

QR CODE

Easy peasy giving!

You may have noticed a QR code on the donation buckets and near the cash register at the Farm Days event this year.

What is a QR code? Simply, it is a convenient way to donate to SHALOM with your smart phone!

Scan the code below with the camera on your phone and tap the link. Then you can type in your credit card information to give, or you can sign into your PayPal account and follow the steps.

This is a secure process so have no fear...*give to your heart's content!*

Please contact Lon at the SHALOM office with questions.



FARM DAYS 2022

In September we celebrated our annual SHALOM Farm Days open house, the largest to date. We estimate over 900 people attended the two day event!

Eager guests began arriving *before* our planned start time. Our three main areas, the SHALOM Farm, SHALOM Woolery, and the Pavilion, were on full display.

Guests enjoyed face painting, pumpkin painting, goat walking, cider making, SHALOM Woolery sales, creative projects, tours, coffee, *Karen's Wonderful Cookies*, popcorn, hot dogs, donuts, trails rides, yard games, bounce house and live music!

Special thanks to our community partners who empowered this awesome event: Gull Meadow Farms, T&L Inflatables, Meijer on Gull Road, Harding's in Parchment, Wasepi Bluegrass Band, Luke Lenhart and the Green Valley Boys, John Thorn, Kurt and Jennifer Schmitt, Noah's Ahhsome Party Rentals, and Sportel's Greenhouses.



We are so grateful to our generous community partners, faithful donor base, dedicated volunteers, staff, Participants, and most of all our Shepherd, Jesus! We pray the many seeds planted will grow!



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 QR CODE or the enclosed Gift Planning card to partner with SHALOM!

Board of Directors

Gary Steensma, Pres; Garry Walton, Clerk; Barb Patterson, Treas; Michelle Baird, Janan Zimmerman, Robin Ipema, Patricia Pinkster, Keith Lohman; STAFF: Lon Bouma, Exec. Director; Kelly Lewis, Enrichment Coordinator

SHALOM! is published to keep our support base informed of blessings and opportunities for ministry. To add or remove your name from the mailing list, please write SHALOM, P.O. Box 265, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 or call 269-382-3840 or e-mail at shalomkazoo@aol.com.

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
Opportunities of Michigan, Inc.
PO Box 265
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-382-3840

We are so
THANKFUL FOR YOU!



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SHALOM!



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volume 31 issue 3

RESIDENT PERSPECTIVE

Josh is a SHALOM network resident and a Participant in the SHALOM Woolery. He works at the Woolery regularly and attends many other SHALOM activities. He was even baptized during one of SHALOM's worship services.

Josh actively engages, contributes, and brings joy to the SHALOM community and to the body of Christ.

I talked with Josh about what brought him to SHALOM and his experiences.



"I was at a very low point and a tumultuous time in my life, even hospitalized. What I needed was to be around people. Before, I had lived

alone without any social life, no sense of purpose. My mom was told about SHALOM and then I moved into a SHALOM independent supported living home.

"After moving and becoming part of SHALOM, I became more engaged in life. I discovered I needed to make choices and began to have a sense of duty. A duty to not only keep myself alive, but to grow into the best person I can be.

"That is a process. We need each other, we need to be able to rely on each other. I now know I must have a connection with the divine.

"My relationship with Jesus came about when I was at the end of my resources. My heart was hard, and I realized I had to open my heart, or I would die. You must open your heart to others, or even if you are in a community, you will feel alone.

"A community is a team. We're designed to serve each other and lift each other up. Consequently, I have been granted tremendous wisdom to help the people around me. I am living for the first time in my life!

"Like a tree in the woods standing alone, we get buffeted by the hardships and strains of life and a tree is supposed

to be part of a forest, like we are supposed to be part of a community.

"I think SHALOM has a wonderful mission. I truly believe those with disabilities are far more capable than they even realize. We have so much potential, whether disabled or not. I had the wrong impression of Christianity. I was too caught up in the religious part of it.

"Now I know He is the best guiding star we will ever have. He is like a gardener, creating the best conditions for us to grow, into the best version of ourselves, so we can accomplish our goals and dreams and His will for our life."

Profound words from someone who is filled with the Spirit and who's life has been changed dramatically from receiving Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Thank you, Josh, for sharing your powerful testimony and joining SHALOM in the mission God has given us!



BLESSINGS ABOUND!

Dianne Gill has been a faithful volunteer at SHALOM for several years. She approached me some months ago about a project that a group of ladies (including herself) from her church had started working on to bless SHALOM residents.

I had no idea what a blessing this gift would be!

On Sunday, November 7th, SHALOM residents gathered and the ladies from *Hearts to Hands* ministry of Second Reformed Church, presented beautiful hand made quilts that were individualized for each resident. Each quilt had a handmade name tag which highlighted qualities of that specific resident.

They had been working on these quilts for a year and a half! We were overwhelmed!

These ladies blessed the people of SHALOM more than they will know. And even more, earlier that day each quilt had been laid over a pew and prayed for during their worship. Each SHALOM resident was prayed for!! Wow!

Thank you, Dianne and *Heart to Hands* for allowing God to work mightily through you! Thank you for serving and sacrificing your time to bless the people of SHALOM.



SHALOM COFFEE!

SHALOM is making great strides toward opening our coffee shop at the SHALOM Shepherd's Barn. The purpose of *SHALOM Coffee!* is to provide a new work experience for adults living with developmental disabilities.

SHALOM enriches the lives of adults living with developmental disabilities through the love and wholeness (shalom) of Jesus Christ.

SHALOM Coffee will serve specialty coffees, espresso, tea, hot chocolate, smoothies, *Karen's Wonderful Cookies*, and "*a whole lot of Jesus!*" We will expand from there!

This vision has been brewing for six years! Kelly Lewis is our visionary leader, trainer, and coffee shop manager, having been credentialed by Kalamazoo County Health Department as *SafeServe* certified. We have partnered with Foster Coffee as our supplier, equipment advisor and training resource.

There will be community volunteers, certainly. But the focus is giving Participants, adults living with developmental disabilities, a chance to grow in real life work experiences and rub shoulders with the community. The kitchen will be licensed for baking, giving Karen a new home base for her secret recipes for *Karen's Wonderful Cookies*.

Rough-in inspections are completed for framing, plumbing, electrical and HVAC.

A custom live-edge slab wood countertop is being crafted by David Lewis from *Figures of Wood*. Equipment is arriving and is ready for installation – coffee brewer, espresso machine, ice machine and sink. We've installed a unique ceiling in the seating area, *Sara's Porch*, along with more windows, a variety of seating options and charging outlets.

When will we open? The best guess is **WHEN THE DUST SETTLES**. (Shhhh, we hope sometime in January!)

It will be open the same hours as the SHALOM Connection Depot Thrift Store, F – S, 9-3 (closed major holiday weekends). Stay tuned!



CARE PROVIDER HIGHLIGHT

Ryan Smit is the care provider at Three Pines, the two-story brick house in front of the Shepherd's Barn. Three Pines is a supported living home for four men. Ryan became the care provider in 2017.

When asked what the most challenging part of being a care provider is, Ryan did not hesitate: "*Balancing the daily aspects of life and the relationships in the home.*"

The most rewarding part is when he and the residents are working together. "*It's like directing an orchestra. When disharmony exists, things don't sound very good. But then you get those moments when all is beautiful.*"



Living in a SHALOM home is like living with *family*. When asked for a prayer request Ryan said it simply, "*Patience.*"

Fun facts about Ryan are that he serves as a coach at the SHALOM Woolery two days per week, and as a youth Ryan learned the accordion from none other than Glen Collison! Ask him about it next time you see him. He will share about his deep roots with SHALOM.

SHALOM WOOLERY WOODWORKING COACH

God knows our needs before we ask him. God also knows what we are going to need before we do!

Participants began showing increased interest in woodworking as soon as we moved to the new SHALOM Woolery Barn in 2021.

While our staff and faithful volunteers did their best to assist and empower Participants with the projects they wanted to make, it became clear we needed a lead person to manage the people and projects. We also needed to complete and implement our safety protocol.

As it turns out God had the perfect person and the perfect timing. Wayne Hayward had the expertise, background, and



VOLUNTEER SERVICE TEAMS

There is *always* something that needs to be done at SHALOM. Praise God for our wonderful service team partners who regularly volunteer to help SHALOM with projects! Whether it is a team from your church, work, or just a group of friends, SHALOM is happy to partner with you to bless the people we serve.

In the past year, The Bridge Church served twice, and groups from Stryker and Westwood CRC each served once.

We completed many projects such as clearing brush and cutting wood around the Pavilion area, splitting and stacking wood to burn for maple syrup in the spring, painting walls and landscaping at SHALOM residential homes, building a sheep shelter, removing old fenceposts and cutting down old apple trees to make room for additional Farm Days parking.

The DNA of SHALOM is that *we do things together*. All service teams include SHALOM staff, residents, and service team members.

If you would like to serve, please contact the SHALOM office at 269-382-3840 or email shalomkazoo@aol.com. You may leave wondering who was blessed more, SHALOM...or you!



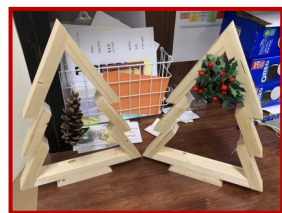
vision to become the first SHALOM Woolery Woodworking Coach.

Following his recent retirement from the Department of Defense, he was so excited to get started working with Participants that he *volunteered for a month* prior to being hired!

Wayne has made an immediate impact, developing a thorough safety protocol and training each Participant so they are ready to work safely with tools.

His product ideas are fun and awesome! He has been able to quickly teach Participants how to make items they are proud to sell for SHALOM.

Come to the SHALOM Bazaar on Dec. 1 from 11:00am -1:30pm to meet our wonderful Participants and see the products they made with Wayne!



GIFT REMEMBRANCES June 22, 2022—November 4, 2022

Memory of Jean Ackley

Gary & Nancy Ausema
Timothy & Debra Bickings
Richard & Terri Chambers
Dennis & Shirlee Gernaat
Keith & Andie Lohman
Anita Ollila
Lynne & Lee Scheffers

Honor of Aktion Club

Arthur Roberts & Betty Lujan-Roberts

Memory of Robert L. Allison

The Bernard Family
The Hart Family
The Miller Family

Memory of Marv Bliss

Merton & Phyllis Norman

Honor of Tim Bond

Debbie Frye

Memory of John M. Booden

Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

Honor of Lon Bouma

Peter & Marilyn Cake

Memory of Ed Burkett

James & Deanna Devisser

Memory of Pamela Chapman

David & Deanna Lingg

Memory of Glen & Sara Collison

Keith & Andie Lohman
James & Marilyn Sadler
Doc & Julie Stevens
Donald & Genevieve Veldt

Memory of Logan Collison

Larry & Carol Svendsen

Memory of John & Joan Drenth

David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Donald Elzinga

Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

Memory of Bill & Louise Fisk

David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Glen & Jennie Fisk

David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Mike Gildea

David & Deanna Lingg

Memory of Jim A. Hansen

Donna Hansen

Honor of Tom & Julie Hermenitt

David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Robert & Charlotte Koestner

Thomas L. & Priscilla M. Swiat, Jr.

Honor of Kelly Lewis

Peter & Marilyn Cake

Memory of Rev. Cecil Martens

David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of Stefan Piller

Kenneth & Barbara Dyk

Memory of Richard Slagell

Benjamin & Lynette Demink
Evelyn Erschen
Sue Essar

Mark & Deborah Fisher

Ronald & Deborah Kindel

Jennifer & David LeBlanc

Keith & Andie Lohman

Oral & Judy Mathison

Patricia Newcombe

Anita Ollila

Don Slabaugh

Irene Stearns

H. Raymond Vinstra

Jeffery & Mary Kay White

Eldon & Ann Whitford

Glenn & Judith Wolter

Memory of Cecile Spitters

Keith & Andie Lohman

Honor of Julie Stevens

Doc Stevens

Memory of Midge Sweeney

William & Terri Veldman

Memory of Thomas & Jetta Swiat

Thomas L. & Priscilla M. Swiat, Jr.

Memory of Sharon Terpstra

Robert & Beverly Gabel

Memory of Roger H. Tuinstra

Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

Memory of Ronald L. VanderLugt M.D.

Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra (Bosker)

Memory of Mike Weiser

Benjamin & Lynnette Demink

Honor of Greg Westra

Pat Pinkster

Memory of John Westra

Pat Pinkster

Memory of Thomas Worden Geer

George & Gladys Manley

Memory of Barbara Zoutman

Tom & Kathy VanDaff

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

SPONSORS WANTED!

Did you know not all SHALOM Woolery Participants are currently funded?

In the past, we have relied solely on funding from ISK (Integrated Services of Kalamazoo), which is Kalamazoo County's mental health agency. But even if a SHALOM resident did *not* qualify for funding, they were still allowed to come to the Woolery.

Since moving to the new SHALOM Woolery building, we have experienced rapid growth! Praise God that we can serve



many more people! However, with an ever-growing daily census, we have also needed to keep pace with our coaching staff.

A 6 to 1 Participant to coach ratio has proven to be healthy for staff *and* Participants.

As such, it is necessary to think creatively about funding for those *not* eligible for funding through ISK. That is where the idea of *sponsorship* comes in. It costs about \$25 to attend the SHALOM Woolery for one day.

For \$1300, you can sponsor a Participant to attend one day per week for one full year. For \$5200, a Participant would be sponsored to attend Monday through Thursday for a full year.

While that is certainly a lot of money for most people, we wonder if families and friends would consider joining forces to sponsor Participants for such a worthy cause?

Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring a Participant to come to the SHALOM Woolery?

