

## SHALOM's Next Steps: A Coffee Shop

At times God's leading requires a leap of faith. Or He may lead to the logical next step. SHALOM Coffee is a combination of both!

Opening a SHALOM coffee shop has been on the hearts of some staff, volunteers, and Participants in the SHALOM community for several years. Consistent with every area of the ministry, we strive to hold true to the mission of SHALOM: to enrich the lives of those we serve and to learn and grow together while living in community. The SHALOM coffee shop will continue the mission we've been given and will provide an additional window into the community!

The coffee shop will engage Participants, residents, and community friends working alongside volunteers and coaches. It will be a place to build life and work skills, create and nurture relationships, and it will provide a platform for our participants to shine brightly and reflect the love of Jesus to our community. We have talked, prayed, planned, and waited.

Every step taken, we look to God for his perfect timing, and we feel that God's

time is now. He has faithfully provided for and sustained the SHALOM ministry. The coffee shop will be an additional opportunity to serve those to whom we are called.

Please be in prayer for the SHALOM coffee shop as the board and many others continue to listen for God's lead in this vision. If you have a passion for coffee, a passion for people, or both, and are interested in joining us in this next adventure, please reach out to Kelly at [klewis@shalomkazoo.org](mailto:kewis@shalomkazoo.org).



SHALOM depends on the financial gifts of individuals, churches and civic organizations. We are a non-profit, 501c3, faith-based public charity. Please consider using the enclosed Gift Planning card to partner with SHALOM!



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Sara Collison, Pres; Gary Steensma, V. Pres.; Garry Walton, Clerk; Rod Rieth, Treas.; Cali Mohnney, Dee Crittenden, Robin Ipema, Patricia Pinkster; Keith Lohman, Lon Bouma, Exec. Director

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The SHALOM Network includes adult foster care homes, supported living homes, other adults with disabilities and our many partners in ministry of the same heart and purpose.

Self-Help Alternative Living, Inc.  
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"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." - Jesus, John 10:10

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# SHALOM!



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## A Good Run

by Keith Lohman, past Director

My wife will often ask me, "How was your run?" I usually say, "Good," and maybe add some explanation. I am generally a good runner, not the fastest, not the first, but pretty okay. I work at it. I enjoy it. It gives me resilience and energy. I plod along, like Forrest Gump, finding joy and purpose in the running. People followed him, and sometimes even me.

I began the run of Executive Director way back in January, 2007, part time. Wow. Fourteen years. I never meant for this to happen. Like Forrest Gump, "For no particular reason I just kept on going." I began running as Executive Director and just kept on going. Looking back, I see how God determined the route.

Unlike Forrest, *there was a particular reason to keep going each day* – the people, the ministry, the calling. It is a significant run, a race, not aimless.

How can I summarize 14 years with SHALOM? "I plodded along." There was always the next thing.

*There was always deep meaning to each conversation, each project, trip, activity and challenge.* Sometimes it was hard, even agonizing, like running hills. Then you get to the top and it levels out, catch your breath and just keep going.

The main story of SHALOM is in the day to day. It's the people. The community. The residents and Participants. If you knew what it was like in the long haul you would be jealous. This has been the best job and calling ever. More than that, it changed my life. It is life-giving. The people of SHALOM make it that way.

I rarely felt like the teacher, for I was always taught. When my patience ran out, others lent me theirs. When I thought I had vision, someone would say excitedly, "Hey, look at this!" When I tried to lead, I heard, "Hey, pastor, come here!" I listened. I plodded. There was always more to do than we could get done. More road to run. Another hill.

We ran together.

It all had such simple joy and steady purpose. Value others. Focus on

abilities. See what God put in our hands. Use that. Be broken together to find our wholeness together in Jesus. Run the race. Keep going. Plod faithfully.

I have no legacy except what we have together. It's who we are. Together we are SHALOM. We run together, plodding, striding, resting, running, tripping, getting up and living a full life, together.

Now I turn a corner. I step aside from the Executive Director path to run alongside as the property guy. I pass the baton of leadership. And I plod along and keep running. I just wanted a healthy transition to the right leader – to hand off the baton of leadership to a team player. God did that, too.

And He is not done!



Lon & Keith

*"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*  
Isaiah 40:30-31



## HOME!

by Lon Bouma, new Director

Eight years ago, I walked into the SHALOM Shepherd's Barn for the first time. I was immediately overwhelmed with one strong sensation. **I was HOME.** I had no idea what that meant, but I knew it was a good thing!

Since then, God has led me to become more involved with each passing year. Whether serving on the Land Management Team, Prayer and Worship Team, or serving with my family at Tuesday night dinners, I have so appreciated the welcoming spirit of the SHALOM community. SHALOM has truly been a place of healing, peace, and wholeness in my life.

As I recently reflected on Leviticus 26:10, "*You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new,*" I was reminded that our God is *abundant beyond measure.* Farmers know the only time *last year's* harvest would still be available at *this year's* harvest...is if God had blessed *abundantly!*

Serving as a hospice chaplain for the past ten years has been a tremendous blessing, and "my barn" was still full to overflowing as I served people facing the end of their lives on earth. When God made his calling clear, both through the SHALOM community, my family and friends, and in the secret place of my heart, I had to move out last year's harvest to *make room for the new.* SHALOM is the new!

It is a tremendous honor to serve as the next Director of SHALOM. I am so thankful to my good friend Keith Lohman for his friendship, leadership, and his example of leading as Jesus led - with a servant's heart. I have asked God for a double portion of His spirit, and I ask you to pray that God will help me serve SHALOM in the same spirit of servanthood. I am also grateful to the SHALOM board, Kelly Lewis, and the SHALOM coaches for their prayers, help, and partnership. Keith has always said, "*This is the best job in the world.*" Indeed, I think he may be right.

## Faithful Volunteers

Despite the pandemic and the many things that have been affected, SHALOM has accomplished so much. This happens only in the Lord's strength.

God has provided for every need and what He has provided is a wonderful, faithful, loving community that supports and lifts up the ministry. SHALOM has volunteers who faithfully serve in so many capacities.

Phil Vlietstra has been involved in the SHALOM ministry for more than 12 years, serving in several different capacities including as board president.



Phil does a bit of everything at SHALOM! He mows, does maintenance and building projects, makes delicious maple syrup from SHALOM sap, and for several years he and his wife cooked the SHALOM monthly meal, which served the entire SHALOM Network!

Despite challenging times, including this last year of the pandemic, Phil has always stayed connected to SHALOM. Phil is a faithful friend to us all and we are beyond thankful to have Phil as our brother in Christ.



## Meet the People of SHALOM

Calvin has a kind heart and a warm smile! One Participant recently told me Calvin is a like a brother to her. Calvin expressed that since coming to SHALOM, he has grown in his relationships and getting along with others. Calvin is always ready and willing to lend a helping hand, especially when it comes to heavy lifting or any grilling that needs to be done!

Calvin has lived in a SHALOM Network home for 13 years and during that time has been involved in farm activities, the SHALOM Woolery, The Connection Depot thrift store, and almost every other SHALOM activity! He will often play drums for SHALOM worship.



Calvin loves giving tours and sharing with visitors about SHALOM. He is anxious for our community tours to resume! Calvin also works at a local movie theatre and he loves to cook! Ask him about his specialty dish, Lasagna meat-loaf. It's delicious!!

During a year when many things were put on hold, Calvin's talents and skills blossomed. Calvin is a skilled wood burner, so much so that he has been able to start a mini-venture creating and selling his wood burning projects. He even takes special orders! He takes pride in what he does and has shown enthusiasm and motivation to take on more challenging designs.

Calvin's next goal is to display and sell his wood burnings at businesses in downtown Kalamazoo. He also dreams of wood burning the sign for our SHALOM coffee shop. Please be in prayer for Calvin as he presses forward towards his goals and dreams!



## SHALOM Connection Depot Thrift Store

The Connection Depot is SHALOM's thrift store filled with many treasures. There are treasured items and then there are the people, the true treasures! Volunteers, Participants, staff, and customers make the Connection Depot an awesome place to shop!

The Connection Depot will be celebrating its 11th anniversary this July and it continues to grow and thrive!

The store provides an opportunity for Participants and residents to serve with the added blessing of interacting with other volunteers and customers. Coaches work alongside Participants to assist with sorting and hanging clothes, putting items out for sale, tidying up the store, and helping the cashier bag items.

Participants love to give back and do an awesome job of helping customers with bags and holding the door open.

The Connection Depot store coordi-

nator, Andie Lohman, started her volunteer position in 2018. Since then she has cleaned, organized, and put into place procedures which help the store run more smoothly and efficiently. She also takes the time to make customers feel welcome and taken care of. When someone is searching for a certain item, she does her best to help them find it!

SHALOM volunteers are an important part of the Connection Depot. They are wonderful people who faithfully serve in the store and are vital to the ongoing success of this ministry.

The Connection Depot is located in SHALOM's Shepherd's Barn at 6276 N Riverview Dr.

It is open Fridays and Saturdays, 9-3 (closed weekends of major holidays). If you are looking for treasures or if you just need a friendly smile or conversation to brighten your day, stop in!



## GIFT REMEMBRANCES

November 17, 2020 - April 15, 2021

**Memory of Hope Barker**  
Kevin & JoAnn Barker

**Memory of Stanley Barker**  
Kevin & JoAnn Barker

**Memory of Jerry Bond**  
Barry & Kathy Bond

**Memory of Mark Brown**  
Joyce McNally

**Memory of Edward Burkett**  
James and Dianna Devisser

**Memory of Sylvia Bussema**  
Robert & Diana Dekker  
Keith & Andie Lohman  
David & Larie Person

**Memory of Daniel Christian, M.D.**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Glen Collison**  
Dean & Cynthia Blanchard  
Allen & Norma Collison  
Donna & Jim Hansen  
Linda Hinds  
Patrick & Cathy Ober  
Doc & Julie Stevens  
Duane & Marilyn Wallace

**Memory of Logan Collison**  
Sara Collison  
Dee Crittenden  
D. Rosalind Epstein-Wolhowe  
Robert & Janet Garcia  
Jim & Donna Hansen  
The Homestead  
William & Terri Veldman  
Duane & Marilyn Wallace  
Robert & Carolyn Walton

**Honor of Sara Collison**  
Doc & Julie Stevens  
Duane & Marilyn Wallace

**Memory of Lamoine Curtis**  
Merton & Phyllis Norman

**Memory of Brigid Davidson**  
Timothy & Sally Vincent

**Memory of Ron Denardo**  
Ethlynn Dewitt

**Memory of Carol Dexter**  
Tom Dexter

**Memory of The Doorns**  
Linda Hinds

**Memory of Ester Drenth**  
Elta Shoemaker

**Memory of Dan Eager**  
Paul Bosker

**Honor of Jerry Gass**  
Sharon Gass

**Memory of Cecelia Gerhart**  
Arthur Gerhart  
Jim & Sue Lewis

**Honor of Homestead**  
Ethlynn Dewitt

**Honor of House Parents in SHALOM Network**  
David & Deanna Lingg

**Memory of Keith Lewis**  
Carla Lewis  
Sue Miller

**Memory of Dr. John Lindamood**  
Merton & Phyllis Norman

**Memory of Sid Longjohn**  
Merton & Phyllis Norman

**Memory of Elizabeth Luft**  
Cindy Forshee

**Memory of Grandma Marie**  
Barry & Kathy Bond

**Memory of Johanna M. Mejeur**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Cheri Meulendyk**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of The Nicholsons**  
Linda Hinds

**Memory of Celia H. Norden**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of John Oosterbaan, Jr.**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of John C. Pike**  
Beverly Pike

**Memory of David Scheffers**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of James (Jim) Shank**  
James & Sidney Shank

**Memory of Charles Shoemaker**  
Elta Shoemaker

**Honor of Special Olympic Athletes at SHALOM**  
Ethlynn Dewitt

**Memory of Cec Spitters**  
Alan Spitters

**Memory of Sheri Stiger**  
Beverly Pike

**Memory of Garrett H. Stoutmeyer**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Dianna VanBuren**  
Michael VanBuren

**Memory of John J. Vanderploeg**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Evelyn VanDonselaar**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Lois Van Fleet**  
Patricia Gearhart

**Memory of Joanne Viel**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Doris R. Vlietstra**  
Paul Bosker

**Memory of Hollis Vlietstra**  
Paul Bosker

**Honor of Garry Walton**  
Anonymous

**Memory of Jack Welborn**  
Sara Collison  
The Homestead  
Doc & Julie Stevens

**Honor of Greg Westra**  
Pat Pinkster

**Memory of John Westra**  
Pat Pinkster

**Memory of Giles & Mary Wright**  
Kevin & JoAnn Barker

THANK YOU FOR THESE GIFTS OF LOVE GIVEN ON BEHALF OF THESE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE!

## SHALOM Woolery Barn Ready, Set, Move In!

We are so close to moving into the new SHALOM Woolery Barn – we can smell it! At least that smell is new carpet and not barn manure! We broke ground in October, 2019. Can we move in this June, 2021? We think so!

Everyone is so excited! Although there are important tasks to complete, and contractor schedules to mesh, we are making steady progress with the end in view. What is left to be done? Things like deck railings, concrete side-

walks, final parking lot excavation, asphalt and light poles, kitchen cabinets, shelves and storage carts. A little touch up paint, a big cleaning – and there you go – one SHALOM Woolery Sheep Barn, complete and ready for LIFE!

When will we have an open house? First, we want to get moved in and settled. Mess it up a little, make it look lived in. So we hope to have a community open house, dedication and thank you this fall. Watch for the dates!

God has truly shown His goodness, provision and protection throughout this project. This is God's building, God's ministry, God's project, for His glory!

We believe this place will have a community-wide impact as we grow in the wholeness of Jesus together at the SHALOM Woolery.

The purpose of the SHALOM Woolery is to grow in the wholeness of Jesus physically, emotionally, relationally, mentally and spiritually in the context of meaningful work, through a cooperative Team approach! Go Team!

Thank you, community. God has used you to make a prayer in 1990, and a vision in 2012 a reality in 2021 and beyond! "Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!" We DID, and we DO!