

SHARED BLESSINGS

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” Proverbs 18:10



SPRING 2008 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

Who We Serve...

An equal opportunity offender, domestic violence is a social disease that can impact anyone from any walk of life at any time. While there is no “average” or “typical” domestic violence victim, Sheltering Wings has gathered information about our residents and has formulated a composite to give you an idea of whom we serve.

Her age is between 20 and 39 and she has one child.

She earns less than \$10,000 a year at the time of admission.



She has likely taken some college or training after high school.

She heard about Sheltering Wings through the media or was referred to us by family and friends.

Sheltering Wings provides a safe haven for these victims who are trying to rebuild their lives. As one resident said, “I feel safe here because I am not alone. Emergency housing at Sheltering Wings is a place to go when you don’t want to involve friends or family in a dangerous situation.”

Last year, 75 deaths were attributed to domestic violence in Indiana. One in four families suffers from violence in the home. Someone very close to you may be suffering in silence.

“I am so grateful to have a safe place to go to get away from the abuse my daughters and I have been trying to cope with for years. This place is really amazing in the way the staff and mentors help you with everything you need at no cost. I am overwhelmed at the donations that come through the doors to help us. I’ve known that Sheltering Wings was here but I had no idea just what a wonderful, safe, Christ-centered place it really is. I can’t wait to get on my feet where I can give back what they have so generously given to me.”

“Rachael”

The sad truth is that Sheltering Wings continues to be necessary. We estimate that in the first quarter of this year, Sheltering Wings will have already received 300 Crisis Calls and provided residential refuge for more than 30 women and 36 children fleeing from domestic violence.

Chief Thoughts: *Ann Grayson*



Did you know that based on a survey on in a single day in September of 2007, domestic violence programs served more than 53,000 adults and children in the United States? Of those adults and children, 25,321 found residential refuge in a shelter. One single day!

These staggering figures exemplify some of the sad facts I have encountered since starting my role at Sheltering Wings. These and other startling realities of domestic violence are, however, balanced by the Hope we have in the services provided through God's ministry at Sheltering Wings. In 2007 alone, 109 women and 117 children found refuge within our walls and shelter staff and volunteers provided services to 1,458 callers of our 24 hour crisis line.

When a woman makes the courageous decision to seek the protection of Sheltering Wings, her first step in her journey of recovery is to enter our Emergency Services Program. In the first 45 days of her stay, we do all we can to meet her immediate needs. These needs often include the provision of food, clothing, transportation and emotional support for court dates and medical appointments. During this time and throughout their stay, we use comprehensive research-based tools to assess our residents' life skills (education, finances, transportation, housing, physical health, mental health, parenting, etc.) and work with each woman

to help her to achieve the end goal - an independent, violence-free life.

Our ability to provide these services is due to the Lord's provision for the shelter and the generosity of His servants - servants just like you! Your contributions of time, finances and prayers are changing lives. Because of you, a child who did not speak or make eye contact with anyone when he first arrived at the shelter now calls out staff member's names and runs to them with open arms. Because of you, three of our former residents are homeowners living independently in Habitat For Humanity homes. Because of you, residents are being tutored for their GEDs, mothers have childcare support while they attend medical appointments and job interviews, and the shelter's pantry is full of food. We see the face of God through you! Domestic violence is not simply going to go away overnight, but because of God's provision and His willing servants in our community, we are able to continue to provide critical services to those in need.

During this Lenten season, you may find yourself pondering how to connect with others in a deeper way. If you find yourself led to connect with others through Sheltering Wings, please contact us by calling (317) 745-1496 or visit our website at www.shelteringwings.org.

Additionally, if you or someone you know needs help, we are here 24 hours a day, year-round. Please call upon us to help!

Church Connection Council Meets Monthly:

Sheltering Wings' Church Connection Council is a group of volunteers made up of church members from approximately 50 local churches. The volunteers act as liaisons between their individual churches and the shelter. Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Hendricks County Senior Services

Center. The April 2008 meeting will feature information about the shelter's Emergency Shelter Program. If you would like to become involved, talk to your pastor or lead clergy, and contact us at 317-718-0735 ext. 301.

Profile of a Mentor:

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."-- 1 John 3:18

Inspired by the light and life of Jesus Christ, Ellen Moody was called to serve her fellow humans.

"After I got to know Jesus, in learning who He is and what He's done for me, I wanted to show my gratitude," she said. "I'm showing love for my fellow man, being there for them. I'm trying to be a servant to the ladies that come here."

Since it first opened in 2002, Ellen was interested in



Volunteer Voice:

Volunteers are the soul of Sheltering Wings. Their contribution is immeasurable and greatly appreciated. Last year, volunteers gave more than 1,330 hours of their time to help residents rebuild their lives.

Linda Bellville, along with her husband Larry, volunteers by teaching Sheltering Wings' Parenting 101 group. This educational support group is vital to teaching residents parenting skills which strengthen their relationships with their children.

Question: What have you learned by working with women in the Parenting 101 class?

I've learned that I really don't know much of anything, but I know the God who knows everything and gives His wisdom generously and without reproach. I've learned that we can learn much from each other as we share in our groups.

Question: What do you think has the biggest impact on women in the emergency housing program?

I think the biggest impact on these women and their children has to be the life-changing encounter with Christ, recognizing that He is at work in their lives, and mine, regardless of the circumstances.

Question: What is your favorite part of volunteering at the shelter?

My favorite part of volunteering is seeing clearly that God is so at work in Sheltering Wings and the residents' lives.

If you would like to explore how you can become a part of Sheltering Wings' volunteer program or would like to receive our volunteer e-newsletter, please contact Maria at 718-5454 ext. 202.

Call to Action:

Sheltering Wings is a safe place for healing. It was built to fill a need for compassion in this community towards victims of domestic violence. The need for our services continues to grow at an alarming rate. Our efforts are just the beginning in a long battle to stop the intergenerational cycle of violence. There are a number of ways to help:

- You may donate online at www.shelteringwings.org.
- Support "Walk a Mile" in her shoes for Sheltering Wings at Metropolis Mall scheduled for May 10, 2008.
- Purchase tickets for our August 7, 2008 Dazzling Designs Fashion Show at www.shelteringwings.org.

We are happy to help you! If your church, school, or place of business would like to learn more about domestic violence and domestic violence prevention, please call (317) 718-5454 ext. 201.

helping Sheltering Wings, but the timing never seemed right. Her journey of faith led to a calling and Ellen became the lead mentor at Sheltering Wings.

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, mentors are the sounding board, confidantes and supportive resources who provide residents a stable footing to rebuild their lives. Each resident at Sheltering Wings is assigned a personal mentor to guide them through the healing process.

Ellen describes her work as "walking alongside" the women from the time of their initial phone call to self reliance. Mentors meet the residents' basic needs by helping them to obtain clothing and personal items. They

also provide moral support and help residents navigate court appearances, doctor appointments or other stressful situations.

As the lead mentor, Ellen not only works her daily shift at the shelter but is also on call to help her co-workers.

Most importantly, Ellen and the other mentors help residents heal from the abuse they have escaped. It is a unique opportunity to show God's love to hurting families through compassionate care and practical assistance.

Ellen lives in Hendricks County with her husband. She has two sons ages 23 and 18.

The Cycle of Abuse

There is a predictable cycle of abuse that acts as a warning sign.

1. Walking on eggshells – This is the tension building stage where the victim tries to avoid abuse by doing everything right.
2. The abuse – Domestic violence comes in several forms. The easiest to see is physical, but many times the weapons are negative and demeaning words or emotional blackmail.
3. The honeymoon stage – This occurs following an attack. The abuser apologizes and makes promises to never do it again. Many times, these promises are broken, and oftentimes very quickly the cycle begins anew.

If this sounds like a familiar cycle personally or to someone you know, Sheltering Wings can help. Call 317-745-1496, 24 hours a day; seven days a week to receive help.

SHELTERING WINGS

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Dazzling Designs Fashion Show

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“Dazzling Designs” Fashion Show

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6:30-9:00pm

Serendipity@Metropolis Plainfield, IN

Proceeds to benefit the Children's Program

For more information call 317.745.1496 or log onto www.shelteringwings.org

All that Sparkles
and Glitters to
Change Children's Lives

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SPECIAL THANKS

The staff offers a special thanks to all those who made Christmas a special time of celebration for the families of Sheltering Wings. In December, churches, families, businesses, and other groups “adopted” and provided gifts to 45 women and 81 children. We are grateful for the generosity of businesses like **Nelson Jewelers, Brightpoint, Duke Energy, Hendricks Power** and countless others.

The Board of Directors and staff of Sheltering Wings continue to be inspired by the generosity of the community. We thank everyone for another successful Brownsburg Sertoma St. Valentine's Day Dinner Dance (see photos below) including a special thanks to our title sponsors: **Avon Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, ClaimAid Consulting Corporation, Hendricks Regional Health and ReMax Unlimited.**



PLEASE NOTE: Please help us update our records by sending any address corrections or changes to Linda at lwithner@shelteringwings.org or 317-718-5454 ext. 201 and provide your e-mail address if you would like to receive future 'Shared Blessings' newsletters electronically.