

## A View from Shalom

The walls of Shalom Counselling Services have held countless stories. Stories of struggle and despair, and stories of hope and healing. Each person who comes to Shalom has a unique story of what Shalom means to them, and how they have been impacted. This is also true of the staff and board members, individuals who have dedicated significant time and energy to building a place of peace and wholeness in our community. Shalom's newest counsellor, and four long-serving board members have shared with us what Shalom means to them.

### The view from a new counsellor

*By Melanie Ferrier, CRPO Qualifying Counsellor*

I have been asked to write about what it has been like to begin working at Shalom. This has proven difficult, for there is so much to say. But let me tell you about what it was like today, and maybe that will give you an idea.

Today, while eating lunch, three colleagues poked their heads through the door, just to say “hi.” I had to ask our administrator Katie at least 10 questions—probably more—and she still likes me (I think). Today, I sat down with a woman who is struggling with a difficult life transition, and I had that rare opportunity to listen to her story and hear afterwards that she felt heard. And today, my colleagues and I devoured half a spice loaf and talked about our favourite books and movies, because while we're all professionals, we're also all human.

All these things happened today. But the wonderful thing about working at Shalom is that the things that happened today also happened—to one degree or another—yesterday and the day before and the day before that. I also expect they will happen tomorrow, which gives me hope for my future here.

**“Shalom is a good place. A safe place. A growing place. And I am so very happy to have found my place here.”**

### The view from long-serving board members

This fall, we said thank you and farewell to four long-serving board members, representing a combined 27 years of volunteering on Shalom's board. Brenda Leis, Fred Loganbill, Chris Brnjas and Andrew Yantzi each shared their reflections on their time on Shalom's board.

#### 1. “Shalom is small but mighty!”

There was an appreciation for Shalom's role as a “small but mighty” organization. Shalom is a place that provides support to many congregations and individuals.

#### 2. “Shalom is an important light in the community

Shalom is a place deeply rooted in its values, where talents and skills are recognized, encouraged, and stretched.



# Get to Know Shalom: Staff and Board



## Melanie Ferrier - Counsellor

Melanie began as a counsellor at Shalom in October 2021. Melanie completed her MA in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy at Martin Luther University College.



## Brent Zorgdrager - Board Member

Brent joined the Shalom board in October 2021. Brent is a chartered accountant and has been semi-retired for the past 3 years. Previously, Brent was employed at Kindred Credit Union where he served his final 9 years as Chief Executive Officer.



## Helen Eby - Board Member

Helen joined the Shalom Board in October 2021. Helen is a retired registered nurse and administrator in hospitals and long-term-care homes. Helen and her husband reside in Baden.



## Leanne Lobe - Board Member

Leanne joined the Shalom board in October 2021. Leanne shares her analytical and creative skills, developed over 15 years in municipal government and now as the owner of a book design studio. She lives with her family in Kitchener.



## Paul Fast - Board Member

Paul joined the Shalom board in October 2021. Paul is a VP of Software Development at SAP in Waterloo. Paul and his wife and kids live in Waterloo.

## Upcoming Events

### Shalom Spring Breakfast

Saturday,  
May 7, 2022

### 10,000 Steps for Mental Health

Saturday,  
September 17, 2022

## Support the journey of hope and healing

Shalom clients come from all walks of life, and many require a fee subsidy to be able to afford counselling. Every donation supports Shalom in providing services now and into the future. Shalom is grateful for every gift that is received, and this reminds us of the community of care that surrounds our work. Thank you!

If you are interested in donating to the ongoing work of Shalom Counselling, you can donate in the following ways:

### Cheque

Cheques can be made payable to:

*Shalom Counselling Services Inc.*

### Credit Card

Credit card donations can be made online or by phone:  
[shalomcounselling.org/donate](http://shalomcounselling.org/donate)  
(519) 886-9690

### Legacy Gifts

Legacy gifts (estates and wills) can be made through Abundance Canada

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