

A Shalom Moment

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

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

OUR MISSION

To end prison recidivism by providing a comprehensive Christian interim housing program for single mothers leaving prison, where they can reunite with their children and be empowered with the skills and opportunities necessary for long-term self-sufficiency

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Celebrating Beth Shalom

Dear Friends of Beth Shalom,

I hope you had the opportunity to attend Beth Shalom's 7th Celebration & Fundraising Banquet on June 14 at Yoder's Restaurant. We were privileged to have Warden Cheryl Steberger speak at the event.

One of her biggest goals as warden of Lancaster County Prison is to reduce recidivism, which directly aligns with Beth Shalom's mission. Through the structure and support women at Beth Shalom receive, they have the opportunity to rebuild their lives, grow in their faith, reunite with their children, and not end up in situations that led them to prison.

We also watched a video about Isa, who is a current Beth Shalom resident. At that point, she had only been at Beth Shalom for a couple of months, but it was evident that she really wanted a better life for herself and her two daughters.

I'm encouraged when I hear the stories of how women at Beth Shalom grow, and it continually helps me to realize the importance of the life-changing work that occurs when participants fully put their faith, trust, and hope in God.

As Beth Shalom continues on its mission, ensuring its future is crucial to the long-term success of women exiting prison. Please take a moment to read Marshall's story on page 3 and consider following his example by making arrangements for a planned gift for Beth Shalom.

If you have any questions about planned gifts, the different types, or how they can be beneficial to both you and Beth Shalom, please contact Phyllis at 717.358.9383 or PStacks@tabornet.org.

Thank you, once again, for your faithful support and prayers.



Anne E. Shannon
Ex-officio Tabor Board Member



Creating A New Life

Can you imagine being 18 years old, pregnant, homeless and living in an abandoned house? That's where we begin Megan's story.

Meet Megan – a 32-year-old single mother of three children. Her two daughters live with her at Beth Shalom, and her son lives with Megan's mother. Two weeks after graduating from high school, Megan moved out of her mother's home.

She became pregnant, but her boyfriend became abusive, so she left. During this time, she experienced homelessness and lived in an abandoned house. Megan returned to her mother's home, and shortly thereafter, thinking they had worked things out, she reunited with her boyfriend. They had another child 12 months later, but then her boyfriend became abusive again, and Megan left with their children.

Megan and her children lived for a few years with a friend who eventually moved. It was then that Megan met her second boyfriend and had another daughter. Later Megan met a third man, and they lived together in a few homes. He was kind to Megan and her children. Unfortunately, he had drug issues and was sent to prison. Megan also made some bad decisions which led to her prosecution and imprisonment a few months later.

***I've made mistakes, and I'm willing to learn from them. I'm determined to make a better life. I've learned not to accept unacceptable behavior, and I now have hope. I take a day at a time and I'm optimistic about my future. I've learned to dance in the rain, better days always come."* - Megan**



Megan and her daughters

While she was waiting for her sentencing, one of her daughters was hospitalized in Philadelphia for nearly three weeks with swine flu and pneumonia. Megan stayed at the Ronald McDonald House until she was discharged and they returned to Lancaster. Megan prepared for her incarceration, making plans for her mother to care for her children.

Megan was sentenced to six months in prison. While in prison, she spent four months in the work release program working 40 hours a week at a local restaurant as a prep cook and sleeping in the prison at night.

When released from prison, she had nowhere to live, so she and her daughters moved to TLC (a program of Tabor) and were there for two months. With a desire to live more independently, Megan spoke to her parole officer. He spoke to Lenara, Beth Shalom's Program Coordinator, and after meeting Megan, they both agreed Beth Shalom was ideal for Megan and her children, and they have lived in their Beth Shalom apartment since May.

When asked what her biggest obstacle has been, Megan responds, "coming back into the community, being a single mom, and asking for help. I never asked for anything, but if you don't ask, no one knows what you're going through."

Lenara has been a tremendous help to Megan since she moved to Beth Shalom. She found day care for her daughters (which they love), meets with Megan weekly, and guides her during this transitional period in her life. Since their initial meeting, Lenara has seen the growth and positive changes Megan has made in a short period of time. Lenara says, "When I hear her say she's not allowing someone to treat her in a certain way, I say, Bravo!"

With tears in her eyes, Megan shares her goals, i.e., "to have Jayden (her son) live with us, take care of my children, have enough money to pay my bills, and be able to provide for my kids. I want to be able to buy them ice cream or a treat when they ask, instead of saying, no, we can't afford that right now."

Looking to the future, Megan hopes that her children will go down a different path than she or their fathers have chosen, and have stability, careers, experience life.

To someone who may be experiencing some of the same issues she had, Megan says "Keep your head up. Don't take anything for granted. Don't give up on yourself. Be willing to humble yourself to ask for help. Listen more than you speak."

To the supporters of Beth Shalom who make this program possible, Megan says once again through her tears, "Thank you! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a mom and my family to be together. I wish there were more people like you, and I don't know where I would be without Tabor and the Beth Shalom program."



It's never too early to make a planned gift

Thirty-something artist, musician, and world traveler, Marshall Fischer sat down with us recently, while he was on hiatus from teaching English in Japan, to talk about why he chose to provide a planned gift to Tabor.

Marshall initially heard about Tabor through friends that came to Tabor for help with their financial situation. Then he volunteered and was soon hired to work with marketing and communications in the development department.

Marshall elected to make Tabor the beneficiary of his retirement account. He felt it was the way that he could give the most and make the biggest impact. "I can't touch the retirement account until I retire," he reasoned. "So if I go before then [or before it is all distributed], Tabor will get the money." In the meantime, the account will continue to grow. Making Tabor the beneficiary was a simple process. He talked to his financial institution and the staff at Tabor, explained what he wanted to do, signed on the line and "that was it!"

One experience gave Marshall a unique perspective on how Tabor helps the community. He was assigned an interview with a former TLC client. TLC is a program of Tabor. As Marshall tells it, "I asked her what her impressions were when she first came to TLC. She said, 'I wondered if these people were really going to help me,' because she'd never gotten help before. Knowing that someone's reality is that no one has ever helped them, and they are finally able to get help and better themselves and be part of society ... that was really chilling to me, really moving to hear someone say that ... and satisfying that they were finally able to get help. That made an impression on me.

"I hope Tabor can continue to do the work that it does,



that it will continue to help the community. And by contributing, I hope my legacy will be that I helped to make change in the community. With Tabor being the beneficiary, actually, Tabor's clients and the community will be the biggest beneficiaries. That's a satisfying and rewarding place to be.

"I would tell anyone who is thinking of making a planned gift, 'If you want to make a difference and you value helping people and your community, it's a no-brainer that Tabor is the place to do that. They are good stewards of your resources, and they do their work with integrity. If you want to help make a change now or after you are gone, then I would say Tabor is the place to do that.'"



Everence



LANCASTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Please take a moment to read the story above and consider following Marshall's example by making arrangements for a planned gift to Beth Shalom to ensure that its mission will continue well into the future.

- ☐ I have already made arrangements for a planned gift to Beth Shalom.
- ☐ I would like more information about planned giving. Please contact me to set up an appointment to discuss my planned giving options.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

**Please cut out this section and return it in the enclosed envelope*



THE EXTRA[™] ORDINARY GIVE

COMMUNITY Tabor Services

PARTY

11.17.17

DROP-IN
5-8 PM

Please join us and support Beth Shalom as well as other local non-profits as we host an Extraordinary Give party at 308 E. King (Tabor's building). Our party will feature local band **Blue Rhino**, displays for Beth Shalom and other non-profits, and a donation station. As we approach the Extra Give, please check Beth Shalom's Facebook page and website for more information.

The Extraordinary Give is Lancaster County's largest day of giving. If you are unable to attend our event, please give to Tabor Community Services (write a note to designate Beth Shalom) on **11.17.17** at www.extragive.org.

Leatherwoods

Beth Shalom Benefit Concert



6.28.18 Mark your calendars!
Brick Gables, Lititz, PA
More information coming soon

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 or 717.358.9383 to be an Advocate or receive more information.

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.

**Dish detergent • Toilet paper • Paper towels
• Tissues • Hand soap • Pampers - sizes 4, 5 & 6 • Dust spray • Women's sanitary products
• Magic Erasers • Pine-Sol or Mr. Clean • All-purpose cleaners • Glass cleaner • Towels & wash cloths • Single & double bed sheets**

www.BethShalomLancaster.org

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