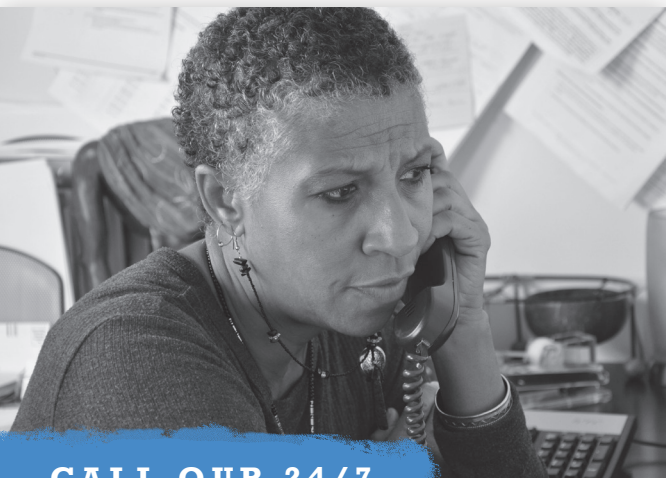


SHARED BLESSINGS

SPRING 2016 NEWS from SHELTERING WINGS

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.— TIMOTHY 1:7

Director's Discussion *Cassie Martin, Executive Director*



**CALL OUR 24/7
HELP LINE AT
317-745-1496**

I've occasionally wondered if using the terms "emergency housing" and "emergency services" ever deters someone from seeking assistance when escaping domestic abuse. After all, deciding whether one's situation is an emergency is a matter of perspective. A person who has experienced abuse throughout life, who watched parents verbally and/or physically assault one another, and who sees friends and relatives in unhealthy relationships may view his or her own circumstances as normal. "I'm not in an emergency situation," they may think. "I don't need to call the crisis line. This relationship is just what it is."

It's a way of thinking that troubles me.

You see, someone who becomes accustomed to this negative pattern of behavior may accept it as normal. That makes them difficult for us to reach, even though they're often the people who need help the most! Abuse escalates over time, so abusive relationships can be both chronic and critical.

The need is great

As this newsletter was being printed, Sheltering Wings was housing **29 women and 38 children**. Since January 1, we've handled **86 crisis calls**.

Our staff members who take help line calls have specialized training. When a victim (or someone who knows a victim) calls, they use standardized assessments to gauge the degree of danger, so they can recommend the best course of action. Some callers need safe housing. Others need referrals, safety planning, and support. No matter what their situation, Sheltering Wings is ready to help anyone who calls our help line, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you or someone you know needs assistance, or just has questions about abuse, please call us.

How our help line works

Our help line receives a wide variety of calls. Some are from people who need safe housing, but others call with questions or to obtain referrals to resources. We often hear from people who are calling on behalf of a friend, daughter, employee, or co-worker.

Typical questions one may ask include:

- How do I help her to leave?
- Do you have space available?
- She keeps going back, what do I do?
- Is what my friend is experiencing actually abuse?
- What about the kids?

Leaving an abusive relationship has to be the victim's decision. That's why we urge those calling for someone else to also encourage the victim to give us a call even if they are not ready to leave.

Victims who don't need safe housing often benefit from referrals to resources in the community. We point them to Connect2Help 211, as well as the Family and Social Services Administration which can help with disability, healthcare, childcare, mental health services and other family resources. Our case managers can offer the same assistance over the phone or in person during scheduled appointments that victims receive

when living at Sheltering Wings. We offer to mail a victim a support packet, and can provide assistance in obtaining protective orders, court support, and hospital programs. Both residents and non-residents are invited to our weekly Embracing Empowerment support group. We can also provide advice to employers of victims, pastors and other community members.

Our staff members are experienced advocates for domestic violence victims and great resources for anyone who needs help or answers. They're available to you and people you know 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I CALL?

We'll ask questions to better understand your situation, and answer any questions you have. We use an assessment to determine the degree of abuse and danger, so we can help you find the specific resources you need, which may include coming to Sheltering Wings.

HOW CAN I GET TO THE SHELTER?

If we determine that you should come, we'll ask about transportation. If you don't have access to a car or a trusted friend who can bring you, we'll help make arrangements.

WHERE WILL MY CHILDREN STAY?

If your children live with you, they will stay with you at Sheltering Wings. If they are enrolled in a local school, we will make arrangements to ensure continuing education.

WHAT IS THE SHELTER LIKE?

Sheltering Wings has a homelike atmosphere. Each bedroom includes four beds, a walk-in closet, a private bathroom with shower/tub, and a door that locks. Residents share a common kitchen and fully stocked pantry. There are living room areas, as well as play and study areas for the children.

IS THE SHELTER SAFE?

Very safe. You and your children will be protected by state-of-the-art security systems. No one can enter the shelter facility without permission from our staff. We never reveal who is (or who is not) residing with us.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I ARRIVE?

An advocate or case manager will guide you and your children to your room, which will be stocked with personal hygiene items and basic necessities. You'll meet with a case manager, who will assess your needs and those of your children. The case manager will develop a plan to ensure that you and your children receive the services you need.

THANK YOU!

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY WE ARE DEBT FREE!

Through your support, we were recently able to share some exciting news. Our Board of Directors announced that Sheltering Wings made its final mortgage payment. Yes, we are now debt-free! We no longer have a large mortgage hanging over our heads, and we don't have to worry about making the payments each month. Even more important, that frees up about \$36,000 a year that we can now use to directly help the families we support.

Thanks to our prayers being answered through the astounding generosity of Hendricks County and the surrounding area, we'll enter 2016 in our strongest financial condition in several years. Unfortunately, the need for our services continues to grow faster than our resources. That means community support continues to be critical, and we'll continue to be good stewards of every dollar we receive.

Together, we'll bring hope to victims of domestic violence.

Protecting Fido and Fluffy

Domestic violence victims don't always have two legs. Research reveals some scary statistics about the roles household pets play in abuse. For starters, 71 percent of pet-owning women who entered shelters like ours reported that their abuser had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened the family's pets out of revenge or a desire to control. No wonder that nearly two-thirds of victims won't flee to safety because they're worried that the pets they leave behind will suffer at the hands of their abusers. And more than half of those who do seek safety are forced to leave their pets with those abusers.

We understand the strong emotional connections people have with their pets,

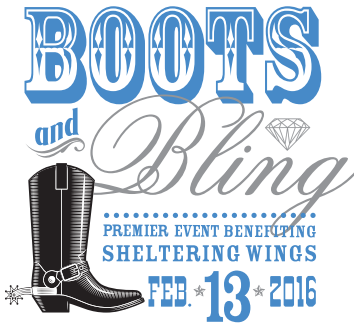
and the comfort and support they provide to victims of domestic violence. That's why we've made finding foster care for our residents' pets a priority. We already have foster families and organizations ready to care for dogs and cats. We're working on sources to help with birds, reptiles, horses, and other farm animals. Our goal is to remove the common barrier to seeking help and safety.

Sheltering Wings is currently working with PetAgree, Humane Society of Hendricks County, Misty Eyes, Banfield Animal Hospital, Hendricks County Animal Shelter, and other local organizations and vets. We're also involved with a California-based group called Red Rover that provides funding for veterinary needs while victims seek shelter.

If you know someone who is afraid to leave an abusive home because of concerns for their pets, encourage them to call us and we'll help find pet fostering and care for victims of domestic violence.



A foot-stompin' success



YEE-HAW! Thanks to a stampede of guys and gals in cowboy finery, **Sheltering Wings roped in an amazing \$154,000 at our February Boots and Bling fundraiser.** Our annual premier event took on a western theme this year, featuring special guests **Jim, Deb & Kevin of 95.5 WFMS, and beloved emcee Tom Zupancic.**

Attendees laughed as Jim, Deb, and Kevin shared funny stories about their favorite musicians, participated in a live version of Denny's Ditty, and sang "y'all come" in a spirited competition. There was a corral full of fun activities, from the popular Heads or Tails games, a wine pull, a photo booth, a live and silent auction, and so much more. Our Teens that Talk group was on hand with a Crush for your Crush fundraiser.

The event provided a way to say "much obliged" to the shelter's biggest supporters, git some learnin' about domestic violence, and have some rootin'-tootin' fun on a chilly evening. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Teens promote awareness

February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and Avon, Brownsburg, Danville and Tri-West High Schools observed it with awareness and fundraising efforts. Among those, Tri-West held a student-run convocation for the entire school to talk about healthy and unhealthy behaviors in dating relationships. Avon's SADD club hosted a Girl's Night In to encourage healthy relationships.

The students raised \$1000 for teen dating violence education and prevention by selling "Crush for your Crush" and "Sucker for your Sweetie," which were delivered during school the week of Valentine's Day, along with messages about safe and healthy relationships.

Teens That Talk works hard in their schools and peer groups to raise awareness about healthy relationships. What else are these caring and dedicated teens up to? **Follow them on Twitter and Instagram @TeensThatTalk.**



THANKS TO OUR BOOTS AND BLING SPONSORS

YEE HAW! LEVEL

ClaimAid

GIDDY UP! LEVEL



BOOT SCOOTIN' LEVEL

Monarch Beverage Company, Inc.
The Flyer Group

ROOTIN' TOOTIN' LEVEL

Managed Health Services
Serendipity

SPEAK UP
DON'T COVER IT UP!
TALK ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE



LETTER FROM A TEENS THAT TALK MEMBER

I remember talking to a group of my friends a couple months after I joined the Sheltering Wings Youth Council. One of my friends was telling us about her boyfriend. She complained that he kept taking her phone to look through her photos and messages, and that he had installed an app to track her phone's location when they weren't together. The relationship that she was describing sounded a lot like the kind of unhealthy relationship that the Youth Council tries to educate teens about. When I pointed this out, not a single one of my friends agreed. They all told me and our friend that since her boyfriend wasn't hitting her, their relationship was fine.

Conversations like this reinforce the idea that education about what a healthy relationship really looks like is needed. The Youth Council strives to educate teens about the potential dangers of unhealthy relationships with the goal of preventing domestic violence and ending the cycle of abuse. That's a big undertaking for a group of teens. But with the help of our fearless leader (Melissa Echerd, the Shelter's Education and Outreach Coordinator), we have managed to do a lot of great things.

I see my involvement in the Youth Council as way more than just volunteer work. I truly believe that if teenagers are legitimately passionate about educating other teenagers about ideal relationships the amount of domestic violence cases among adults would decrease. We need to make changes now. We need to educate now. After all, prevention is a lot easier than intervention.

Support our work

Yes, I want to ensure that all victims have the resources they need. Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

- \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$ Other _____

- Monthly One Time

To make an easy donation online, visit www.ShelteringWings.org and click **DONATE NOW!**

- I've enclosed my check # _____

- Please charge my credit card
\$ _____

- Visa MC Discover Amex

CARD NUMBER

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□
□□□□

Exp. Date (MM/YY): □□/□□

CVV _____

SIGN YOUR NAME: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



TRIM OUT AND RETURN TO SHELTERING WINGS

Giving

Help us out

I'd like to volunteer.

I am interested in:

- Helping with administrative work in the office
- Providing child care at the Shelter
- Inviting a Shelter rep to my church or group to share an update
- Becoming a monthly prayer partner
- Organizing events
- Helping with the Shelter's domestic violence awareness campaign in October
- Serving on the Youth Council
- Sponsoring a room
- Learning more about planned giving (wills, bequests, donor advised funds)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Look for us on



Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram and Pinterest!

Volunteer



SHELTERING WINGS

HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 6783



West Hospital **Thank you to IU West for sponsoring our newsletter.**

We appreciate those who have helped us in special ways, including:

- Our Christmas elves: **Mary Huguet, Michelle Payne, Ronda Rosenbaum, and Marilyn Wheelock**, for putting together yet another wonderful Christmas for our ladies and children.
- **The Cellular Connection** in Brownsburg for including us in their grand opening and for their gift of \$500 as part of this event.
- **Chicago's Pizza in Plainfield, Monical's Pizza in Avon, and the Brownsburg and Avon locations of Firehouse Subs** for helping to make our Pay It Forward day a success and recognizing our first responders throughout Hendricks County.
- **LEO group at St. Malachy's**, for hosting a Valentine's party for our children.
- **All those who heard** and responded to our call for size 4 and 5 diapers.
- **Miss Eva** for her continued Bible activities and extra time devoted to our children.



Our website is a community resource

Want to know more about domestic violence? Know a victim who needs help? Interested in how you can help Sheltering Wings? You'll find the answers to these questions and a tremendous amount of other helpful information at our recently updated website, shelteringwings.org.

What's on our Wish List?

When you provide items from our Wish List, we don't have to spend money to purchase them. That turns generosity into savings of thousands of dollars every year! Our current wish list is at shelteringwings.org. Can you help with these ongoing needs?

- **Postage stamps**
- **Large paper clips**
- **39 gallon trash bags**
- **Gift cards (gas stations and Lowe's)**
- **Neosporin, Advil and Tylenol, Cold Medicine (adult and baby/children)**
- **Disinfectant spray and dryer sheets**
- **Copy paper**
- **Black Sharpies**
- **Ziploc bags (gallon)**