

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

Spring 2016

Volume 12, Issue 2



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

TABOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Handy Cuevas
Paul I. Currie
Joseph Dhansis
Tom Fasnacht
Phil Frey
Dan Hess, *Chair*
Sherry Hibshman
Bryan Martin
Jill M. Laskowitz
Stephanie Reese
V. Ronald Smith
Robert Thomas, *Tabor President*
Doug Umble
Lenny Walton
Ted Williams

Celebrate With Us

Dear Friends of Beth Shalom,

Our Annual Celebration & Fundraising Dinner on June 13 is quickly approaching. Once again, we will have the opportunity to hear about the restorative work that Beth Shalom has, and continues to accomplish.

So many women and children have benefitted from their time at Beth Shalom. We really do believe that through proper support, especially in a Christian context, everyone is able to transform their lives.

That same belief is what keeps the Beth Shalom staff going: that with the help of God, women who have been brought low by their lives and their own actions can make the hard decisions and necessary changes to turn their lives around, for themselves and their children. Brittany's story in this issue is another example of this transformational process taking place.

Brittany admits that her choices in life were not good, but looking back she accepts responsibility for her decisions and is willing to do whatever she can to improve her and her daughter's lives. Beth Shalom is also providing her a safe place where she can continue to grow in her faith. She is thankful for the Christian element that drives Beth Shalom and is also able to encourage her daughter to pray daily and grow in her faith.

Having the opportunity to hear stories like Brittany's, I hope you will attend and/or sponsor this year's Annual Dinner at the Hershey Farm Restaurant. Last year's dinner brought in more than \$13,000 in revenue for Beth Shalom. This year our goal is \$18,000.

New this year, we are also planning on having a silent auction at our dinner. Take a look inside this newsletter to see some of the items being auctioned off.

If you could ask your church, Sunday school group or other group to which you may belong, to contribute at the Benefactor, Supporting Sponsor, or Mentor Sponsor level, that would go a long way to helping us reach our goal.

The event is always a time of good fellowship (and good food!). It is also a great way to share with others interested in our mission. Please consider inviting friends to introduce them to Beth Shalom and how the program is filling the gap in services to mothers coming out of prison with nowhere to go.

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

With Faith & Prayers

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed ... -II Corinthians 4:8-9 (One of Brittany's favorite passages)

"My mother left when I was 4 years old," Brittany recalls. "It was just me, my sister and our dad. I went to church, studied the Bible and prayed daily, regardless."

In spite of her upbringing, Brittany fell into drugs and alcohol at a young age. She then experienced 6 years of recovery before relapsing about 2½ years ago while in an abusive relationship with her daughter's father. She started drinking and using drugs, lost her job, became homeless and moved in with her sister.

Brittany started seeing another man who was involved in illegal activity and as a result, she was charged with criminal trespass. She received 3 months in prison and 4 years of probation. She violated probation by using drugs and was sent back to prison for 4 months.

She applied to Beth Shalom while in prison last November. She was released into a recovery program that does not take children. Then she came to Beth Shalom so she could be reunited with her daughter, Mykaila, who is 8 years old and in second grade.

Brittany admits finding employment will be an obstacle. She was employed as a CNA (Certified Nurse's Assistant) but that is unavailable to her now that because she has a felony. "My job now is to clean up a mess I made for myself," she realizes. "Now I have fines that I have to take care of."

"I'm so thankful I got into Beth Shalom. They allow you to take small steps to your goals. Having somewhere safe for me and my daughter and not have to burden my family, I'm excited to be a part of it. I'm at the beginning. I can't



Brittany and her daughter

wait to look back and see how far I've come.

"I have a very strong faith, so the Christian basis [of Beth Shalom] was very important to me. I love Jesus! As Christians we have times when we are not as close to God, but he is always with me and he is in complete control of my life.

"I already knew that I would be coming [to Beth Shalom]. I prayed over the application. 'If God wants me to be here, I will be accepted.' When you pray, God takes care of large things and small things."

Lenara, program coordinator for Beth Shalom, remembers meeting with Brittany the first time, "She was very determined to come to Beth Shalom ... to change her life. Her focus was to be with her daughter in a Christian program with structure. She talked about her faith and her early connection to faith in her life. There was no doubt that she loved Jesus."

Mykaila came to live with Brittany two days after she moved into Beth Shalom. "The transition for Mykaila has been amazing," says Brittany. "She was resilient. I had more anxiety than she did. She reassures me that everything

will be okay. She already has new friends and she loves her teacher ... God has a way of working things out." Brittany is happy that her daughter also prays regularly.

It's no wonder that faith and prayer are important to Brittany when you understand that the Book of James, a book about practical Christian living that reflects a genuine faith that transforms lives, is her favorite. James also stresses the importance and power of prayer.

See **With Faith & Prayers** on the next page.

"I enjoy my conversations and meeting with Lenara every week. It helps that they encourage us to go to church." -Brittany

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*



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)

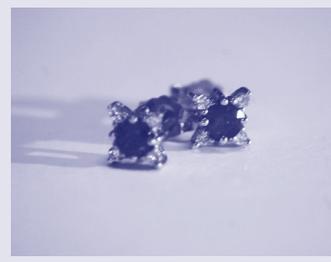
Event is free but reservations are required

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

▼ NEW THIS YEAR - SILENT AUCTION ▼



The auction will include an original Liz Hess pastel, a limited edition Liz Hess print, 14 karat stud earrings with rubies, and many other items!

With Faith & Prayers *Continued*

Brittany looks forward to a self-sufficient life. Her goals are to get a job, permanent housing, and go back to school for business management. And she has some bigger dreams: "I would like someday to own a restaurant and write a book."

She is confident she can maintain her sobriety this time. Having been through jail and rehab, getting counseling, attending alcohol and narcotics meetings every day, "I feel like a different person," she says. "I know what to look for," meaning she is aware of the thoughts and behaviors that can lead to relapsing and how to seek help if she needs it.

Having worked with Brittany since entering the program,

Lenara says, "She is a good mother. She is dependable, always on time, honest, and willing to ask for help when she needs it. Her daughter, Mykaila, adapted quickly ... she is just a happy kid."

For Mykaila, Brittany says, "I want her to be able to stay in one school district, to have stability and structure. I want her to see that people can make mistakes and can still be successful. A mistake doesn't define you. Things can be redeemed."

And finally, advice she would give to someone in her situation: "Do everything that you can to do better and just keep moving forward. Lean on God and trust Him."

Love for humankind

Philanthropy, literally, means love for humankind. In everyday terms, it means making gifts ... gifts for ministries, churches, hospitals, human services and much more. They are gifts that transfer our love into action. In our country's recent past, we have seen generous outpourings of philanthropy generated by the love for humankind.

So, why do you give to the organizations you do? Love for the charity and its mission? Love for the ultimate use of the gift by the charity? Or, maybe you desire to reduce income or estate taxes? Studies have ranked the prior three reasons to give the highest.

No matter your motivation for giving to an organization, your planned gifts show your love for humankind and keep ministries like Beth Shalom financially healthy. Your planned gifts enable Beth Shalom to help mothers coming out of prison to reunite with their children, continue and grow in their Christian journey, and become self-sufficient,

contributing members of the community.

Planned gifts come in all shapes and sizes: from bequests, wills and gift annuities to charitable trusts, IRAs, life insurance and even gifts of real estate, crops and/or livestock. Beth Shalom, through Tabor Community Services, has partnered with Mennonite Foundation of Everence and Lancaster County Community Foundation to help you and your family decide which avenue is best for your financial picture and how you plan to leave your legacy.

To make a planned gift to Beth Shalom or get more information, contact Phyllis Stacks at Pstacks@tabornet.org or 717.358.9383.



Donate Online!

Go to 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! —————

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 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 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
P.O. Box 1676, Lancaster, PA 17608-1676
Beth Shalom is a program of Tabor Community Services.
717.358.9376 • fax 717.399.4127 • www.BethShalomLancaster.org



Go paperless!

Send your email address to NLammey@tabornet.org to receive future newsletters in pdf format via email.

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.

- 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.