

## Yes, I WANT TO HELP OTHERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gift by:  Cheque  Visa  Master Card

Address \_\_\_\_\_

To donate online through Canada Helps visit our website at [www.shalomcounselling.com](http://www.shalomcounselling.com)

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Sustainer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / month

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

One Time Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card

No \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the Shalom Prayer Partner list  
(We will send by email when one is provided)

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to 5515 27 Avenue Red Deer, AB T4P 0E5 or for more information, please call 403.342.0339



**Thank you** to everyone who supported our FunDrive donation drive by donating items and to staff who assisted our donors getting items into the garage. Also, a **HUGE** thank you to our team of Nova Chemical volunteers and David J who loaded, hauled and unloaded the equivalent of 3 – 18 foot enclosed trailers of items to Value Village.

We have raised \$1200 to date from the items collected and sold. We are currently in discussions as to doing this again and will keep you all posted.

### Fall FriendRaiser Highlights *Submitted by Bonnie Joyes*

On Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, a small crowd attended Shalom's Annual Fall FriendRaiser. Entertainment provided by Joyful Melody Trio was very inspirational and enjoyed by all. One of our clients presented an extremely powerful story of how counselling at Shalom has impacted his own life. Our guests were very generous in responding to *Feeling the Heartbeat* with their financial gifts. God was glorified and lives were touched as a result of this event. We praise God for being present and for his faithful provisions to our ministry. Thank you to everyone who joined us. If you were not there – you missed out on a powerful evening. Hope to see you next time!

### Financial Matters

In 2017 Shalom was able to continue offering peace and hope to all who came through our doors regardless of their level of income. We are so grateful for those of you who have stood with us financially though 2017. Thank-you.

Last year your November/December donations helped us finish 2016 well, and provided us a strong beginning to 2017. We trust you will continue to partner with us as we anticipate 2018 and the opportunities God will provide; opportunities to support and encourage people like the single parent who recently shared their desire, "I want to be a better parent so that I can give my child a better start."

Benno Fath  
Executive Director

Shalom Counselling Centre of Alberta is a non profit registered charity incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act, Charitable Organization #317905. Donations are used for the purpose of subsidizing counselling for Central Alberta families. Shalom hopes to raise \$400,000 using 3% of Shalom's overall budget for the cost of fundraising.

Shalom will, to the best of our ability, ensure that contributions are used in accordance with donor's intentions. However, gifts received designated to particular projects or programs are received only with the understanding that if the project or program is oversubscribed or does not take place, the funds will be applied to other purposes at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

In respect for your privacy, your contact information is not passed along to any other organization. For more information or to request a copy of Shalom's most recent financial statement and current budget please call Benno Fath, Executive Director at 403.342.0339.

**Thank You for Caring**

Funded by individuals, businesses and churches of Central Alberta and



Olds FCSS

Sylvan Lake Endowment Fund

Cremona FCSS

Mountain View County FCSS

“I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart.”

John 14:27a

## Vision

Helping our neighbours find peace in life and relationships

## Mission

Motivated by Christian love and working collaboratively, Shalom provides to whom ever seeks the services we offer:

Quality counselling for emotional and relational concerns

Family life and wellness education for the community

Training and encouragement for caregivers

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1:23

*Warmest Greetings to each of you as we welcome the Christmas season,*

**Immanuel, “God with us”.**

When Isaiah first spoke of this coming child to be called Immanuel he was speaking to a king who was seeking deliverance from his enemies.<sup>1</sup> Isaiah’s words were a reminder to the king that since the time of the Exodus, the phrase “God with us” meant blessing and salvation for the Israelites. The story of Gideon poignantly captures this concept. When the angel says to Gideon, “The Lord is with you,” Gideon’s incredulous response is

“Pardon me, my lord, but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” (Judges 6:13)

Sadly, this king to whom Isaiah spoke cared not for the stories of his ancestors and sought salvation from the then dominant world power, Assyria, rather than from the Lord God of Israel.<sup>2</sup>

From that time on much went wrong for the Jewish nation, and at the time Matthew penned his words the Jewish nation was under Roman rule. Throughout this long history they could always hope in the coming ‘Immanuel’, when God would again be with them; when God would again be their source of blessing and their salvation. When Matthew proclaimed the child Jesus as this Immanuel, he was proclaiming hope, blessings, and salvation to those who could accept this child as Immanuel, ‘God with us’ – the anointed one.

This Christmas season, when there are so many things to distract our thoughts and focus, may we make time to turn our thoughts to the Christ child, to Immanuel, ‘God with us’, our hope and our salvation.

*May you know peace and joy in abundance this Christmas season,*

Benno Fath  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 7

<sup>2</sup> 2 Kings 16



A large part of Shalom’s ongoing ability to support individuals, couples and families in Central Alberta is due to the support of our community. Thank you to our volunteers, prayer partners, donors, businesses, and individuals. We couldn’t do it without you!