

Life at the New SHALOM Woolery Sheep Barn

The past year and a half has been a time of transitions. Of course, the pandemic was a time of adaptation, but SHALOM also experienced two other significant changes.

In April, SHALOM welcomed our new Executive Director, Pastor Lon Bouma. Then in July we experienced another exciting transition when we moved the SHALOM Woolery into our beautiful new building! Staff, volunteers, and participants worked together to move MANY supplies, looms, wool pro-

cessing machines and a workshop into our new building.

Our new space is filled with wonderful natural light and a beautiful kitchen. There, Participants help prepare lunchtime treats with bounty from the garden. The upper and lower levels are spaces where new activities can be explored.

But best of all the building is now filled with wonderful people who have been waiting patiently to gather and work together.

To say we are blessed doesn't fully describe how we feel about our new building. It is one of those gifts that almost leaves you speechless. To think about the countless hours that staff and so many volunteers put in to make



this building a reality is quite overwhelming. SO much was donated! So many prayers and words of encouragement!

I love to think about Sara and Glen praying by the oak tree, now called the Prayer Tree. Sara tells us that they prayed many years ago that a barn would become a reality here.

God has been so faithful to SHALOM!

Thank you for being part of the SHALOM family. Thank you for pouring your love, prayers, and support into the mission and the people of SHALOM.

Board of Directors

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



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!



Assisting adults with disabilities to find new abilities in the context of Christian family.

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



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!



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SHALOM!



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OCCUPIED!

The new Barn is occupied! Better still, 44 Participants, 13 volunteers and six coaches – are all occupied within!

July 5, 2021 was the day we moved, and moved, and moved. It was a day that lasted a week, but began many years ago.

Circa 1991 – Glen and Sara Collison pray under the oak tree, located to the east of the new Barn. “What kind of barn should be built on this land, Lord?” Did you know that we plan to build a retaining wall and patio around this same oak tree, calling it the Prayer Tree Patio?

January, 2012 – Glen Collison went home to glory. Glen was an entrepreneur farmer who loved sheep, wool products and the Lord. Upon his passing, we began exploring how SHALOM might use the farm and wool for meaningful work in our mission. Eventually the sheep, farm and machines were funded and purchased. Jesus said, “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:24

April, 2012 – Sara, Ryan and Keith attended training at a wool mill in Ohio on how to run and maintain wool machines. The number one priority of that wool mill was not making money, but making disciples. This is still the number one priority of the SHALOM Woolery.



October, 2012 – the SHALOM Woolery is born! We had six original Participants, one volunteer and one staff. We learned the delight of working together. This is the first month the vision of a

SHALOM Woolery Barn appears in the board minutes! Our crazy thoughts were occupied by God. “What would God do if we built a Barn?”

November, 2014 – Funding received from an anonymous donor allowed SHALOM to purchase the property where the new Barn sits.

2015 – 2018 – The board spent several years considering what a SHALOM Woolery Barn would look like. Meanwhile, the SHALOM Woolery flourished with funding, Participants, volunteers and coaches! We expanded from meeting two days a week, to three, then four! We were at capacity in the Shepherd's Barn and still more people wanted to be a part.



January, 2019 – How do you raise money for such a project? What was in our hand? We had about \$30,000 for the building, and our Executive Director who had a builder's license. So basically we had five loaves and two fish. “Let's build it ourselves” became a reality—with God and His people! An anonymous donor thought this was a great idea and provided more seed money.

September, 2019 The bulldozer came. Then the foundation contractor and plumber. Volunteers showed up to help! We dedicated the ground and project as a SHALOM community. The Participants themselves raised \$1000!

October, 2019 We hosted a fund raising dinner and a couple days later we had Farm Days. People gave, and pledged, and signed some building studs to show their support. Did you know that these studs are in the wall to the left as you enter the front doors? We committed to *Dig Deep, Aim*

Farm Days Open House!

Sat. & Sun. Oct. 9-10

2-5 pm

3191 Van Buren St.

FREE! See Insert!

High and Build Together! God smiled.

January, 2020 We completed the main floor decking just as the snow began to fall, and put the project to bed for the winter. The Participants raised an additional \$4,000! Cold, covid winds began to blow..., and that month the building was fully funded!

Want to hear more God stories? Come to the Farm Days open house. Tour the Barn that God built alongside His community! Better still, come meet the many people OCCUPIED there!

Dedication

Sunday, October 10, 5:00 pm

3191 Van Buren St.

Being fully occupied, the Innkeeper said, “I have a barn out back, if that'll help...”

And the Barn was occupied by Jesus. And it is so!

Join with the SHALOM community as we dedicate the SHALOM Woolery Sheep Barn to the Good Shepherd Who calls us to occupy this space with Him!

Dedication will take place Sunday, October 10, 5:00 pm, in front of the Barn at 3191 Van Buren St., Kalamazoo.

It's who we are. “Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 100:3

SHALOM Woolery Sheep Barn
- where the Sheep hang out!

Volunteer of the Month

SHALOM exists to enrich the lives of adults living with disabilities. We can engage in this mission because of the awesome volunteers who have come alongside to serve. SHALOM is volunteer driven. Volunteers are an integral part of the SHALOM network.

When planning the move into our new SHALOM Woolery building, we wanted to find a way to honor our incredible volunteers and show how much we appreciate all that they do. A “Volunteer of the Month” board was created and placed at the main entrance of the SHALOM Woolery Barn so everyone who comes in could learn more about our volunteers.

Lori Lewis was our very first

“Volunteer of the Month”! Lori serves every week faithfully and attends many other SHALOM activities.

She brings a sense of peace and calm to a busy and sometimes hectic day and is willing to jump in for a variety of different activities. Weaving on the loom is often possible because Lori has spent extra time at home sewing material together for participants to make rugs and place-mats.

Lori is a wonderful friend to SHALOM and we are thankful for her!



Through Volunteer Eyes - Sarita Sparks

Every Thursday I get to hang out with some very cool friends at the SHALOM Woolery. We work on projects, laugh, listen to music, talk, and pray. You should hear their prayers, popping like popcorn, so real and authentic. They pray for their SHALOM homes, house parents, the country, the world, the coaches, and other things that are important to them.

My friends and I like to talk. I may hear the same story a couple of times, but there are also so many new stories and so much to share.

It is so worth it! Volunteering at the SHALOM Woolery is such a great time and blessing to me. How did I get here? Why would I want to do this?

Over a year ago when the Connection Depot Thrift Store and the SHALOM Woolery were in the same building, I helped sort donations with Andie Lohman, and really enjoyed this time. When sorting, I would see the Participants, so of course I would stop and visit for a bit.

I went home one day and said, “Why don’t I spend more time with my friends at SHALOM?” I knew many of them from when we were at Haven Church, so that made it easier. I talked to Kelly, and she said, “Of course you can come!” I did just that.....and I got hooked!

Andie had asked if I had any interest in working the cash register at the store. I really didn’t think so. It had been a long time since I worked in retail. I thought to myself, “I am sorting and now hanging out with my new friends, that is enough.” But I felt a nudge, so I gave it a try and it was fun! I want to continue helping at the store and the SHALOM Woolery with the Participants, as long as God calls me there.



Welcome to SHALOM

Stephanie took a tour of SHALOM on a Friday and immediately felt it was where she should be. Working together with Stephanie and her support system, she moved into a SHALOM residence very shortly after her initial visit. When I asked Stephanie how she knew SHALOM was the place she should move, Stephanie told me “God brought me here” and she was drawn to SHALOM because “I can see people believe in God and have God in them.”

Stephanie is the newest resident and Participant at SHALOM. She is spunky, full of joy, and has quickly become a good friend to many in the SHALOM network. She loves to serve and can frequently be found in the kitchen helping a coach with cooking activities.

Stephanie loves having her freedom and being around people that love her. She feels she is a part of something at SHALOM.

With energy and enthusiasm, Stephanie says, “I’m having a blast. I’m going to the top and never going to stop!” I love her spirit!

Welcome to the SHALOM family, Steph!



GIFT REMEMBRANCES

April 16th, 2021– August 31, 2021

Honor of Aktion Club
Arthur Roberts & Betty Lujan-Roberts

Honor of Kevin & JoAnn Barker
Anonymous

Honor of Brian & Tara Behrman
Sara Collison

Memory of Pauline Boball
Patrick Stafford

Memory of John & Joan Bretz
Jan S. Boynton

Honor of Calvin
Ethlynn Dewitt

Memory of Glen Collison
Patrick & Cathy Ober
James & Marilyn Sadler

Memory of Bill De Blecourt
Robert & Beverly Gabel

Memory of Robert Dukeman
Joann Dukeman

Memory of Cecelia Gerhart
Arthur Gerhart

Memory of Lela “Yvonne” Haywood
Penny Bohn

Memory of Daniel Peter Hendriksen, Sr.
Paul Bosker

Memory of Keith Hill
Elta Shoemaker

Memory of Mildred Ann Horton
George & Gladys Manley

Honor of Layla Jabboori
Elizabeth Dykhouse

Memory of Ron McLain
Marvin & Ebelina King

Memory of Bob Miles
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Memory of Rich Modderman
Paul Bosker

Memory of Steve Pavey
Robert & Carolyn Walton

Memory of John C. Pike
Beverly Pike

Memory of Cheri Priddy
Bill & Rhonda Louallen

Memory of Charles Shoemaker
Elta Shoemaker

Memory of Gleola Sies
Lou & Sharon Terpstra

Memory of Sue Smith
Lou & Sharon Terpstra

Honor of Special Olympic Athletes
Ethlynn Dewitt

Memory of Cecile Spitters
Alan Spitters

Honor of Julie Stevens
Doc Stevens

Memory of Sheri Stiger
Beverly Pike

Memory of Robert G. Stickland
Paul Bosker

Memory of Lee Sy
The Homestead

Memory of Glen W. Terborg
Paul Bosker

Memory of David C. Timmer
Paul Bosker

Memory of Pete Veldt
Donald & Genevieve Veldt

Memory of Hollis Vlietstra
Gwendolyn Vlietstra

Honor of Volunteers
Ethlynn Dewitt

Memory of Carol Wagner-Sopjes
Paul Bosker

Memory of Amelia Wilhelm
Layla Jabboori

Memory of Nancy Youngblood
Sara Collison
The Homestead
Doc & Julie Stevens

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

SHALOM SUMMER

Summer 2021 has been a full one at SHALOM! Along with our big move into the SHALOM Woolery Sheep Barn, we have spent lots of time outside tending to the SHALOM garden, cleaning up the farm, and returning to some greatly missed summer activities.

SHALOM had its 2nd annual “SHALOM Olympics” with games and sports for SHALOM Participants to engage in. It was an awesome and hot day with lots of activity, cheering, and water to cool off.

We attended a Kalamazoo Growlers game, a favorite outing for many residents. Although the game ended up shortened due to rain, we made the best of it and enjoyed the buffet and hanging

out with our friends while we tried to stay dry.

In July, several Participants and volunteers were able to make connections in the community by having a booth at the Kindleberger Craft Show in Parchment. What a fun day! We had beautiful items to sell and a chance to tell so many people in the community about SHALOM!

We have always appreciated our bountiful garden, but this summer it has reached a whole new

level! Thanks to our wonderful garden coach, Sue, we have spent time in the

kitchen almost daily using fresh veggies and making creations for all to share at lunch. Yum! This time has also created another opportunity to reflect on God’s creation and how we can nourish the bodies God has given us with the wonderful produce He created.

Each day is full of teaching and learning moments for us all, as we grow in wholeness through Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Lord, for SHALOM’s beautiful farm and garden.

