

Specific Ways YOU Can Help

Service

EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE A PASSION TO LEAD.

GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday Morning Breakfast: bring, prepare, and serve food to up to 50 neighbors and Health Clinic volunteers from 8:00am - noon

The Shalom Project: painting, drywalling, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, roofing, insulation, siding, demolition, and general cleaning for our neighborhood homes

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES

The Shalom Project: painting, drywalling, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, roofing, insulation, siding, demolition, and general cleaning for our neighborhood homes.

Academy: classroom volunteer aid and administrative office volunteer

After-School: Intensity tutors, club leaders, and classroom helpers Monday - Thursday 3 - 4:30pm

Food Pantry: prayer partners and help neighbors choose food from the pantry on Saturday mornings

Health Clinic: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, interpreters, and administrative helpers needed on Saturday mornings from 8am - noon (flexible monthly scheduling)

Shepherd believes in empowering its volunteers to serve in areas where they have a passion to lead. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in one of these areas or any other area at Shepherd, please contact **Phil Merki at 317-375-0203 or philm@shepherdcommunity.org.**

IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, THERE ARE MANY ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP OUR FAMILIES:

IN-KIND NEEDS: Canned foods: pastas, veggies, fruits, soups / Oatmeal packets and granola bars / Over the counter (OTC) cold & cough medicine for children and adults / Lice Kits / Chicken scratch and chicken feed in pellet form / Garden seeds / Daily or weekly bus passes / Paper Clips / External Hard Drive (500gb - 2TB) for tax prep / 3 - 4 desktop scanners for tax prep / New or used (good condition) gaming system

COMMUNITY.

A publication of Shepherd Community Center



Shepherd is a faith-based, non-profit organization established in 1985 with a simple but staggering goal: to break the cycle of poverty on the near Eastside of Indianapolis. Located centrally within the community it serves, Shepherd offers programs for children, teens, adults, and families. Our primary tools? Education and love.

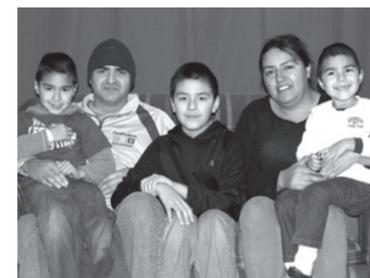
4107 E Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46201 p. 317.375.0203 www.shepherdcommunity.org



The Shalom Project

The Challenge:

In the fall of 2014, the city of Indianapolis and government officials identified Shepherd's neighborhood to be the third most violent area in the city. Their analysis of the area included drug overdoses 300% higher, shootings 400% higher, and murders 200% higher than the rest of the city. In addition to being in a food and medical desert, mental health issues are



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400% higher than the rest of the city. 35% of all houses are abandoned. 39% of our neighbors live below the poverty line. 19% of our neighbors are single females with children compared to 9.5% for all of Indianapolis.

Inside our Shepherd programming we are seeing real results and the cycle of poverty is being broken. Lives are being transformed through our Continuum of Care as we work to meet our families' physical, emotional, spiritual, and academic needs from cradle to career - and beyond. *(continued next*

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YOU Can Help

Thank you to our partners for making Shepherd's newsletter possible.



The city of Indianapolis has challenged us to take our programs outside our buildings and go to the people instead of waiting for them to come to us. We want our entire neighborhood to have the access to services and support we offer our families inside our buildings. Our goals are to lift up all residents and include them in the life of the neighborhood. They challenged us to transform the entire community and bring about *Shalom*, peace.



Shepherd's Response:

Simply going door-to-door and listening to our neighbors has confirmed the city's analysis, and we are responding in the areas of hunger, health, and housing. Our neighbors shared a sense of hopelessness and despair, but we were able to identify some bright spots of community leadership and activity. Nearly every block has someone who could be a block captain with whom we can work. Surprisingly, there are a high number of artists and we are collaborating with them to build community events and economic sustainability with a Shepherd Etsy store to sell their art. (etsy.com/shop/shalomarts)

With partners like Elanco, Eskenazi Health, Englewood CDC, Sagamore, and others, we are joining together with Shepherd's neighborhood police officers, project manager, pastors, and Shepherd staff to orchestrate a full set of services and transform our community.

Going Deeper:

The Shalom Project is more than just an idea; it is an action plan. We have already started to make a transformative mark in the neighborhood. We are:

- Making basic repairs and painting homes
- Mowing yards
- Fixing home appliances
- Connecting families to resources such as health care, mental health services, legal aid, and more.
- Providing a listening ear, love, and support to our neighbors
- Helping neighbors plant backyard gardens

Shalom Summary:

In its most concise form, the Shalom Project is community transformation through:

- Identification of all our community's assets and liabilities
- Extension of Shepherd's mission, cultural values, Continuum of Care and programs into the neighborhood
- Collaboration with strategic partners to maximize our impact

St. Francis of Assisi prayed, "May God's peace be upon you," for everyone he met. Like St. Francis, we are praying Shalom - God's peace - over our neighbors. While it runs counter to the neighborhood belief that, "no one cares," and "I can never get ahead," the Shalom Project fills our neighbors with the hope that justice will be done, wrong will fail, and right will prevail. *Shalom.* ■

THE POWER OF ONE BOARD MEMBER

Dave Ferguson



Current Board Position:
Vice President

Volunteer & Board Service:
Over 25 years including multiple Board terms

About his family: With his wife, Valerie, they homeschool their two children while living on their farm in Morgan County.

Why am I passionate about Shepherd? "We are making a difference in the community. I've seen us grow over the years and I believe in the integrity of the leadership. Shepherd has engaged my family as well and it has been good for them. We've grown as Shepherd has grown."

"The people who serve at Shepherd are sacrificial people who live in the community, feel called here, and are committed to being here. Over the last 15-20 years I've seen them be not just "arms length" but rather embrace the neighbors in long-term relationships."

Did You Know?

The Shalom Project

The Shalom Project neighborhood boundaries are defined as Emerson Ave to the East, the train tracks west of Sherman to the West, Michigan Ave to the North, and the train tracks south of Shepherd property to the South.

We have over 6,500 neighbors, of which 1,200 are five-years-old or younger.

Shalom Arts Initiative is starting classes related to sewing, leathersmithing, videography, graphic arts, and design. We are partnering with Harrison Art Center to transform the entire neighborhood into an art studio.

Shepherd has acquired 3 houses in our neighborhood and has started rehabilitation or demolition as appropriate.

85% of the neighbors Shepherd serves on a daily basis live within the Shalom Project target neighborhood. Shepherd has hired an IMPD reserve officer, Adam Perkins, to be the Shalom Project "neighborhood cop"

Eskenazi Health provides the mobile health clinic two days each week and a full-time EMT, Shane Hardwick, to respond with Officer Adam.



Because of YOU, we served 516 families (1282 children) in 2015 with the joy of Christmas.

Development

Upcoming Events:

Run for a Cause

Help Shepherd Community break the cycle of poverty by running the Indy Mini Marathon on May 7, 2016. All proceeds will go towards Shepherd's Summer EXCEL Program - a fun, academic day camp for inner city youth. If you are interested in running the Indy Mini Marathon or supporting a runner on Shepherd's behalf, contact **Jeff Boxell** at jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org or call **317-375-0203**.

Golf Outing

The 8th Annual Shepherd Community Golf Outing will be held on a Monday in September 2016 at the Bridgewater Club in Carmel, Indiana. If you are interested in sponsoring or attending the outing, contact **Jeff Boxell** at jeffb@shepherdcommunity.org or call **317-375-0203**.

THE SHALOM PROJECT



The Shalom Project was born out of the city's need to address the violence in the Shepherd's neighborhood. Our neighborhood is one of the six the city of Indianapolis has identified as being most violent and in the most need of help.

So, after 30 years, Shepherd has taken up the challenge to address the systemic issues within our neighborhoods that created the violent, hopeless, and hurt. Simply, Shepherd is working to build a network of partnerships to build resources, help our neighbors address the challenges, and restore the neighborhood to be a place where folks love to live, work, and worship.

Our path started by listening to our neighbors; what did they want to see happen and how we could implement many of their solutions. Building off of the neighbors' ideas, we structured the Shalom Project to bring about the peace of God to the near Eastside of Indianapolis through four key areas:

- Housing
- Hunger
- Health
- Hope

The stats are overwhelming. The issues are numerous and at times, immense. Yet, hearing the challenge for Shepherd's neighborhood, we are excited to continue growing the Shalom Project.

Exciting days ahead,

Jay Height
Executive Director