“I think this is as close to Heaven as I’m going to get here on Earth.”
- Durrell Patton
(after moving into Shalom’s Crawford program)

We recently lost one of our most beloved guests and residents. Durrell Patton passed away over Thanksgiving weekend due to natural causes.

I’ve known Durrell for almost a decade. We’ve walked together through a lot of hardships. He struggled with health issues, mental health challenges, trauma, and substance use disorder.

He was also one of the friendliest people on earth with a wicked sense of humor. When he was around, we were always laughing.

One of our first residents in our Crawford Homes Housing First program, he went from experiencing long-term homelessness and moving in and out of jail to a person with a home, a job, and a decent quality of life.

A few years back, we had a meeting on the State of Homelessness in Bloomington, and Durrell spoke. It was in the Ballroom at our local Fountain Square Mall. He pointed beyond the large span of windows to the courthouse lawn outside and said, “I used to sleep right out there, right on that lawn.” And all two hundred of us in attendance, most with some wealth or privilege, sat in silence and awe. He was that kind of person.

Durrell recently joined Shalom’s Board and was so proud to be a part of giving back to an organization which gave him so much.

We deeply mourn the loss of Durrell, but we’re comforted knowing he passed with the dignity of a home and the love of a community. And with YOUR help, that’s what he hope to offer to others.

There are many people like Durrell aching for your support through the work of Shalom. Please make a donation right now by filling out the enclosed supporter card and an anonymous donor will DOUBLE your gift if you donate before the end of the year.

Blessings of the season to you,

Rev. Forrest Gilmore,
Executive Director