



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



“Being homeless was existing, not living. I want to live. I don’t want to freeze. I don’t want to starve. I want my own place; want my own bed to lay in, a home to have my kids, a life, and to work. I don’t want to be a millionaire; I just want to live a normal life and to have a chance again. It was probably God that guided me to Shalom, saying, “Boy, suck up your pride.”

– Rusty Lewis

Dear Friend,

On any given night, 350 people are homeless in Bloomington. Rusty was once one of them. You may know Rusty. He’s a well-known, local musician, who had been doing very well for himself.

But after years of dedicating all his time to caring for a sick family member, Rusty found himself broke, homeless, and alone. He struggled for months, sleeping wherever he could as he tried to find his way back to self-sufficiency. But then he “sucked up his pride” and came to Shalom.

He immediately went to work with our caseworkers (who, perhaps I’m biased, are the best in the business). Together, we helped Rusty find a job, get health insurance, and through our new rapid re-housing program, move into a home.

Back on his feet, Rusty said, “Everything I have right now is because of Shalom, everything! My health insurance, job, and my home, it’s because of this place. If it hadn’t been for Shalom, I’d still be out there and... there would be 3 boys without a dad. You guys saved me and I guarantee you this is because of the efforts the caseworkers here made.”

Please make a donation right now to help our caseworkers continue this amazing work on your behalf. Every dollar you donate will be dedicated to our case management program and all the extraordinary work our caseworkers do for people like Rusty.

As a donor, you want to know that your gift has impact. At Shalom, you can be assured that that will happen. We leverage every gift into the most compassionate and effective approaches to ending poverty and its worst challenges - hunger and homelessness.

Our new rapid re-housing program is a great example of a program that works. Almost 40% of people experiencing homelessness are employed. But they

“I was wrong about this place. When I was doing ok and would drive by, I had such a misconception about it. I’m sure there are other people that aren’t aware of what this place does. They need to become aware.”

struggle to get the support they need to move into a new home. Rapid re-housing combines financial assistance and case management to help working people move quickly out of homelessness and stabilize in new homes.

We also know that the longer a person stays in shelter, the more likely they are to continue to stay in shelter. Rapid re-housing helps break that pattern by emphasizing housing first with support along the way.

I also love that this program works with all the overnight shelters in the community – Middle Way House, New Hope Family Shelter, Martha’s House, Backstreet Missions, and Interfaith – to move people quickly out of the shelter system. This kind of collaboration is exactly what is needed and makes all the work that we do better.

So far, your support has helped us rapidly re-house 40 households since February and with your help, many more into the new year!!

Amber Smallwood, our Rapid Re-housing Coordinator says, “It’s very meaningful to see how much of a difference a program like Rapid Re-housing makes...” The other day, I ran into one of the first people I housed almost six months ago. He is just so happy with the help he has received... and he continues to do well. His story is an affirmation as to why this program is so important and much needed in our community. I always say that I have one of the best jobs because I get so many hugs and I get to see and hear about how the lives of the guests I’ve housed have been positively changed.”

Please fill out the enclosed card and send us a donation - \$25, \$100, \$1000 - right now to help Amber and our other caseworkers tackle some of the greatest challenges that poverty presents. Many people just like Rusty are waiting for your support.



Amber Smallwood
Rapid Re-housing Coordinator

With blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Forrest Gilmore".

Rev. Forrest Gilmore, Executive Director

P.S. Every dollar supports our amazing case management program. Please make a donation right now to help Amber and our other caseworkers make a big difference in the lives of people just like Rusty.