

SHARED BLESSINGS

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

FALL 2007 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

A Better Life

Her husband's heart pain meant an emergency trip to the hospital. During her stay she saw a stack of credit card sized cards in a holder in the women's restroom. On it were emergency phone numbers and a plan to escape an abuser. She wasn't sure if "victim" described her, but stuck it in her shoe anyway.

Back at her husband's side, she remained the dutiful wife and listened while the doctor released her husband from the emergency room. The heart pain passed and so had the emergency.

Later at home, she hid the card in the elastic of a pair of folded socks in a drawer. If he caught her with it, she knew her life would be in danger.

Eventually, she grew tired of his controlling ways. She couldn't be out of his sight. Not only was she to drive him to his job site, but she was forced to stay in the car all day, waiting for him, even when she was physically ill.

Her only respite was a part-time job, but he made that difficult by showing up unannounced until he was banned from the property.

She would cry ... daily. He hit her ... frequently. She was in danger ... always.

“By the grace of God I found Sheltering Wings and you have made me feel sane and hopeful! You are helping me move on from the bad situations that I have been going through. I want to thank those who donate their time, service, and materials to Sheltering Wings. I really do appreciate this chance and opportunity in my life! Hopefully one day I will be able to pay it forward to return the blessings that have been given to me.”

“Amanda”

Staring at the card, she finally called the number. Help was swift. It saved her and her children.

Since 2002, Sheltering Wings has been offering a haven for victims of domestic violence just like the above scenario. Through the generosity of churches, volunteers, and you, we have been able to offer hope to residents who are so accustomed

to abuse that it never dawns on them that life can be better.

Particularly poignant are the children rescued from a miserable existence and given a chance at a home filled with love. Our mission is to provide Haven, Home, and Hope to these women and children.

5 Years of Hope

	Jan-Aug 2007	Jan 2002-Aug 2007
Crisis calls	814	5,250
Women and children housed	438	1,100
Educated through community outreach	2,030	58,700

Chief Thoughts: *Ann Grayson*



I began my journey as the new CEO of Sheltering Wings a few short months ago and the experience has been humbling and eye-opening. Each day I learn of the suffering of women and children and I struggle with them to understand the “whys” of their situations. As the statistics of domestic violence cross my desk, it is humbling to realize that while great strides have certainly been made during the first five years of the shelter’s existence, the need is as great as it was when the shelter was built.

Despite this sad reality, I have also witnessed the immeasurable joy of hope during these first few months. I have watched the community rally around the Shelter’s mission to provide a safe haven for victims of domestic abuse. I take comfort in the 70 percent success rate of our residents who leave the shelter to lead safe, independent lives. I know that our volunteers and donors are making a difference in Hendricks County and I recommit myself to a personal goal of improving the success rate while redoubling

efforts at prevention and continued community support. Sheltering Wings’ staff and volunteers, as well as the Board of Directors are committed to mending these broken lives.

Lately, my mind has been running over a certain piece of Scripture. “And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” – Romans 5:2-5.

Shortly before my arrival, the Sheltering Wings staff worked long and hard on a new logo which reminds us that the shelter is Haven Home Hope. As I grow into my role, I see clearly how appropriate the logo is. We are a haven and a home. We also know, through Scripture, that our Hope will never disappoint us. As we embark upon our next five years we face a future with great need. Please prayerfully consider being a part of our Hope by investing your time, talents or treasures in the lives of women and children in crisis.

Providing Community Outreach Programs for Five Years

Sheltering Wings opened its doors in January 2002. We remain the only provider of emergency housing and services for women and children suffering from domestic violence in Hendricks County. Additionally, we have a rich history of community outreach and education to raise awareness of domestic abuse and its consequences.

On one hand, we reach out to educate the community about domestic violence and to explain our services and impact. We speak to church groups, schools, businesses, and civic clubs. Oftentimes we are speaking directly to a victim who is unaware that help is out there. Just a simple definition of domestic abuse can enlighten and encourage a victim to seek help.

On the other hand, our mission would be endless if we didn’t attempt to prevent future violence. We seek to do this through education. Sheltering Wings educates residents about domestic violence prevention and healthy relationships. We educate the community about warning signs and unhealthy patterns in teen dating relationships.

Outreach Provided by Sheltering Wings

Teen education in high schools & youth groups
Sheltering Wings’ Teen Council (teens trained as peer educators)
Business & civic club educational speaking
Church member training
Community health, safety & wellness fairs
Domestic Violence Task Force
Providing safety cards to local businesses
Training business leaders on recognizing & addressing domestic violence
Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) activities
Pair Up Event (Teen Dating Violence Program)

We facilitate forum discussions about domestic violence in businesses, churches and schools.

Additionally, Sheltering Wings’ Church Connection Council is a group of approximately 50 local churches that meets monthly to provide volunteers, prayer and financial support. We

recognize it as a tremendous blessing that also serves as a conduit to congregational education about domestic abuse and violence.

In five years, we have educated over 60,000 people in our community. We know education is working. This is evidenced in part by the fact that in 2002, most of our referrals and crisis calls came from law enforcement. Today, because of the outreach efforts, a majority of our referrals come from family and friends. We are grateful to see that the community is talking about this problem!

You can help spread the word about domestic violence and how Sheltering Wings can help. If you would like to know more about our services or how you can help someone escape domestic violence, call 317-745-1496.

Volunteer Voice: *Danielle Huff*

Several years ago, a group of dedicated food pantry volunteers from Cornerstone Christian Church in Brownsburg discovered the absence of a domestic violence shelter in Hendricks County. In response to learning this sad fact, the group created a vision. They spent countless hours making that vision a reality. Five years ago, a talented and compassionate staff and a cadre of caring volunteers opened Sheltering Wings with the idea of extending a helping hand to suffering women and children in crisis. The volunteers painted, put together bunk beds, set up playground swings and answered the phones.

Soon the calls were coming at a rapid pace. Today, volunteers provide child care, event planning, mentoring for adults and children and general support for the operation of Sheltering Wings.

In five years, volunteers have helped Sheltering Wings by:

- Giving almost 27,000 hours of service;
- Saving the shelter \$378,000 in operating costs;
- Making it possible for more than 5,000 families to have a safe place to call; and
- Supporting a shelter that has housed more than 2,000 residents.

Each of these acts of kindness has made a critical difference in the lives of numerous women and children. We thank you for your service.

Without the comfort and guidance of volunteers, the safety and dignity that Sheltering Wings offers would not be



possible. With your continued support and involvement we will be able to continue educating our community and reach families suffering from domestic abuse. If you are interested in reconnecting with the shelter or exploring other areas

of interest, please call Danielle at 718-0735 ext. 304 to learn about opportunities to do so. We would be grateful for your service.

Domestic Violence 101

Domestic abuse, also referred to as intimate partner violence or domestic violence, is the use of controlling or hurtful action in the context of a couple or dating relationship. An abuser may use one or more of the following to gain control over their victim: physical or sexual violence; emotional or psychological hurt; and/or the use of threats. Domestic abuse does not always mean physical abuse. Victims of emotional, verbal, and sexual abuse are also helped by Sheltering Wings programs. Even one threat or abusive act may result in intimidation that impacts the entire family. If you or someone you know needs help, call 317-745-1496 day or night.

Call to Action:

We face an epidemic of violence.

Worldwide, between one quarter and one half of women have been abused by intimate partners. Even more staggering is the fact that between 40-70 percent of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner. In America, 588,000 women are victims of violence inflicted by an intimate partner. Unfortunately, the violence is not limited to adults. In a survey conducted by the U.S. Government, 50 percent of men who frequently abuse their spouse also frequently abuse their children.

Last year, 79 deaths in Indiana were attributed to domestic violence. Since our doors opened in 2002, the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department has handled more than 4,000 domestic calls. We know that the violence is real. Our cause has been to offer compassionate care to the abused and their dependents. We also hope to break the cycle of violence through community outreach and programs designed to restore innocent victims.

We ask that you help us reach these goals by giving whatever resources you are lead to share whether it be your time or financial resources. We would benefit greatly from volunteer services in the administrative, child care and transportation arenas. Perhaps you are in a position to offer in-kind donations, professional services or food donations. We also have need for volunteers to help other community members learn about recognizing and preventing domestic violence.

The stats are overwhelming. The problem is great ... but to ignore it is to ignore our own compassion. Please give!

SHELTERING WINGS

† HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

P.O. Box 92 • Danville IN 46122

Phone 317.745.1496

Fax 317.745.1497

www.shelteringwings.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Danville, IN
Permit 12

Program Status: “The Building”

Unfortunately, as many of you know, Sheltering Wings has been operating at or exceeding capacity since we opened our doors in January 2002. Space constraints have impacted our ability to store materials and supplies; our staff's ability to have suitable working space; and most importantly, our ability to conduct education and programming for our women and children residents as well as for community members.

Last autumn, we took action to move some of our administrative services to an office near the shelter. The offsite space allows us to continue to offer critical programming at the shelter and host community educational events such as The Teen Dating Violence Council and Domestic Violence Awareness Committees.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Sertoma St. Valentine's Dinner Dance to benefit Sheltering Wings will be Saturday February 16, 2008 at Primo West Banquet Center. More information is to come.



Additionally, due to the generosity of community members, we have been able to meet a great need by reconfiguring our existing space at the shelter to create three additional intake rooms (private spaces where women can be welcomed and therapy conducted). As part of this reconfiguration, we also created a special teen room. The Teen Room is designed for teens to do homework, interact, listen to music and unwind.

We are truly grateful for the generous support that has made these amenities possible.

This is an exciting time for Sheltering Wings. We are actively assessing our long term building and programming needs and are studying the most cost effective ways to meet such needs.

We appreciate your prayers as we embark upon this next phase of our journey!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- ~**Hendricks Regional Health** for the June 2007 golf outing sponsorship
- ~**Duke Energy** for the Teen Dating Violence Awareness program sponsorship
- ~**Alpha Chi Omega, Carpenter Realty, Clarian West Medical Center, The Law Office of Claire E. Lewis, and New Life Associates** for Pair Up Event sponsorships
- ~**CARe** (Communities Against Rape Initiative) for sponsoring this edition of the newsletter and Teen Dating Violence Prevention programs throughout the year
- ~**Lincoln Bank** for supporting the Shelter's Outreach Program
- ~**The Hendricks County Generals** football team for their ongoing support

CCC UPDATE:

We've added three Church Connection Council members! We're happy to be working with Harlan Hinkle (Calvary UM Church), Ramona Rice (Trader's Point Christian Church) and Sharon Brooks (Kingsway Christian Church). The Church Connection Council includes 50 local churches that help us accomplish our mission. If you'd like to be involved or know more, contact Mary Williams at 317-718-0735, ext. 301.