

# A Shalom Moment

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to prosper, plans for a hope and a future. *-Jeremiah 29:11*

A Publication of Beth Shalom

Winter 2016

Volume 12, Issue 1



the V. Ronald & Diane L. Smith  
"Home for A New Start"  
a program of Tabor Community Services

## OUR MISSION

Beth Shalom House of Peace, the V. Ronald & Diane L. Smith "Home for A New Start," is a structured residential program that equips single mothers to learn positive parenting and life skills and to pursue financial responsibility through schooling and employment. Christian faith is at the core of the guiding principles, values and objectives of the program.

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## To Better Understand

Dear Friends of Beth Shalom,

Can you believe that it has been 8 years since we accepted our first resident at Beth Shalom? This year we will again have the opportunity to see and celebrate the continued success of Beth Shalom at our Annual Celebration & Fundraising Dinner on June 13.

Unfortunately, for many different reasons, we understand that everyone isn't going to completely turn their lives around and fully put their trust and faith in the Lord. But many women at Beth Shalom have done just this. Realizing that their path in life wasn't what was best for them or for their children, they have made incredible changes in how they now live.

It is a privilege to occasionally hear from the graduates of our program. Recently we were able to reconnect with Sherry (*story on page 2*) and see the continued impact that Beth Shalom is having on her life. We live in a fallen world; there will always be hardships, but we celebrate with her in the improvements she has made in her life and the lives of her family.

Sometimes it is easy to simplify or even overlook the reasons why people end up in difficult situations. We can ignore the privileges in our lives that so many haven't been afforded, and we can be quick to judge. In this issue we take a brief look at the connection between mental health and incarceration. If we can understand just some of the causes of others' difficulties, we can better serve and love them in a God-honoring way.

We are pleased to report success in our fundraising efforts over the past fiscal year and are especially grateful for your giving to our year-end appeal. Another way to help ensure the future of Beth Shalom is planned giving. Please consider going to the *Planning Well* event on March 11 at Lancaster Mennonite School. There is more information about this event, hosted by Everence, on the back of this issue.

Beth Shalom's Annual Celebration & Fundraising Event on June 13 is always a time of good fellowship (and good food!) with others interested in Beth Shalom's mission. It is a great opportunity to introduce the program to your friends who may be unfamiliar with Beth Shalom and its work.

Your invitation is on page 3 of this newsletter. Please use the enclosed reservation form to reserve your seats and/or sponsor the dinner.



Anne E. Shannon  
Ex-officio Tabor Board Member

# I Learned to Take Care of Myself



Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. — **Romans 8:39**

When Sherry moved from Beth Shalom before Christmas 2013 to her current apartment in Tabor's Market View Apartments, the only thing that was left behind by the former tenant was a small wooden cross hanging in the clothes closet. When Sherry saw it, she thought, "This place is blessed." Now it hangs in a prominent place on the wall between the two front windows. Market View Apartments is a HUD funded Permanent Supportive Housing program owned and operated by Tabor that provides Section 8 rent-subsidized permanent housing for people with a documented disability. The program also provides supportive case management services to help tenants remain stably housed.

We last spoke to Sherry in the fall of 2012 when she was a resident of Beth Shalom. "I'm building a relationship with God," was the first thing she shared about her life then. She explained that her parents had been alcoholics and she had been around that her whole life. When she went to prison, she had asked the Lord into her heart.

"When I met Lenara [Coordinator for Beth Shalom], I was very unstable," Sherry admits. "Lenara said seeking treatment at a hospital before entering the Beth Shalom program would be very beneficial for me. When I left the hospital I went to Beth Shalom and also got case management at MH/MR (now known as BH/DS). My case manager immediately put in for disability and I got it immediately."

While at Beth Shalom, Sherry accomplished many goals:

getting her daughter, Josie, back; reuniting with her three other children; being accountable for her medications and therapy; attending church; keeping appointments; becoming closer with her family; budgeting effectively; living independently; learning to succeed; developing healing relationships; and getting her driver's license reinstated. She was also volunteering to clean at In The Light Ministries.

Since leaving Beth Shalom, Sherry has continued to build her relationships with her children. "My son is out on his own doing really well," she says. "He works with his dad. My oldest daughter is learning to drive and my youngest daughter is taking lessons in horseback riding. Josie completed the YMCA pre-kindergarten camp this past summer."

Sherry walks Josie to and from her school every school day. "I walk pretty far to school, so I'd like to focus on getting a car," she says. "I'm good at saving when I need to."

Sherry studied Office Management for a year and would like to go to school for Human Services or computers. She works with CareerLink and gets reevaluated for disability every three years. They do tests to determine if she is stable enough for work. "I really want to go to work" Sherry says, "My case manager said I wasn't

ready." Sherry has various mental health issues including bi-polar, ADHD and PTSD from abuse, but feels she is getting stronger and gaining confidence in herself with the support of the professionals that help her.

"I can really see where God is working in my life. He has changed me and See **To Take Care** on the next page.



Sherry and her daughter

Sherry has remained very grateful for her opportunities and for her journey. Sherry shares with me often that had it not been for the programs that she has been a part of, she would not be as stable as she is. Sherry is a pleasure to work with and she remains constant on her path to maintain her sobriety and improve her self worth by remaining productive and task driven. -**Kiyana**, Resident Assistant/Counselor

**You're Invited!**

Please join the Beth Shalom residents and staff for

# the sixth Annual Celebration & Fundraising Dinner for

Beth Shalom House of Peace, the V. Ronald & Diane L. Smith *Home for a New Start*



**BRING FRIENDS!**

**Monday, June 13, 2016**

**5:30 pm** - Registration

**6-7:30 pm** - Dinner & Program

**Hershey Farm Restaurant**

240 Hartman Bridge Road, Ronks, PA 17572

(off US Route 30, just south of Rockvale

Outlets on Route 896)

**Event is free but reservations are required**

**Donations will be accepted at the dinner**

**Please respond by Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

**Reserve your spot by contacting Nate at 717.358.9377 or [nlammey@tabornet.org](mailto:nlammey@tabornet.org)**

**New this year - SILENT AUCTION**

**To Take Care** *Continued*

my choices” she says. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to be in both of these programs. They’ve changed my life. I know that I am blessed here ... with Beth Shalom and now Market View. Everyone is very supportive and very helpful. Feeling secure has made a huge difference.”

Sherry sums up the change in her life, “I went from house to house ... from man to man. Then I got into Beth Shalom. I was honestly thinking I would be an addict my whole life. That I couldn’t raise a little girl on my own ... At Beth Shalom, I learned to take care of myself. I don’t need men to take care of me.”

## Mental Illness and Incarceration

Mental illness is pervasive among today’s jail and prison inmates. A National Research Council report, produced by an interdisciplinary committee of researchers, found that 64% of jail inmates, 54% of state prisoners and 45% of federal prisoners reported mental health concerns. Substance abuse is also rampant and often co-occurring.

June Tangney, PhD, a psychology professor at George Mason University who studies offender rehabilitation,

was one of the researchers on the committee. She reports, “Part of what’s really swelled our jail and prison population, especially our jail population, is our inability to deal with the mental health crisis that we’re facing in this country. We have an enormous number of people who are suffering from very treatable illnesses who are not getting treatment and who end up getting caught in the criminal justice system as opposed to the mental health system.”

*Information is taken from the American Psychological Association article, Incarceration nation, published October 2014, Vol 45, No. 9.*

Sometimes, a particular revenue source doesn’t quite meet its budgeted mark. Other revenues might exceed what was budgeted. We are in a better position than we were at this time last year, but still have a large portion to go to meet our yearly need. **Thank you again for all of your continued and generous giving!** To learn more, please come to our Annual Celebration and Fundraising Dinner.

- Beth Shalom’s fiscal year is from 7/1 to 6/30.
- RMO and Tabor actuals are as of 12/31.
- RMO actual reflects Beth Shalom having no appropriate referrals from RMO.

	BUDGETED REVENUE		ACTUAL REVENUE	
	14-15	15-16	As of 2/9/15	As of 2/9/16
individuals	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$36,655	\$54,270
businesses	11,000	8,000	4,850	4,052
churches	17,000	20,000	7,959	13,142
foundations	8,000	8,000	8,570	3,529
RMO & program fees	19,100	11,300	553	1,001
Tabor	12,163	31,514	16,016	17,757
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,263</b>	<b>134,814</b>	<b>74,603</b>	<b>93,751</b>

# Planning Well

## Friday, March 11, 7-9 pm

If you are retired or thinking of retiring, Tabor is one of 19 local organizations sponsoring Planning Well, a Stewardship University event presented by Everence to help you achieve your goals in the midst of life transitions and uncertainty about the future.

### Panel discussions are:

#### Navigating estate, charitable and financial planning

J. Elvin Kraybill, J.D., Partner, Gibbel Kraybill & Hess, LLP  
Bill Hartman, J.D., VP of Organization Services, Everence  
Jamie Detweiler, Trust Representative, Everence

#### A purpose-filled retirement

Leon & Nancy Stauffer, Founders of Mennonite Your Way

#### Right-sizing – dealing with the stuff in your life

Todd Sweet, President of Clutter Stoppers

This educational opportunity will take place Friday, March 11 at the Lancaster Mennonite School cafeteria from 7 to 9 pm. The school is located at **2176 Lincoln Highway East in Lancaster, PA**. Please RSVP by calling (717) 653-2982.



Beth Shalom, through Tabor has partnered with Everence and Lancaster County Community Foundation to help you with your planned giving efforts. If you are interested in making a planned gift to help ensure the future of Beth Shalom's work in the Lancaster community, or want to know more, please contact Phyllis Stacks at [pstacks@tabornet.org](mailto:pstacks@tabornet.org) or (717) 358-9383. Or go to [www.tabornet.org](http://www.tabornet.org) > How Can I Help > Planned Giving.

For more information about Stewardship education opportunities, visit **StewardshipUniversity.com** and **everence.com/lancaster**.



Everence



LANCASTER COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## Donate Online!

Go to [www.bethshalomlancaster.org](http://www.bethshalomlancaster.org)

Click on 'Donate Now', top, right corner of your screen. Enter the amount under Beth Shalom and follow the instructions. Don't want to donate on-line? Use the envelope enclosed.

**THANK YOU** for your support!



Go paperless! Send your email address to [NLammey@tabornet.org](mailto:NLammey@tabornet.org) to receive future newsletters in pdf format via email.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

— Spread the word ... Advocate! —

Represent Beth Shalom to your congregation or group: announce special events, fundraisers, and other needs; place notices in church bulletins or newsletters; distribute or post Beth Shalom materials; let us know about opportunities for presenting the story of Beth Shalom to a Sunday School class, at a banquet or to a youth group; and include Beth Shalom in your church's or group's mission budget for an annual offering.

Contact Phyllis at [pstacks@tabornet.org](mailto:pstacks@tabornet.org) or (717) 358-9383 to be an Advocate or receive more information.

### Spread God's love ... Mentor!

Many residents are young in Christ and need strong Christian friends in their lives. If you are considering being a spiritual mentor to a Beth Shalom mother, contact Lenara at [Lporter@tabornet.org](mailto:Lporter@tabornet.org) or (717) 358-9376.

A *Shalom Moment* is published by Beth Shalom House of Peace the V. Ronald & Diane L. Smith Home for A New Start  
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Beth Shalom is a program of Tabor Community Services.  
(717) 358-9376 • fax (717) 399-4127 • [www.BethShalomLancaster.org](http://www.BethShalomLancaster.org)

## When women leave prison ... they leave with nothing.

Beth Shalom needs \$10, \$20 and \$30 gift cards to stores such as Target or Walmart where the women can shop in one place for the clothing and food they need immediately.

If you, your church, Sunday school, social group or company would like to purchase these cards for Beth Shalom, or donate any of the items below, please contact Lenara at (717) 358-9376 or [Lporter@tabornet.org](mailto:Lporter@tabornet.org).

- dish detergent
- paper towels
- hand soap
- dust spray
- Magic Erasers
- all purpose cleaners
- towels & wash cloths
- toilet paper
- tissues
- Pampers, sizes 4, 5 & 6
- women's sanitary products
- Pine Sol or Mr. Clean
- glass cleaner

**We especially need new single and double bed sheets, flat and fitted.**