If Shalom wasn’t here, I wouldn’t know what to do. Shalom has helped me a lot, with clothes, food, diapers, formula, storage, prescriptions... all while helping me find a home.”
– Olivia, Natilee’s Mom

Dear friend,

Did you know that a person is most at risk of homelessness in their first year of life?

Do you feel helpless knowing there are those who are hungry and exposed, without enough to eat, without the safety of a home?

Does your heart ache for the most vulnerable among us?

Natilee, nine months old when this photo was taken, was born into poverty. Her mom, Olivia, disabled from mental illness and fleeing domestic violence, struggled to provide a safe home for little Natilee. They moved from couch to couch in their search for housing they could afford.

Then, they found Shalom Community Center!

At Shalom, Olivia and Natilee could get two hot meals a day, take showers, get diapers, and do laundry. They had a safe place to stay, a safe place for Natilee to nap and play. Mom could talk with case workers to secure needed services such as health care and nutritional services. And eventually, they moved into a safe, permanent home through Shalom’s Crawford Homes program.

Did you know?

A gift of $50 can provide 50 meals to our guests.
A gift of $100 can help five people obtain much-needed prescriptions.
A gift of $250 can provide ten nights of safe, emergency shelter to two individuals who are homeless.
A gift of $500 can be the down payment for an apartment for a family in need.
A gift of $1,000 can help caseworkers assist guests in securing much-needed health insurance.

While Natilee and her mom have found a home, there are about 340 people experiencing homelessness on any given day in Monroe County: children, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, neighbors. They have names: Shawn, Candace, Isaac, Deidre, Randy, Bethany. Just like Natilee and Olivia, they can use your help.

Please make a donation to help people who need YOU right now by filling out the enclosed supporter card. Together, we can a light in the darkness for those in their time of need.

With your gift, Shalom can help our homeless guests find
their way home. Staff, volunteers, and supporters together can feed those seeking nourishment. We can (and do) make a difference in the lives of people struggling with poverty.

Shalom Community Center is the most comprehensive, solutions-based approach to addressing homelessness in Bloomington. But we only can do what we do because of YOU.

Because of supporters like you:

- Shalom helped find homes for 201 formerly homeless people through our Rapid Re-Housing program last year, including 149 people in families (88 children), providing more homes for homeless families that any other homeless services provider in Monroe County.

- Our Housing First/Crawford Homes program ended more than 500 years of collective homelessness for people with disabilities experiencing long-term homelessness, providing a warm home and a helping hand to 105 adults and children.

- Our day shelter serves 6,000 meals every month and our caseworkers provided 8,267 counseling sessions to people experiencing extreme poverty last year, 60% of whom were women and children.

- A Friend's Place, our overnight shelter, provided a safe and sober place to sleep for 202 people over 13,310 nights and moved 67% of our guests into permanent homes (the state average is 30%).

- In total, Shalom housed or prevented homelessness for 884 people in 2017.

No other homeless organization in our community has that kind of impact! And that’s what you get when you give to Shalom.

We are a local organization, tackling a local problem, for our neighbors and by our neighbors. We pay a living wage to all our employees, are audited every year to ensure our financial integrity, and spend 88 cents of every dollar you donate on direct services to the impoverished of our community, which is considered exceptional by charity watchdogs.

Please make a donation right now to help us continue to do this amazing work and more!! You can fill out the enclosed support card right now, because when you give to Shalom, you are guaranteed to make a difference.

Gratefully,

Forrest Gilmore,
Executive Director

P.S. What greater holiday gift could you give than food for those who are hungry and shelter for those without a home?!? Please write a check right now to make a difference in the lives of adults and children like Olivia and Natilee who would be lost without you.