



shalom community center
helping people in need

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“When you’re hungry, your whole perception changes. When you have a full belly, it allows you to face the daily struggles our guests have to face.” – Ron Kerner

Dear Friend,

You may not know Ron Kerner, but our guests certainly do.

As Shalom’s Director of Hunger Relief, Ron has run our meals program for almost 10 years. Our longest tenured employee, he has served well over **half a million meals** to people dealing with hunger, homelessness, and extreme poverty.

Ron could work in any kitchen in Bloomington, but he chooses Shalom, because of the direct impact this work has on people’s lives.

He said, “The most gratifying aspect of my position is being a part of a community effort to provide food to those in need. It’s so rewarding to be in a position where you can help people, offering a hot meal or lending an ear. The kitchen volunteers and I take great pride in trying to serve quality meals to our guests that will help them make it through their daily struggles.”

Thanks to you and to Ron, 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 the County. Because of you, nearly 71,000 meals were served to hungry souls through our kitchen last year.

Nonetheless, hunger remains strong and Ron needs your help. He can’t serve this year’s meals without your assistance. Please make a gift right now and every penny will be dedicated to serving meals to those who need them.

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

For the past several years, Shalom has combined our March and April Hunger Relief Appeal with the Feinstein Challenge, a national matching campaign to combat hunger. The Feinstein Foundation, however, has suspended their program this year, leaving us without their long-time support.

Thankfully, two very generous donors have stepped up. Now, **every donation we receive by April 30 will be matched by 50%.** This 50% match far exceeds the amount from the Feinstein Challenge and gives you an excellent opportunity to multiply your support for feeding our community’s most vulnerable neighbors.

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

(over)

\$100 before April 30th (with the match) would provide over 150 meals,

\$500 before April 30th (with the match) would provide over 750 meals,

\$1,000 before April 30th (with the match) 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. **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 family goes hungry in Monroe County by making a gift right now to Shalom.