open for the long-term. Our budget has grown substantially in taking on *Friend's Place*.

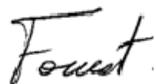
For every dollar you give to *Friend's Place* right now, your gift will be doubled by a matching grant from the BUEA up to \$200,000. We are 80% of the way there but only have three more months left to raise the remaining \$40,000.

The good news is that the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA) has offered Shalom \$200,000 in matching funds for every dollar we raise toward the shelter in 2016. That means that every gift you give specifically for Friend's Place before the end of the year will be doubled!!

So far, we've raised 80% of the funds towards that match, but we need YOUR help to raise the remaining \$40,000 to put us over the top and commit to the shelter every dollar it deserves.

Right now, we're responding to the shelter needs of people who are homeless. **We need you to respond right now and make a donation to Friend's Place** to help provide emergency shelter for people in our community. Please be generous and make your gift right now. There's no time to waste.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,



Forrest Gilmore,
Executive Director

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