



A Shalom Moment

FALL 2019



Dear friends of Beth Shalom,

I hope that you had the opportunity to join us at our Beth Shalom Celebration and Fundraising Banquet back in June. Having moved our event to the Eden Resort made for a wonderful space for an even better afternoon as we celebrated the success of mothers at Beth Shalom.

Melanie G. Snyder, who spoke at our event, served as the Executive Director of the Lancaster County Reentry Management Organization. She is an expert on the topics of reentry, trauma, and trauma-informed care.

One thing that stuck with me that Melanie shared was about the Japanese art form, Kintsugi. It is the centuries-old practice of repairing broken pottery with gold. When something breaks or if a mistake was made, we tend to try to hide, discard, or ignore the issue. This practice reverses this thinking by making those cracks and breaks, the once perceived as unwanted imperfections, an important and beautiful part of the pottery.

In Romans we read, "None is righteous, no, not one." We all have flaws, breaks, and cracks in our

lives. To me, there is something beautiful when we take the past imperfections in our lives to improve who we are today and who we will be in the future. This is exactly what the mothers at Beth Shalom are doing, and is something that we should all strive toward.

As you read this newsletter, I would suggest taking a moment to read Nicole's story. She is using and learning from the cracks in her life to give herself and her children a more beautiful future.

As you continue to invest in Beth Shalom, I would encourage you to consider making arrangements for a legacy gift to ensure that in the future, mothers like Nicole, who is featured in this newsletter, will have a loving, Christian environment to rebuild their lives for both themselves and their children. For more information on legacy giving, please contact Phyllis at 717.358.9383 or at PStacks@tabornet.org.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support,



Lenara Porter

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Program Coordinator for Beth Shalom

A Brighter Future

Earlier this year, Nicole was arrested and spent four months in prison. Her father had recently passed away, and she admittedly didn't make the best decisions.

Fortunately, a chaplain at Lancaster County Prison recommended Beth Shalom to her, thinking that it would be a good fit and beneficial for both her and her children's futures. Nicole applied, was accepted, and upon her release, moved into Beth Shalom.

Today, Nicole is willing to do whatever she can to provide a better life for her children. Not having her children with her every day has been exceptionally difficult, but fortunately, she is able to regularly see them and is working hard to be permanently reunited with them.

Nicole sees that her daughter who is now five years old is able to understand, in a simple way, what happened earlier this year. In looking toward a brighter future, she doesn't want her children to just see the mistakes she has made, but she wants to be deeply involved in their lives as a loving, caring, and compassionate example to them as they grow up under her care.

At Beth Shalom, Nicole is receiving counseling and attending parenting classes. She is thankful for the direction to resources and information that are guiding her toward her goal of being permanently reunited with her children.

Through learning life skills, attending Bible study, and with the care and support that she is receiving, Nicole is determined and on a path to be the best mother to her children.

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I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity.



Q&A

What are your current goals?

- Quickly find a job
- Continue to actively work on being reunited with my children
- Pay all of my bills on time
- Be financially and emotionally stable

What advice would you give to someone in your situation?

- Reach out, there is so much help
- Make better choices with friends
- Remove toxic people from your life

What would you like people to know about you?

Since coming to Beth Shalom, I have opened myself up more spiritually and religiously than I ever have before. I've had a lot of issues with that since my dad died in December. I was angry for a really long time, and I am working through that. The ladies who do the Bible study are a really great help with that right now.

A message from Tabor's President



Serendipity – that's the word that comes to mind when I think about happy coincidences touching our Beth Shalom House of Peace community.

Tabor has been working on a new strategic plan since the spring. We're taking the time for the first time in three years to examine the big questions around who we serve, how we serve them, and how we can best continue to meet the community's needs in the future. The process has been invigorating, and later this fall we'll be ready to unveil a new three-year plan!

As part of the process, we've been hosting workshops that bring together staff, board members, and community partners. During one of these workshops we were asked to explore one of our participant's story in great detail, seeking to understand both her barriers as well as her assets and opportunities. She dreams of being reunited with her children. Her criminal background is keeping her from steady employment. Does this sound familiar? Yes, this particular participant is a resident of Beth Shalom.

And it just so happens that Lenara and I were in the same small group with a friend from the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has been leading a problem-solving group of large employers in the Ephrata/Denver corridor, Red Rose Transit, and non-profits interested in tackling the transportation barrier for would-be employees that reside in Lancaster City. This partnership has had a lot of early success with a pilot shuttle that is connecting motivated workers to living wage jobs. I asked my colleague from the Chamber if we could make some connections to this project for the women of Beth Shalom. Within a week, the Beth Shalom participant had an interview lined up at a large produce distributor! We don't know yet if she got the job, but we do know the power of this serendipitous exchange – and the underlying partnership – in opening the door to opportunity and stability.

Mike McKenna
President, Tabor Community Services

DID YOU KNOW?



If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year as a gift to Beth Shalom from your IRA to satisfy your required minimum distribution without it being taxed as income. Your gift does need to be directly transferred from your IRA to Beth Shalom, so please contact your IRA administrator for what you specifically need to do for it to not count towards your adjusted gross income.

For more information on IRA transfers or on planned giving, please contact Phyllis at **717.358.9383** or at **PStacks@tabornet.org**.



Everence®



LANCASTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

THE EXTRATM ORDINARY GIVE



www.extragive.org

11.22.19

What is The Extraordinary Give?

It is Lancaster's largest day of online giving, hosted by the Lancaster County Community Foundation.

How can I give to Beth Shalom?

On November 22 from 12:00am-11:59pm, go to www.extragive.org and search for **Tabor Community Services**. Donate to Tabor, and in any available box, note that your gift is for Beth Shalom (Beth Shalom is a program of Tabor Community Services).



In supporting Beth Shalom during the ExtraGive and beyond, you will make a difference in the lives of mothers as they grow in their faith, reunite with their children, and journey toward self-sufficient lives.

Beth Shalom's 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.

Board of Directors Jamie Arroyo, Timbrel Chyatee, Paul Currie, Joseph Dhansis, Smokey Glover, Dan Hess, Sherry Hibshman, Tracy Horst, Brent Kreider, Jill M. Laskowitz (Chair), Bryan Martin, Stephanie Reese, Brian Roche, Mike McKenna (Tabor President), Doug Umble, Lenny Walton, Charity Welch, Katie Zimmermann

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Current & Ongoing Needs List

- Target Gift Cards (\$10-30)
- Walmart Gift Cards (\$10-30)
- 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

Please contact Lenara at 717.358.9376 or Lporter@tabornet.org for more information.