

Thrift Store Joy

The Connection Depot Thrift Store is where we serve the community with joy! Many people first learn about SHALOM at the store.

We are so thankful to our many volunteers, donors and customers! The store is run by trained volunteers, so costs are kept very low.

We were blessed with record sales last year of over \$52,000! We celebrate our 12th anniversary of the store this July.

Participants and their coaches also work in the store, performing tasks that match their abilities. It's a great place to learn new skills while warmly greeting the community.

Open every Friday and Saturday, 9-3 Closed major holiday weekends. Donation hours are Thursday, 9 am thru Saturday 3 pm under the roof out front.

The Connection Depot is located in the SHALOM Shepherd's Barn at 6276 N Riverview Dr., parking and entry are out behind the Barn! See you soon!

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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Serving adults living with developmental disabilities through the love and wholeness of Jesus Christ!

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

SHALOM! is published to keep our supporters 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.

SEH Help Alternative Living
Opportunities of Michigan, Inc.
P.O. Box 265
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-382-3840

peacewillwithin
SHALOM! Inc.

On January 2, 2021, Sara Collison wrote about SHALOM'S children's book, *Estercita's Journey Toward SHALOM*, by Leah Wendt:

"We felt compelled to raise awareness, and support the needs of abused women in Guatemala thru Kids Alive International. In 2018, the Estercita program at Casa Ester began for women with cognitive disabilities.

Our children's book offers the story of salvation by the Great Shepherd through the eyes of SHALOM'S own farm animals. The story is in Spanish and English as we coordinated with the team in San Lucas.

That month, SHALOM sent 50 copies to Guatemala. A thank you note came back, "The girls love their books."

THANK YOU to all who bought books!



Estercita's Journey Toward Shalom



In December 2021, SHALOM was able to send a check for \$1,250 from book sales to Kids Alive International to further help the mission of Casa Ester.

Please pray for this wonderful ministry. Google "Casa Ester" for more information. You can purchase *Estercita's Journey Toward SHALOM* at SHALOM's Connection Depot Thrift Store for \$15.00.

Board of Directors

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



SHALOM!

Highlights 2021

Praise Report

Each year the SHALOM team pauses to reflect on the past year. Though the pandemic continued to keep us company, our great King Jesus supplied everything we needed for a fun and exciting year. 2021 was a year of many changes.

In April, after serving for 15 years as the Executive Director, Keith Lohman transitioned to his new role as Property and Maintenance Director, and SHALOM welcomed Lon Bouma as the new Executive Director.

In June, Gracespring Church hosted our celebration of 31 years of SHALOM, the director transition, and our amazing volunteers!

The completion of the new SHALOM Woolery Barn was the culmination of years of dreaming and hard work that could not have been completed without God's initiative through the Collisons, the SHALOM volunteer and donor base, and much servant leadership.

Our move into the new SHALOM Woolery in July immediately impacted daily life for participants, staff, and volunteers alike. As a result, we welcomed new participants, volunteers, and coaches, as well as 2 occupational therapy interns and a Mosaic intern through Centerpoint Church.

We enjoyed two trips to Shipshewana, one to the Flea Market and Dutch Creek Animal Farm, the other for a Christmas musical. The Blue Gate Restaurant was a highlight for both trips!

In October, we celebrated our annual Farm Days event and the SHALOM Woolery Sheep Barn Dedication Ceremony with record numbers of people!

Throughout the year we partnered with local churches, continuing long-time relationships, and forming new ones as the Spirit led.



P.O. Box 265, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 (3191 Van Buren St.) shalomkazoo@aol.com shalomkazoo.org 269-382-3840

We watched new lambs and goats being born and said goodbye to old farm friends like Mary. We relished opportunities to show off and sell Woolery products at Kindleberger Park, Wings Stadium, and our first SHALOM Bazaar hosted at the SHALOM Woolery.

The Connection Depot Thrift Store enjoyed a record year (see article)! We blessed some residents on their way to new adventures and welcomed new residents into SHALOM homes.

We welcomed Barnabus House care provider Esmeralda! Rod Reith and Cali Mohney ended their terms of service on the Board of Directors.



At our January worship service, we read how Jesus himself was troubled (John 12:27), and we openly shared our mixed emotions, troubled at our loss but happy for Sara's gain.

We have had many other opportunities in our homes and at the SHALOM Woolery to creatively express our gratitude to God for Sara's life.

Participants shared thoughts about Sara – "I remember her grateful heart."

"She was always singing to our Father, God..."

"I remember her smile and laugh..."

"She got me to go to church again..."

"I will never forget our conversations about blessings..."

"She was a prayer warrior, visionary, great hostess, fun to be with, made me feel special..."

"Sara was my mentor at church and taught me a lot about sewing..."

"We miss you singing to us when we went to work."



We praise our Lord Jesus for Sara's life, and for calling us all to participate in ministry on mission with God.

May God help us continue with the same spirit of service that Glen and Sara demonstrated so beautifully throughout their lives.



March 2022
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Our Friend Sara Collison

Interns Rule!



SHALOM is blessed to have three wonderful *interns* that provide further enrichment and work alongside Woolery Participants to reach their goals.

Reagan, a Mosaic intern, planned a luncheon to honor SHALOM Board members. Participants helped to set up, serve the meal, and performed a Christmas skit. Reagan has also given

Participants the opportunity to share memories of Sara and with these memories has created a memory keepsake box as a gift to her daughter Julie.

SHALOM also has two *occupational therapy interns*, Shayla and Sarah, who provide opportunities for Participants to grow in their independence and address goals that are meaningful.

Our interns have found ways to help Participants learn new skills, and improve and discover the many ABILITIES they have.

Recent examples are an exercise program, proper cleaning of eyeglasses, hygiene skills, and coffee barista training called, "Cups of Kindness".

As one intern put it, "At SHALOM they believe in the value of every individual and see how simple things like processing wool can teach complex lessons.

"The focus is on the whole person, recognizing that their spiritual, emotional, physical, and relational selves all contribute to wholeness."

All three of our interns have taken their own life experience and education

and meshed it with the mission of SHALOM, to provide wonderful life enrichment opportunities to SHALOM Participants while growing together in the wholeness of Christ.

Farm Days Coming!

Last October was a tremendous blessing to see over 600 Farm Days guests smiling and playing, interacting with farm animals, touring the new SHALOM Woolery, listening to live music, enjoying trail rides, and generally having fun!



Missing Sara - A Participant's Heart

Following the passing of SHALOM's beloved co-founder, Sara Collison, a SHALOM resident named Rose shared her thoughts and heart with us:

"I feel sad without the presence of Sara. I want the Lord to show me what to do without her in my life. I believe that she was meant to mentor me through life. I felt the love and the support of her next to me.

"Her love passed through so many lives she touched, not just as a mom to Julie, but as a grandma to the Homestead and her grand kids. I also learned the meaning of her telling me to never give up on my benches, and on life when it gets hard.



"She always wanted me to show a smile for the Lord and have a good day each day. She was a very touching woman of God.

A Woolery Volunteer Perspective

Our "Woolery Volunteer of the Month" board has been a great opportunity for Participants to share why they are thankful for each volunteer, and it provides a small way to say "thank you" for all they do!



Recently, one of our SHALOM Woolery volunteers, Linda, contacted me and asked if she could share a few of her thoughts. What she shared with me brought me to tears and touched my heart:

"One of the most exciting highlights of my week is volunteering at SHALOM. I love every minute when I am at SHALOM.

"We have an awesome group of special people. From the minute I walk through the front door, I am greeted by individuals who have become my friends. It is a privilege and an honor to work on various projects with these

"I love that Sara and Glen are finally with each other in heaven. Sara will always be in our hearts. And in our spirit. And God will take care of us. This was in my heart, and I wanted to share my experience with Sara and how it touched me through my years at Homestead.

"God led Sara to help me through anything and to teach me to never give up on things in life. 'Keep reaching for the sky, Rose.' God told me that life is a climb. I will not be alone. God will be there for me and the Homestead, and Julie and Doc. I love you so much Sara Collison. Thank you for showing me how to live the life you want me to live for Jesus.

"Like you said, 'The spirit of the Lord is with us all.'

Our precious residents and Participants hold Sara close in their hearts and continue in God's mission to share the love of Jesus Christ with all who come to SHALOM.

special people, to talk and pray together, to laugh, and even sometimes cry.

"The talents of our SHALOM family are incredible. It touches my heart to see the joy and happiness on their faces when they complete their projects.

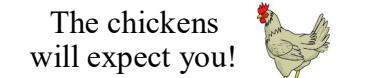
"It is so amazing to see the spiritual growth of these individuals and how they all care for each other. I am the one who is so blessed to be able to spend my time with such loving, awesome friends and to share the incredible ministry we all do together."

Linda says that before she started volunteering, she felt a void in her heart. She turned to the Lord and asked, "What should I do?"

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity or are wondering "What should I do?", come visit us at SHALOM. We have a spot for you!

Farm Days 2022 September 17-18

The chickens will expect you!



GIFT REMEMBRANCES

November 20, 2021-February 18, 2022

Memory of Mark Brown
Joyce McNally

Memory of Ed Burkett
Robert & Deborah Withee

Memory of John & Lois Bussema
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of the Collisons
Edith Lepke

Memory of Glen Collison
Dean & Cynthia Blanchard

Memory of Glen & Sara Collison
Allen & Norma Collison

Linda Hinds
Fred & Judy Rhem
Elta Shoemaker
Doc & Julie Stevens

Memory of Sara Collison
Burton & Jean Adams

Alive in the Word Class/Haven Church
Kevin & JoAnn Barker

Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra
Jack & Jeanne Bowen
Ann Brennan
Jeannie Burpee
Peter & Marilyn Cake
Brian Cayemberg
Daniel Collison

Robert & Diana Dekker
Grace Demi

Ethlynn Denardo
Ethlynn Dewitt
Tom Dexter
Janelle Driscoll
Linda Driscoll
Thomas & Jill Elyea
D. Rosalind Epstein-Wolhowe
Mary Fellows-Monroe

Robert & Beverly Gabel
Robert & Janet Garcia

Linda Sue Gideon-DeHaan
Susan Gitre
Gracespring Bible Church
Daniel Hageman
Esther Hill
Myra Holliday
Richard & Lynn Hoyt
Paula Klok

Steve & Nanette Kokmeyer
Michael & Honna Kozik
Len & Kathy Lesman
David & Kelly Lewis
Deanna Lingg

Living Hope Class/Haven Church
Keith & Andie Lohman

Dale & Teri Miller
Sally Miner
Mary Ann Moore
Paul & Camille Moxon
David & Paula Nieboer

Patrick & Kathy Ober
David & Larie Person
Donald & RuthAnn Rockwell
James & Marilyn Sadler
Sally Sanders

Nancy Scorthorn
David & Martha Sears
Richard, Norma, & Diane Slagell
Peggy Smalley
Jeffrey Sorenson
Bernard & Rosalind Stuuz
Ed & Marla Swieter

John & Marcia Tyler
David & Linda Vance
Scott & Anita VandePolder
Jacquelyn VanderNoot
Thomas & Barbara Vandersloot
William & Terri Veldman
Donald & Genevieve Veldt
Donald & Ruth Vermeulen
Tim & Sally Vincent
Phil & Judy Vlietstra
Garry & Dee Walton
Jacqueline Wylie

Memory of Al Crandle
Nancy Crandle

Memory of Denise Crane
Dave & Larie Person

Memory of Paul DenHartigh
Alesha DenHartigh

Memory of Jack & Pearl Doorn
Linda Hinds

Memory of Janice M. Dyksterhouse
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Memory of Ann H. Elzinga
Paul Bosker & Marlene Vlietstra

Honor of Gideon
Larry & Margaret Huffman

Memory of Jim Hansen
Dee Crittenden

Memory of Carol Hoeksma
Marjorie Burner

Honor of Layla Jabboori
Elizabeth Dykhouse

Memory of Janet Kaiser
Janelle Driscoll
Linda Driscoll

Memory of Dan Kribs
Linda Hinds

Memory of Hank & Agie Kuiper
Ronald & Linda Lance

Memory of Robert Lanphear
Margaret Lanphear

Memory of Ron McLain
Ebelina King

Memory of Nelva Michmerhuizen
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Memory of Jeannie Moore
Merton & Phyllis Norman

Memory of Harold & Fran Nieboer
David & Paula Nieboer

Memory of John C. Pike
Beverly Pike

Honor of Residents who know Sis
Ethlynn Dewitt

Memory of Sara, Glen, & Family
Dee Crittenden

Memory of Charles Shoemaker
Elta Shoemaker

Memory of Cecile Spitters
Alan Spitters

Honor of Julie Stevens
Doc Stevens

Memory of Sheri Stiger
Beverly Pike

Memory of Sharon Terpstra
Robert & Beverly Gabel
Judith Rapp

Honor of Tommy
Larry & Margaret Huffman

Memory of Dianna VanBuren
Michael VanBuren

Memory of Michael Paul William
Paul Bosker

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

