When you become a monthly donor, your gift is combined with other monthly gifts to help provide Shalom with a steady and reliable stream of income that allows us to plan for a sustainable future.

For as little as $8/month, you can increase the power of your gift and put more of your dollars into Shalom programs such as A Friend’s Place, Rapid Re-Housing, guest daily personal services, Hunger Relief, effective case management, and so much more.

Contact Dorothy Granger at (812) 334-5734 x123 to discuss ways to increase the power of your gift.

You may also make a gift online with your credit card at: www.shalomcommunitycenter.org.

Please note that monthly contributions can be changed or stopped at any time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT YOUR $8.00 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:</th>
<th>WHAT YOUR $10.00 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:</th>
<th>WHAT YOUR $50.00 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:</th>
<th>WHAT YOUR $200.00 MONTHLY GIFT CAN PROVIDE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eight meals for our guests</td>
<td>ten meals for our guests</td>
<td>50 meals for our guests</td>
<td>200 meals for our guests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-or-</td>
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<tr>
<td>a combination lock for a guest staying at A Friend’s Place emergency shelter</td>
<td>a copy of a birth certificate for someone without ID</td>
<td>one month utilities for a newly-housed family</td>
<td>two weeks of emergency shelter for one adult</td>
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<td>-or-</td>
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<tr>
<td>bus tickets for a week’s worth of trips to work</td>
<td>a prescription for a much needed medicine</td>
<td>four nights of emergency shelter for one adult</td>
<td>annual health care premiums for 15 people</td>
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Shalom—For All Who Seek Home

Our Mission
Shalom Community Center is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to aiding and empowering people experiencing homelessness and poverty. As a home away from home for people who are living in poverty and experiencing its ultimate expressions, Shalom provides day and overnight shelter, hunger relief, life essentials, case management, street outreach, housing support, including Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing, employment assistance, and access to many government and social service agencies.

Our Vision
Shalom Community Center envisions a community that honors every person’s fundamental right to sustenance, a safe home, quality health care, and meaningful work.

To Contact Us:
PO Box 451/620 S Walnut St
Bloomington, IN 47402-0451
(812) 334-5734
shalom@shalomcommunitycenter.org
www.shalomcommunitycenter.org

Thomas “Crow” Blackburn with Crater (With gratitude to Jeremy Hogan and The Bloomingtonian for the photo.)

After the Fire
He came back to his camp to see it on fire. Living outside exposes people to many threats, but to see all that he had go literally up in flames was terrifying.

Thomas was most worried about his cat, Crater, who he had left behind in his tent. “[Crater is] is family... like one of my kids.”

When the firefighters brought Crater to him unharmed, he said, “I was happy. I was crying. You can see it in the picture. That’s what you call joyful.”

Thomas has been homeless for six years. A lifelong Hoosier, he was born at Fort Harrison to a military family and went to high school in Brown County.

He’s had a rough life. Born with Rubella, he suffered severe hearing loss and learning disabilities. To this day, he is unable to read.

As a preteen, he was repeatedly molested by his babysitter and two family members.

(continued on page 2)

Twenty Years and Counting...
I remember walking into Shalom my very first day over ten years ago. Recently hired as the Assistant Director, it was Martin Luther King Day. Felt auspicious.

But, I was nervous. I didn’t know what to do. I worried I wouldn’t fit in. I worried I wouldn’t know how to handle whatever came up.

I remember meeting Abraham, one of our guests and volunteers, sitting at the front desk. Warm. Friendly. He greeted me and took me under his wing.

It was not long before I found my way. Joel Rekas, the Executive Director at the time, told me they usually knew how new staff were going to do very quickly. I still remember that as we bring new staff on board at Shalom.

On January 18, I celebrated my tenth anniversary with Shalom, with almost nine as your Executive Director, following Joel’s retirement.

When I walk into Shalom, I don’t feel nervous anymore. But, I do feel other emotions.
Save the Date

Hunger Relief Campaign
February and March

Supporter Celebration and Annual Meeting
April 2, 5:15-7:00pm at Upland Brewpub

2nd annual Solidarity Sleepout to Benefit A Friend’s Place Shelter
May 1-2 (look for registration details online and in the mail)

10th Anniversary of the move to 620 S Walnut St
August 2nd, 5pm at Shalom Day Center

3rd annual Fireside Gala
Late October (look for ticket details online and in the mail)

Twenty Years and Counting (cont. from page one)

Sometimes, it’s hurt... the hurt of too many guests struggling with hunger, homelessness, and assaults on their dignity.

Sometimes, it’s joy... the celebration of a key to a new home... or a group laugh.

Sometimes, it’s anger... the anger of a person who has been pushed to the edge.

Sometimes, it’s compassion... the generosity of a person struggling with so much who offers to sweep up a mess or hold the hand of someone having a seizure... the kindness of a volunteer preparing a meal, offering a gentle word, or handing someone a toothbrush.

So often, it’s gratitude... the gratitude of this sacred ground and the lineage of supporters who have made it holy, acompañing so many people through the greatest struggles.

Always, it’s pride... I’m proud to be part of this amazing organization, which every day stands on the frontlines of poverty, offering compassion, dignity, support, and solutions to people who need us most.

On January 24, less than a week after my tenth year, Shalom celebrated its twentieth anniversary. I am reminded of that little room in the First United Methodist Church where Shalom started, serving coffee and donuts and providing phones and the newspaper.

Shalom began with a spark... a concern of compassion. Recognizing many people without homes had no place to go, so many people came together, including the our first President, the ever so tenacious Shirley St. John, to create this great service.

Having grown from that small room and one part-time employee to three centers of operation, thirty employees, and 1,500 volunteers a year, providing 80,000 meals, 14,000 shelter nights, and housing for hundreds could only be accomplished from the work of those brave souls who opened our doors that very first time.

We stand today on the foundation of giants.

And that same spark of compassion runs through us.

I am filled with gratitude.

I am in awe of what we have yet to accomplish together.

He’s been receiving Social Security disability benefits since he was 15 years old. Diagnosed with severe mental illness and suicidal ideation, he was hospitalized in his teens.

His struggles led to time in prison and he’s been homeless ever since his release.

Despite continuing to struggle with homelessness, Shalom’s services have meant a great deal to him.

“[Shalom] changed my attitude about life... I got a place where I can eat... take a shower, do laundry... It’s helped me be a better person. I have new friends. [Shalom] is family.”

When asked about his dreams for the future, he hopes for “a home for me and [my girlfriend], and hot meals every night. Watch TV together and lay on the couch together. I want to marry her.”

The outpouring of support to Thomas following the fire has been tremendous. Shalom helped him with a new sleeping bag and Centerstone helped him with a tent. The community rallied to help him with a hotel room, food for Crater, and a new pair of boots.

Our next step is get him back home again.

With parting words, he said, “The people [at Shalom] are good people... good hearts and good spirits... They’re angels in the skies.”

Shalom Community Center, Inc.—Dignity — Page 2

Twenty Years of Life-Changing Results

What started out as a room in the First United Methodist Church, where guests could get coffee and read the paper, has grown to an expansive resource of services and solutions for people experiencing hunger, homelessness, and extreme poverty.

Shalom Community Center is the area’s results-based organization providing needed services to help move people out of homelessness into homes of their own. Did you know Shalom operates a day shelter, seven days a week; the only non-religious overnight shelter in the area; A Friend’s Place; Crawford Homes and Johnson Homes that provide permanent, supportive housing to those who are chronically homeless with a disability; Rapid Re-Housing that prioritizes those living on the street and gets them into their own apartments? Your support over the past 20 years made all this possible!

A handful of faces of supporters of 20 years of Shalom...