

Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!

Campaign to build the SHALOM Woolery is set for ground-breaking! Will you invest?

Mural to honor donors!

An indoor wall space will honor donors giving toward the SHALOM Woolery campaign. The mural will be a farm scene with animals and objects added according to the level of giving. Donors can choose to have their own name engraved, or "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" someone, or simply to leave it blank as an anonymous gift.

The animal or object will be added to our farm mural on display in the new building!

When giving a gift designated to the SHALOM Woolery building, please clearly indicate how to word the engraving.

Will you consider investing to Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together?

\$50-\$100	Chicken or Sunflower
\$101-\$250	Rabbit
\$251-\$500	Goat
\$501-\$750	Sheep
\$751-\$1000	Alpaca
\$1001-\$2500	Silo
\$2501-\$5000	Tractor
\$5001-\$10,000	Farm Windmill
\$10,001 & up	Barn



What is in Your Hand?

As the little boy brought five loaves and two fish to Jesus (John 6:1-13), what will God do with little or much?

We intend to not go into debt to build the new SHALOM Woolery building. Rather, we will owe a huge debt of gratitude to God and all those who join to Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!

We hope you will consider investing! (See stories this issue!)

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!

Board of Directors

Sara Collison, President; Gary Steensma, V. Pres.; Garry Walton, Clerk; Rod Rieth, Treasurer; Dee Crittenden, Robin Ipema, Patricia Pinkster, Keith Lohman, Executive Director, Phil Vlietstra director emeritus

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



March 2019 NEWSLETTER volume 25 issue 1

Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!

SHALOM Woolery Building FUNd Campaign Continues!

One third of the funds is in hand! We break ground this spring! Why call it a FUNd Campaign? It is FUNd raising when God supplies!

Will you invest to enrich the lives of adults living with disabilities? The wholeness of Jesus is being shared in our work environment!

FUNd Facts at a Glance!

- ◆ Groundbreaking this spring!
- ◆ Building in stages as God supplies;
- ◆ Overall target is \$520,000;
- ◆ Nearly 1/3 of the needed funds is in hand (\$165,000);
- ◆ We begin with what we have in hand.

The SHALOM Woolery currently meets in the Shepherd's Barn, but we have run out of room to grow. Forty-five different participants enjoy the benefits throughout the week, with 26 average each day (some attend just one, two or three days per week). Ten volunteers and five coaches give support and direction. In 2018 we accounted for 4,993 Participant days attended! "...but we have run out of room to grow..."

Our immediate community-wide goal is to secure an additional 1/3 of the funds by Labor Day (\$165,000). The Woolery Participants themselves are setting the pace by raising \$1,000 toward this community-wide goal! They were the first to give and the first to say "I want to help!" They want to physically help build! Participants are so excited, and leading by example!

The remaining 1/3+ portion is anticipated (prayerfully) from one or more anonymous donors who have already given so very generously to the start-up funds. We have unseen partners in this endeavor who will be encouraged by your partnering with SHALOM on this project. "Remarkable" was one donor's description of 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.

The impact of the SHALOM Woolery has been incredible! The new building will allow double the people in a safe work environment with a team approach! What other work place begins with devotions and prayer, promoting wholeness and growth physically, emotionally, relationally, mentally and spiritually?

Would you please prayerfully consider investing in this project, in this ministry and in peoples' lives?

Several ways to give: 1) Checks to "SHALOM" indicating "building" or "Dig Deep, Aim High, Build Together!" Mail to SHALOM, PO Box 265, Kalamazoo, MI 49004. 2) You may also give at shalomkazoo.org by credit card. 3) Friend Us on www.facebook.com/shalomkalamazoo and watch for an opportunity to give; 4) You may also give cash or check in the donation bucket at the Shepherd's Barn, 6276 N Riverview Dr., Kalamazoo, Mon - Sat., 9-3. Enter and park in rear. See back page for Donor Recognition mural details.

Stay tuned for news on our groundbreaking dedication time! Watch the progress at the corner of Riverview Drive and Van Buren Street!

Come for a Tour

Do you want to learn more about SHALOM? Do you want to see what we do with wool every day or projects we work on at the farm? We invite you to attend one of SHALOM's community tours.

During the tours, you will see us hard at work at the SHALOM Woolery, the farm, and on other projects on SHALOM property. And soon at the farm, you might even see a few babies!!

Also included in the tour will be a driving portion to learn about the SHALOM residences.

Come learn about the history of SHALOM and our vision for the new SHALOM Woolery building and beyond!

Please follow us on Facebook for monthly tour updates. We are also scheduling tours for small groups, so please contact us if you have a group that may be interested!

We can't wait to see you!!!

Maple Syrup!

One of our favorite times on the SHALOM farm is Spring! We love babies, getting the garden ready, and collecting sap!

The sap is flowing and almost daily participants and coaches collect sap from nearly 80 buckets!! The sap is then turned into syrup with help from our faithful volunteers. Maple syrup



time is a great opportunity to learn and to work as a team and our participants do an awesome job at it!

Keep a look out; we will soon have maple syrup for sale at the Connection Depot.

NON-PROFIT ORG
US Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No 297

Dig Deep, Aim High,
Build Together!
FUNd Campaign
details this issue!

Christian people working with caring communities to provide housing, social and educational opportunities for adults with physical and mental disabilities.

Our Very Own Noah's Ark

We don't have a mammoth boat at SHALOM. But we do have Noah!



Noah Kortz wears many hats as coach, farm animal manager and house parent. Although it's not official, many people have told Noah his home should be called "Noah's Ark"

Noah's roots at SHALOM run deep. His grandparents, Glen and Sara Collison, founded SHALOM and his mom, Julie Stevens, is the care provider for SHALOM's largest network home.

Although Noah is SHALOM's youngest coach, he has had a lot of experience. He grew up on what is now the SHALOM farm, and he has been a care provider for more than two years.

Because Noah already knew so many people at SHALOM, when he became a coach, he easily fit right into the SHALOM Woolery and farm. Noah's quiet spirit and his willingness to take on new challenges have been a huge blessing to the people of SHALOM.



"Noah's roots run deep"

Noah recently became the SHALOM farm animal manager and oversees the animals and their care. We are excited to see Noah take on this new role at SHALOM and thankful for all Noah does for the people (and animals) of SHALOM!!



WHO is SHALOM?

We are truly a family at SHALOM and each person has their own unique gifts! Meet Ms. Josie, a SHALOM resident and participant and a sister in Christ!



Ms. Josie is our resident crocheter, entrepreneur and prayer warrior. She is a lady of many gifts and talents who loves country gospel music, making smoothies, and is on a mission led by Christ!

Josie came to SHALOM about 3 years ago after attending The Bureau of Services for Blind Persons training center. She is extremely active in the SHALOM ministry, residing in a SHALOM network home and attends the SHALOM Woolery Monday through Thursday. She also volunteers at the Connection Depot store on many Fridays and Saturdays.

Josie is so talented! Her creativity for different items she crochets is a gift from God. When Josie leads us in prayer or sings one of her favorite country gospel songs, she commands the room's attention. She is also a special Olympian, swimming in the summer Olympics and attends an annual ski trip in the winter.

Josie does life with a visual disability, but besides her white cane, you would

probably have difficulty telling this while watching her work. Many would consider this to be a significant disability. But

Josie does not let it limit her goals or her determination. She makes many products to sell to friends and in the Connection Depot, and she has even started her own Etsy store to sell her items online.



When talking with Josie about her journey, she talked about "feeling God nudging her to go to church" a few years ago. She then was approached by a church member who offered to provide transportation which had been a barrier to get to church. God had answered her prayers!

Josie told me that God brought her to the SHALOM network from a very difficult situation. Now, Josie's faith and positive attitude are evident in how she lives life. She trusts that God will provide what she needs, encourages

others, and always keeps pressing forward!

Josie's enthusiasm for the Lord and for life is infectious and SHALOM is a better and brighter place because of her. Please visit Josie's online store to see products she is currently selling:

www.etsy.com/shop/Josiebreasshop

"She's our sister in Christ"

Growlers Baseball FUNd Raiser!

Homer Stryker Field
Friday, July 5, 7:00 pm

A portion of every fundraiser ticket will be donated back to SHALOM toward the new SHALOM Woolery building!



Ticket + Hat is only \$10!
All you can eat pre-game buffet 5:30 — 7:00 is just \$17
View other options on line at GROWLER-STICKETS.COM (use promocode SHALOM)

PURCHASE ONLINE AT
GROWLERSTICKETS.COM
PROMO CODE: SHALOM
OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

SEE YOU AT THE BALLGAME!



Thank you Partners for your recent acts of service!

First Reformed Church, Portage
Bethlehem Journey & Mission Potluck
Guys Who Give, Donation Woods Edge and YAP (KRESA students)
The Bridge, Portage
Service projects



GIFT REMEMBRANCES September 1, 2018– March 1, 2019

Honor of Aktion Club
Arthur Roberts and Betty Lujan-Roberts

Honor of Rose Berglund
Ethlynn Dewitt

Memory of Susan Brower
David and Ilene Corstange
Sara Collison
Julie Stevens
The Homestead
Jemey & Merissa Schouster
Carolyn & Robert Walton
Catherine Larson
Lydia Garcia
Charlie & Mary Ann Massey
Violet Ballard

Memory of Ed Burkett
Cross Community Church of the Nazarene
Betty Jo McFeter
Kelly Lewis
Dave & Deanna Lingg
Mary Miller
Robert & Deborah Withee
James Vandepolder
Louis & Alice Meinema
Sheri Klooster
Sara Collison
Doc & Julie Stevens
The Homestead
Keith & Andie Lohman

Memory of Glen Collison
Doc & Julie Stevens
Gretchen Baker
Beverly Pike
Richland Class of 1959
Pat & Cathy Ober
Joyce Ross
Dean Blanchard
Linda Hinds

Honor of Calvin Roux
Ethlynn Dewitt

Honor of Sara Collison
Doc & Julie Stevens
Gretchen Baker

Memory of Bill De Blecourt
Beverly Gabel

Memory of Norm DeBree
David & Marcy Brower

Memory of Eric DeKoekkoek
Robert & Mary DeKoekkoek

Memory of John Dixon
Robert & Carolyn Walton

Memory of Jack Doorn
Linda Hinds

Memory of Phyllis Hoort
Robert & Mary DeKoekkoek

Memory of Bill Inkster
David and Marcy Brower

Memory of Hank & Agie Kuiper
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lance

Memory of Ron McLain
Marvin & Ebelina King

Honor of Debbie Pratley
Dan & Patricia Pratley

Memory of John Pike
Beverly Pike

Memory of Burt Reynolds
Ed Burkett

Memory of Marian Richardson
Richard Daubert

Honor of his family
James Hansen

Honor of the Farm organizers
Ethlynn Dewitt

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

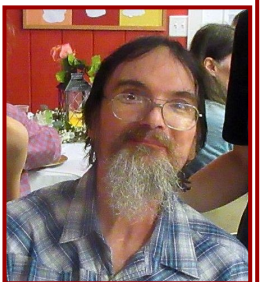
Ed Burkett

Our dear brother Ed is in heaven. He was such a faithful volunteer with SHALOM in our Woolery, working the machines each Monday and helping skirt wool each Friday.

Every Wednesday he would meet for Bible study. He brought donuts every Friday, saving out a special nutty one for Sara Collison. He gave some of us steaks for Christmas!

Ed always had a smile and loved working and tinkering. He was first to our meals and to SHALOM Worship!

Miss you already, Ed! Rest in peace dear friend. We will catch up soon and share some funny stories. Thank you for your gentle ways, your generous spirit, your kind heart, your love for God's Word and for SHALOM eggs!



Who, Me?

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

John 6:5-6

We blow right by, in a hurry, wanting to make the big splash, the world-changing impact. But we get overwhelmed and we miss the miracle. Why?

For me it is too many voices, so many needs, everything seems worthy. So I am paralyzed. Like Phillip I say "Where shall we buy bread for so many...?"

But Jesus already knew what He was going to do! Incredible! The One who could see everything, Who knew all the needs of all the people—already knew

what He would do.

But of course. He is God! And I am not. What do you expect?

Then the little boy offered his lunch and everything changed. EVERYTHING. Now the miracle!

Willingness changes things. It changes EVERYTHING. Not the amount, not the one who has it all figured out or who can give to meet all of the need. Just the ones who are willing to give to Jesus what is in their hand. Who, me?