

SHARED BLESSINGS

“My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Phillipians 4:19

FALL 2008 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the “Day of Unity” in October 1981. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon

became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels. The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence. In 1989 the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October of that year as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Such legislation has passed every year. – adapted from the *1966 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resource Manual, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

In Matthew, Jesus said, “*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.*” At Sheltering Wings we shine a light to the women and children that enter our “house.” This past quarter we have seen a record

So Far in 2008:

Crisis calls	968
Women & children housed	199
Educated through outreach	2416
Volunteer Hours	2927

October Activities:

- Oct 1 Judicial Open House @ Sheltering Wings 4-6 pm
- Oct 9 Power Up @ Serendipity (Metropolis) 5:30-8:30 pm
- Oct 11 Candlelight Vigil @ Washington Township in Avon 5-7pm
- Oct 14 Friends & Family Open House @ Sheltering Wings 4-8pm

Throughout the month.....

- safety cards will be distributed to area businesses and churches
- mirror clings for salons and spas will be available
- contact Sheltering Wings to schedule a staff member to speak to your business, church or group

number of crisis calls, a record number of women and children coming to our doors for refuge. Our outreach team has been asked to speak at more engagements than ever. We have partnered with many area schools to teach our teens about dating violence in efforts to stop the cycle. God has been faithful throughout. He has brought us a dedicated team who serve as unto the Lord. I am truly blessed to be a part of this ministry.

My hope is that you will join us as we continue to voice our outrage over the physical, emotional, economic, spiritual, and sexual abuse of our citizens. My hope is you will join us in this month of observance by participating in any of our many activities as described in this newsletter. My hope is that you will be blessed as you have blessed us with your words of encouragement, financial giving, donations, and prayers. My hope is that through all of our efforts, one day, Sheltering Wings will no longer be needed.

God Bless You,
Maria Larrison
CEO

Serving Our Community by Mary Williams, Dir. of Marketing & Business Development



Dave Shelbourne, head football coach and counselor at Avon High School, realizes the importance of his team being involved in the community. Each year Dave invites a staff member from Sheltering Wings to one of the afternoon football practices. They talk with his young men about domestic violence and the effects it has on our community. Additionally they learn how to recognize the signs of this generational problem. He is dedicated to not only training the team to be good football players, but how to be good citizens as well.

Dave says that reality sets in at the high school level. The kids need to realize their roles and responsibilities as adults

and as football players, and says it starts with himself. He feels that he should set the standard for them as a coach, and involve the parents as they have a Parent Club that takes an active part in the lives of the students.

During one of the football games in the month of October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month), the high school promotes game attendees to bring in items that are needed at the shelter. The day after the game, the football team loads all of the donated items and personally delivers them to Sheltering Wings.

Thank you, Dave, and thank you Avon High School Football Team, for your support as well as your example to our community.

Residential Services by Linda Wells, Residential Services Manager



I recently questioned a resident of Sheltering Wings and wanted to share some encouraging responses.

Q: As a resident of Sheltering Wings, how have the volunteers been most helpful to you?

A: "The volunteers have given me an opportunity to go to school, attend court and have alone time to take a break from life by providing childcare services for my children. This has been such a blessing to me!"

Q: How have the educational programs that Sheltering Wings provides affected you and other residents?

A: "Although this seems basic, the Healthy Relationships group at the shelter has been very eye opening! Unless someone sits down with you to explain what abuse is you do not know what it is. The Healthy Relationships group is affirmation to what the women truly have gone through and it goes much deeper than being physically abused."

Q: You have been a resident at Sheltering Wings for quite some time now. What do you think of the outreach of the community and of the many churches that provide and meet so many needs?

A: "I attended the Valentines Dinner Dance and it was very clear to me how all of those people really cared about all of us! I realized just how many resources it must take to keep this facility running, and this was very overwhelming to me! Many churches in our community provide meals for our families. This enables us to have quality family time and is greatly appreciated!"

Outreach Team by Mike Garrett, Chief Development Officer



As the recently arrived Chief Development Officer for Sheltering Wings, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to communicate with you as we continue on our journey to guide and lead the outreach efforts of our Sheltering Wings mission. Outreach involves our partnering, interaction, and accountability to you in the form of business development, marketing, volunteer recruiting, support and coordination. By working with our religious community through our Church Connection Council, event planning and coordination we are leading efforts to raise funds required to maintain, grow and continue the Lord's work. I believe my former professional career and personal experiences have prepared me to faithfully serve here at Sheltering Wings, and for that I am truly thankful.

As we reach the last quarter of the year, many of us are reviewing our charitable donations and contemplating additional giving before year's end. Please keep Sheltering Wings in mind - we have many needs to fill! Your contributions of time, talent, treasure and prayer support are vital to our success. There are many other ways you may assist us. Please feel free to contact me or another member of the Outreach Team for more information.

I have had the privilege and opportunity to meet some of you already. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next weeks, months and years to follow as we help further the Lord's work at Sheltering Wings.

Please feel free to contact me directly by e-mail at mgarrett@shelteringwings.org or at (317) 718-0735 x307. It's great to be here! May God Bless You and Your Families.

Volunteer Voice *by Andrea Crozier,* *Children's Coordinator*



A five year old little girl sits in the office of the Children's Coordinator and as they are talking the Children's Coordinator asks, "Now that I have asked you a few questions, do you have any questions for me?" The little girl responds, "I have a question... um... I really want to help their (her parents) relationship work and I try... I try really hard. But why can't I do it?" After the question is asked she looked at the Children's Coordinator and waited to hear what she could do as a five year old little girl to make daddy change and their family to be together again. How do you answer a child's question that is so complex?

The Children's program at Sheltering Wings exists to break the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence. The children that enter the shelter are infants all the way to 17 years of age. The program addresses both the immediate needs the children face and the long-term guidance. Sheltering Wings brings restoration and hope to those that have been beaten down by life and unfortunate circumstances. But for every woman and child that steps foot into the shelter, Sheltering Wings becomes the hands and feet of Christ.

Children that are exposed to domestic violence are in great need of emotional support and practical resources. Our programming is designed to minimize the likelihood that these children will enter into abusive relationships or become abusers themselves. We strive to rebuild relationships and trust damaged by abuse, restore or create a sense of normalcy to daily living, teach about healthy relationships, model self-exploration and self-expression, and build self-esteem, values and character. The shelter provides a variety of groups: Domestic Violence Support Group, Healthy Relationships, Divorce Care, Kids Safety Group and Storytime.

The Children's program is overseen by a full-time Children's Coordinator and a part-time Children's Mentor, whose efforts begin when a child enters Sheltering Wings. The children's staff meets with the child to assess his or her needs and then meets with the mother to share observations and make referrals and recommendations. The staff also assists in efforts to teach the mother's safe, appropriate parenting and child development.

It is because of our Outreach and Education staff that the community has become aware of what domestic violence is, how it affects our children and what they can do to help. The community has become more and more involved with our children by volunteering to watch the children while the mothers attend case management, therapy, programs offered and other various appointments; by being a mentor to a child, providing financial support for outings with our children, and supporting various activities with the children.

With the help of the staff and community, the children exposed to domestic violence have a haven, a home and hope.

Kaitlyn's Day Out

Sheltering Wings partnered with the organization, Camptown, and ventured out into the wilderness on July 31, 2008. The children of Sheltering Wings attended McCormick Creek State Park. This day was sponsored by the Huntsman family of Danville in loving memory of their daughter, Kaitlyn. It was a wonderful day for the children to enjoy the outdoors by hiking and going through a cave. Kaitlyn loved the outdoors and especially butterflies, and everywhere we went that day the children pointed out that a butterfly was with us. We appreciate the kindness of Kaitlyn's family in blessing the children of Sheltering Wings with this fun opportunity!

Did You Know *by Amy Willis,* *Volunteer Services Coordinator*



FACT: 1 in 5 high school girls have been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner

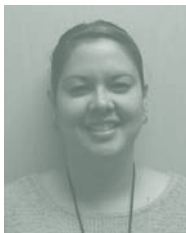
FACT: 40% of teenage girls between the ages of 14 and 17 say they know someone their age that has been hit or beaten

Abusive relationships affect the overall health and safety of both teens and adults. Adolescents in abusive relationships are at a higher risk for injury and are also more likely to report binge drinking, suicide attempts, physical fighting and early sexual activity. Sheltering Wings is committed to addressing the needs of teens and adolescents who are affected by domestic violence and dating abuse.

In our efforts to break the cycle of violence by educating and meeting the needs of the teens in our community Sheltering Wings has implemented a Teen Council. The Teen Council complements and facilitates interactive teen dating violence prevention curriculum that is taught to teens in Hendricks and surrounding counties.

The Council also serves as the planning committee for the Power Up program. Power Up is an evening for parents and teens to safely interact with each other and open the lines of communication about teen dating violence. This year we will "Power-Up for Generational Change" at Serendipity in Metropolis on Thursday, October 9, 2008 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. (Special thanks to our sponsors: **Duke Energy, Clarian West** and **Danville Kiwanis**.) The evening will consist of guest speaker, Debbie Norris, who will share her daughter Heather's story, interactive educational materials and break out groups facilitated by shelter staff and several of our Teen Council members. For more information about the Teen Council or our Power Up event please contact Amy Willis 317.718.0735 ext. 304.

Case Manager's Perspective by Linnette Garcia, Bilingual Case Manager



I have been a part of the Sheltering Wings family since March 2008. My job is to provide case management for residents, either from the emergency or the transitional program. As a bilingual case manager, I am also able to provide much needed services to Spanish-speaking residents that come from the growing Hispanic community in the county.

Some ladies come to the shelter with nothing, just the clothes on their back. Many come in tired, scared anxious and confused, not knowing what to do or what to expect. The step they are taking - leaving their abuser - is a radical and necessary one for them, but by no means easy. This is what I find when I meet them for the first time.

The first case management meeting takes place within the first 72 hours of the resident's arrival to the shelter. During the meeting, the resident's situation is assessed in order to determine the life domains (income, employment, education, transportation, support systems, health, etc.) that require improvement, and the resources available in the community that can help the resident grow in those areas.

Every case is different, so case management results in an

individualized, tailor-made action plan for every resident.

The Bible says in Isaiah 50:4, "*The Master, God, has given me a well-taught tongue, so I know how to encourage tired people.*" (The Message Bible) That Bible verse well describes the job that case managers do - we lift, encourage and motivate the residents to define what they need to do and to actually do those things that will help them achieve stable and self-sufficient lives. What a blessing to be a part of the "reconstruction phase" in our residents' lives!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Sheltering Wings is committed to educate the community on the reality of domestic violence and its impact in our society. If we want to see changes in society, education is the key! As a case manager, I have witnessed two short term results in educating people about domestic violence:

(1) Victims that have been silent come out of the shadows. Victims realize that there is help out there, and many decide to seek the help they need.

(2) Faith-based and grassroots organizations, businesses and individuals realize that they can do something to help the victims, by offering their services and support. As the number of available resources in the community increases, it becomes easier to refer our residents to services that fit their needs, which makes me more effective in my job.

Pastoral Care Article by Larry L. Bellville, Director of Pastoral Care



As a former church minister, I have a deep passion for churches becoming more aware of domestic violence and more responsive to it. The facts are clear: church families are doing little better than non-church families when it comes to the devastation of domestic abuse. Therefore, churches and church leaders need very much to know and understand the "basics" of domestic violence and have an effective plan in place for responding.

Since Sheltering Wings is Christ-centered, churches are vital to our work. On one hand, many churches in the community give generously and in many ways to the shelter. They provide prayer support, volunteers,

donations of goods and materials, community good will, as well as gifts of money. We thank God greatly for the churches and all they do!

But on the other hand, we also believe that we have crucial forms of support that we can give to churches in return. Specifically, we can provide domestic violence training, awareness and safety programs and materials, speakers for groups, assistance to church leaders, as well as a place of refuge to which to refer victims. Sheltering Wings would like churches to consider us as an arm of their ministries in the area of domestic violence. We have the resources, experience and expertise that most churches lack.

We truly thank God for the local churches which have become partners with us, and we joyfully anticipate new partners coming alongside.

SPECIAL THANKS

"Blessings" (Grant Awards)

The Realtor Foundation

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (VOCA & STOP)

Efroymsen Family Fund, a CICF Fund

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

United Way of Central Indiana

PLEASE NOTE: Help us update our records by sending any address corrections or changes to Linda at lwithner@shelteringwings.org or 317-718-5454 ext. 201. You may also sign-up online to receive future 'Shared Blessings' newsletters or the current Wish List electronically at www.shelteringwings.org -- you can even donate online using our secure Google checkout option!