

# SHARED BLESSINGS

WINTER 2010 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

## Miss Indiana develops a platform for change.

What is the difference between a heated argument and an attempt to control another person? When does physical contact become physical abuse? To Gabrielle Reed, the reigning Miss Indiana, the answers given by teens across the state of Indiana to those very questions were shocking.





*“Gabrielle was drawn to the issue of domestic violence because of her own exposure to a troubled relationship.”*

**I**n her recent volunteer work with a Bloomington area shelter, Gabrielle participated in presentations to many Indiana high schools and junior highs in which surveys helped measure student attitudes about what was acceptable and healthy behavior in a relationship... and what was not. “I couldn’t believe the results,” says Gabrielle. “Examples of verbal, and even physical abuse like slapping and hitting, seemed okay to a lot of these kids.” As Miss Indiana, Gabrielle is making it her mission to change that.

Gabrielle’s platform is called “Empowerment from the Start,” and it fills a real need in the fight against domestic violence. As Gabrielle says, “Prevention is what’s going to interrupt the cycle of violence, and that has to begin when kids are just starting to date. That’s what’s going to empower the students to make their own decisions about healthy relationships before they find themselves in an abusive one.”

Gabrielle is working within the existing network of domestic violence shelters to spread her message. She explains, “In no way do I consider myself a domestic violence expert. My goal is to help define it. I let people know that there is a shelter in their area that is ready and willing to help. My hope is that they will take the step of contacting a local shelter, and work toward establishing a prevention program in the school.”

Gabrielle was drawn to the issue of domestic violence because of her own exposure to a troubled relationship. “Twelve years ago,” says Gabrielle, “my mother remarried and

the relationship quickly became verbally abusive. Seeing that day in and day out affected me in ways I didn’t even realize.” She explains, “I struggled with watching my mother go through this, knowing that it was wrong, and trying not to be angry about it. It took some time for me to come to terms with, and deal with, my feelings.”

From her own family experience her advice to individuals suffering from domestic violence. “Be honest with yourself about what you’re going through,” says Gabrielle. “Most of the teens I’ve talked with know when they’re experiencing something that isn’t right. I tell them, ‘Find someone in your life you can be open and honest with. And if you don’t have someone you feel you can trust, seek out your local domestic violence resources.’” She emphasizes, “Those resources are there, and they’re available to everyone.”

Sheltering Wings offers a variety of speakers and programs designed to educate the community about recognizing and preventing domestic violence. To learn more about the issue of teen dating violence, visit the following websites:

[www.shelteringwings.org/getting-help/teen-dating-violence](http://www.shelteringwings.org/getting-help/teen-dating-violence)

<http://www.loveisrespect.org>

<http://www.loveisnotabuse.com>

<http://www.cdc.gov/chooserespect>

<http://www.thatsnotcool.com>

## Focus - Teen Dating Violence Education

The leadership of Sheltering Wings firmly believes that primary prevention is the key to ending the generational cycle of violence. This begins with our youth. Brooke Couch is our Director of Education and Outreach. Her goal is to educate our youth about what a healthy relationship looks like. Thus far in 2010 she has spoken to over 3,250 students. She has been at the following schools:

### Danville Community High School

(all grades in different settings, split up males/females, and grade levels)

**Plainfield Middle School** (8th grade in Healthy Choices class)

**Plainfield High School** (various grades, Early Childhood Development class)

**Brownsburg West Middle School** (7th grade health classes, 6th grade art classes)

**Brownsburg High School** (all health classes, mostly freshman)

**North Central High School** (all health classes, mostly freshmen and sophomores)

**Covenant Christian School** (all health classes, mostly sophomores and juniors)

**Avon South Middle School** (various grades)

### Other community organizations:

**Avon Junior Miss** (junior and senior girls)

**Battle of the Bands** (all ages)

**Get Real** (middle and high school girls)

**YMCA groups** (middle school)

**Youth groups and church groups** (middle and high school students, adult Bible studies)

**Boy Scouts** (middle and high school boys)

In addition we are piloting the “Coaching Boys into Men” program at Avon Middle School North, Avon Middle School South, and Speedway High School.

Sheltering Wings’ own Chloe McClellan and Debbie Norris (a special mom whose daughter was brutally murdered) were instrumental in getting Senate Bill 316 passed (“Heather’s Law”) which encourages schools to have a dating violence program in place as well as a protocol for when someone reports being abused. If you would like Brooke to come and speak to your group, please call 718-0735, ext. 304.

## End-of-year giving

When most executives speak of growth, it is exciting. For Sheltering Wings our growth is a sobering reminder of the challenges we face in dealing with the realities of domestic violence – especially the effects it has on families and our communities. Will you consider a year-end financial donation to support our services? Now more than ever your generosity is needed. Each contribution received helps to provide a safe haven and much needed resources for our women and children, thus ending the generational cycle of violence. Thank you for your support.



## Christmas Giving Opportunities

Christmas is a special time for the women and children. It is a time to rejoice in the birth of our Savior and time for our families to rejoice and share His blessings. You can help make this happen in the following ways:

**FURNISHINGS** – We are underway with our shelter expansion in order to provide a safe haven for our ever-growing number of residents. You can purchase needed items for areas of the shelter such as the kitchen, resident’s room, the children’s area, etc. by using our secure online registry. Or, we are registered at Target or Walmart as well.

**PAVERS** – you may leave a lasting legacy to Sheltering Wings with a commemorative brick paver in memory or honor of someone. This will be placed in our new courtyard.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS** – Our website is updated monthly with needed items.

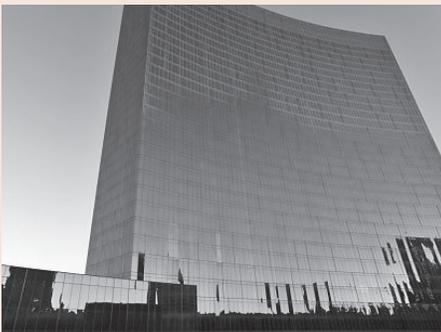
**CASH DONATIONS** – May be given via our website or mailed.

**PRAYERS** – for safety, for women and children that need to be here, for staff, for families that have left for safe housing, for our board of directors – for wisdom, for continued funding for operating and the expansion project.

Our board of directors, shelter team, women and children are so grateful for your generous support. Thank you!

## 12th annual St. Valentine’s Dinner Dance February 12, 2011

Brownsburg Sertoma’s 12th annual St.Valentine’s Dinner Dance will be one of the first local events held at the beautiful new downtown JW Marriott. It is located on a wonderful seven-acre site on the edge of White River State Park. To purchase tickets, reserve a sponsorship, or book your hotel room at the JW (rooms are only \$109), go to [www.shelteringwings.org/dinnerdance](http://www.shelteringwings.org/dinnerdance). Proceeds benefit Sheltering Wings.





# SHELTERING WINGS

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## Get Involved

• **PNC Bank** at Rockville & Raceway is proud to support Sheltering Wings. During the month of December open a select new PNC Personal Checking Account with qualifying direct deposit. You'll receive \$100 and \$25 will be donated to the shelter. Call 317-271-7310 for more information.

• **"End Violence Together"** Speak out and purchase a special recognition license plate to help support direct services throughout Indiana. Log onto <https://myweb.in.gov/BMV/mybmvportal/PlatesAndRegistrations/IndianasLicensePlates/IndianasOrganizationalLic>

• **Brownsburg Fitness 2nd Annual Spin-A-Thon**

A Benefit for Sheltering Wings  
Saturday, December 18th, 2010  
8:00AM-4:00PM.

If you have any questions, please contact: Matthew Serd at 317-852-6100 or [matt@brownsburgfitness.com](mailto:matt@brownsburgfitness.com). All proceeds from this event will go to Sheltering Wings in memory of Angie Warnock.

## Social Networking



See us on

[twitter.com/shelteringwings](https://twitter.com/shelteringwings) or  
[www.facebook.com/shelteringwings](https://www.facebook.com/shelteringwings)  
[www.shelteringwings.org/blog](http://www.shelteringwings.org/blog)

