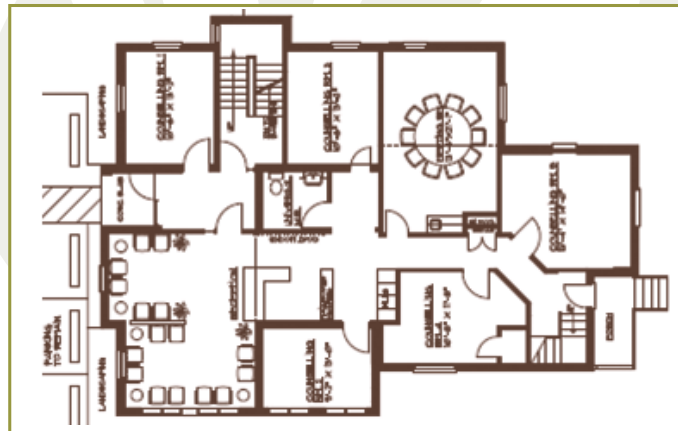


## A Growing Home for Shalom!



The planning and fundraising for an expansion of Shalom's facilities at 9 Avondale Ave., S, Waterloo is moving along. Each step in the process brings us one step closer to our goal.

This fall approval was obtained for the zoning variances required to build the addition to our current home. Construction and site plan drawings are currently being completed by Architecture Incorporated.

The Building Committee is comprised of Board members Andrew Roth (Chair), Brenda Leis and Fred Loganbill along with John Schiedel representing Erb Street Mennonite Church, and Wanda Wagler-Martin, staff representative. Most recently the committee undertook the selection of a Project Manager. Proposals were submitted by three of the six companies that were approached. These proposals were evaluated using a grid ranking system that considered cost, suitability to the scale of the project, fit with Shalom, and approach to project management.

We are pleased to announce that Murray Leis Construction emerged as the first choice for this role. Murray Leis Construction will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the construction process, anticipated to begin in early spring 2015.

Shalom will be temporarily relocating our offices to Erb Street Mennonite Church once construction begins. Shalom board and staff are very grateful to the church for its flexibility in making this option possible.

As the project has evolved actual and projected costs have exceeded original estimates. Our revised project goal has been increased to \$1.2 million to ensure we can cover costs and provide for contingencies and ongoing maintenance of our new home. We are thankful for the \$730,000 already pledged, and are approaching existing donors, new donors and government agencies to endeavour to reach our new goal.

Please join us in Growing a Home for Shalom.

### Inside this Issue:

Meet Our New Staff . . . . .	2
"Bicycle Built for Two" Keeps Rolling. . . . .	2
Reflections on Four Years . . . . .	3
Thank You MSCU & Members . . . . .	4
Shalom Can Help . . . . .	4

# Meet Our New Staff



**Melody LeClair** began as a part-time counsellor at Shalom in September. Melody has a Master of Arts in Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy and is an affiliate member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.



**Steven Reesor Rempel** joined the Shalom team in November as the Development Assistant. Steven has completed a Master of Business Administration degree from Wilfrid Laurier University and will be working at Shalom part-time, 15 hrs/week.



**Neil Thomas** began as a part-time evening receptionist at Shalom in September. Neil is currently pursuing a Master of Theological Studies degree at Conrad Grebel University College.



**Jeni Poetzsch** began as a part-time receptionist at Shalom in October. Jeni will provide coverage for our Administrator Secretary, Cynthia Cober.

## The “Bicycle Built for Two” keeps rolling along

One of the significant issues addressed daily by Shalom counsellors is relationship difficulties. Theatre of the Beat was commissioned by Shalom and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada to produce a play to dramatize this issue. Their production, *A Bicycle Built for Two*, debuted on May 3, 2014 with two performances at our annual spring event held this year at the Conrad Centre in downtown Kitchener. The play received rave reviews from the more than 400 attendees that day.

Since then the production has been performed 28 times across Canada and into the United States, including shows in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Indiana. At the Toronto Fringe Festival in July, *A Bicycle Built for Two* played to a sell-out crowd of 730 people. Stage Door, a Toronto publication, described it as, “Uplifting...a warmly comic play that never loses sight of how complex marriage is.”

Shalom is delighted that this inspiring look at marriage has reached so many audiences, and we commend Theatre of the Beat for their immense talent and creative energy.



Theatre of the Beat performers from left to right: Jen Pogue, Benjamin Wert, Kimberlee Walker, and Johnny Wideman, with a bicycle built for two.



# Reflections on Four Years at Shalom

by Brian Hunsberger

In September, 2010 I was asked to undertake a review of Shalom's fundraising and marketing practices and make recommendations for improvements. These areas were identified during a Board-Staff visioning process in 2007 as requiring some fresh consideration.

During my review it became clear that Shalom did very well in these areas with limited resources but donations had flat-lined and improvements would require that additional resources be invested at both the Board and Staff levels. I was subsequently hired to work 10 hours per week on a three-year contract as Development Director, a new position at Shalom. Below are a few highlights from my four years on the Shalom team.

**Workplace culture is strong** – I could tell from my first day on the job that Shalom would be a good place to work. Staff respect each other and work well as a team. They practice what they preach!

**Leadership is exceptional** – A healthy workplace culture stems from strong leadership. Executive Director Wanda Wagler-Martin is competent, committed and caring and represents Shalom's mission exceptionally well in the community and among constituent churches. Similarly at the Board level, Board Chair Andrew Roth (and past-Chair Gladys Bender) brings commitment and insight to this role. Fellow Board members are similarly involved, committed and supportive.

**Staff provide quality service** – Both formal surveys undertaken regularly with clients as well as anecdotal information, reveal that counsellors at Shalom are greatly appreciated for their competent professionalism and caring counselling. Clients often mention the "homey atmosphere" at Shalom. Administrative staff is also appreciated for their courtesy and helpfulness. This all leads to an increased demand for Shalom's services, necessitating the current building expansion.

**Development Advisory Committee enhances marketing and fundraising** – This committee was established four years ago to help with marketing and fundraising. Board member Kaye Rempel chairs the committee and past board members Jim Erb and Ed Nowak form an energetic and creative team with exceptional community connections. Their efforts have



helped strengthen Shalom's finances but increased donations are needed to continue to meet the growing demand for service.

**Donor base is committed and growing** – Shalom is financially supported by hundreds of individuals, churches, foundations and businesses, both small and large, who generously share their financial resources year after year. Shalom's work could not be done without these committed donors who account for 40% of Shalom's annual revenue.

**Erb Street Mennonite Church is an indispensable partner** – Since its founding 31 years ago, Shalom has been a tenant of Erb Street Mennonite Church. This partnership goes far beyond a typical landlord-tenant relationship. The Church has invested thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of volunteer time to support Shalom's mission in countless ways. This has been a unique and mutually beneficial relationship that will continue for many more years following the pending expansion of the church house that is "a growing home for Shalom."

These factors all combine to build a strong organization committed to "*helping people grow toward peace and wholeness.*"



### *Seedlings*

The Bi-Annual Newsletter of  
Shalom Counselling Services Inc.  
Volume 4 Issue 1

*Seedlings is published twice annually.  
The editorial team is Amanda Geiger,  
Brian Hunsberger, and Wanda Wagler-Martin.  
It is printed by St. Jacobs Printery.*



*Helping People Grow Toward*

*Peace and Wholeness*

9 Avondale Avenue South  
Waterloo, ON N2L 2B5  
Phone: 519-886-9690

Email: [admin@shalomcounselling.org](mailto:admin@shalomcounselling.org)

[www.shalomcounselling.org](http://www.shalomcounselling.org)



## Thank you MSCU and members!

**Thanks to the investments of Shalom supporters in Mennonite Savings and Credit Union Church Builder GICs last year, we have received a donation of \$1080.16.**

**Thank you MSCU and members for your generous support of Shalom Counselling Services!**



Mennonite Savings  
and Credit Union



## Our Perspective

As a faith-based agency we honour and respect the diversity of persons, backgrounds and beliefs within our community. As Christian professionals, Shalom counsellors are receptive to conversations of faith and spirituality when initiated by the client in the counselling process.

## Shalom Can Help

If you are struggling with emotional problems or difficult relationships, Shalom can help. We provide a safe, welcoming and non-judgmental environment for conversation and problem-solving.

Our experienced, professional, accredited counsellors provide assessment, treatment, consultation and referrals in the following areas:

- Couple/relationship challenges
- Premarital counselling
- Family and parenting struggles
- Anxiety, depression and other mental health concerns
- Trauma, abuse
- Stress management
- Suicidal thoughts or self-harming behaviours
- Grief and loss
- Personal growth and direction, life transitions
- Spirituality and life meaning questions
- Self esteem, body image
- Work/career related challenges
- Substance abuse and addictions
- Anger management
- Communication, conflict resolution
- Sexuality
- Adjustment to aging and aging parent concerns
- Health concerns, disabilities