

# SHARED BLESSINGS

“For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100:5

SUMMER 2008 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

## “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” Event Raises Money for Sheltering Wings

Men from all walks of life dropped their sneakers and donned high heels in a fund-raiser for Sheltering Wings. “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” was a one-of-a-kind event held at Metropolis on May 10. Thirty-three men wore high heels and walked through the outdoor mall as part of the International Men’s March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence. The effort raised \$7,000. Children who are staying at the shelter made sashes for the winners. Sgt. Brett Clark of the Hendricks County Sheriff’s Department collected more than \$2,300 in pledges.

The week before the walk, to promote the event, fourteen male executives of Brightpoint, a Plainfield based company, posed for pictures with their “hot” heels. (See our back cover.) Photos were then displayed at the company where employees could vote on the best shoes by paying a dollar per vote, raising money for the shelter.

Fun was had by all!

*“Around this work is boundless opportunity. God has purpose for this ministry that probably still remains undiscovered. Speaking to the next generation about the oppression of abuse will be heard by posterity.”*

—Sue Hoffeditz

Sue Hoffeditz was one of the founders of Sheltering Wings and is still involved with the shelter, conducting quarterly focus groups with our residents. More importantly, Sue continues to uplift this vital ministry each morning in prayer.

### So Far in 2008:

Crisis calls	460
Women & children housed	70
Educated through outreach	1869
Volunteer Hours	1506



Dan Bond, Sheltering Wings Board Chair

## Board Announcement: *New Chief Executive Officer*



The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Maria Larrison as its new Chief Executive Officer. Maria most recently served as the Shelter's Interim CEO and Chief Operating Officer (COO). Maria's appointment follows a thorough search process, which included many qualified external applicants. The Shelter's search committee, however, soon realized that Maria's combination of talent, experience and energy could simply not be matched by the other candidates.

Maria has a wide range of experience and training in dealing with domestic abuse. As Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Hendricks County Prosecutors Office, she saw first hand the effects of domestic violence and the need for support and emergency shelter services. In addition, Maria is an active advocate in the community where she is officer on the board of directors for the Hendricks County

Child Advocacy Center, a member of the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault PAC team, and was appointed by Governor Daniels to the Domestic Violence Prevention Treatment Council, which she chairs.

Maria's service to the Shelter has been outstanding. She served on the shelter's first board of directors, which oversaw the fundraising, planning and building of Sheltering Wings. As COO, Maria developed and expanded Shelter programs while building a strong team of committed staff. Maria quickly embraced the additional responsibilities that came with being Interim CEO and clearly demonstrated her effectiveness as she led by example and by her faith.

Maria brings stability, familiarity and a strong knowledge base to this role that will help ensure a smooth transition process. The Board is confident that her skills and abilities will give the Shelter the foundation it will need for future growth and expansion.

## Why it's important for me to be involved in Teen Council

"I feel that there is a need in our community that should be met. That need is the lack of information/education regarding teen dating violence. By being on the Council I am helping our community in a way that I could not do on my own. The information could also help me if I was in an unhealthy dating relationship or if I knew someone else who was. I have learned a lot by being involved in this program."

Alysa Mundy  
Danville

## Teen Dating Program & Teen Council

A quick search of MySpace social networking website shows that about 3,000 teenagers from Hendricks County have their own site. If national statistics hold true, a thousand of them will suffer some form of relationship violence. It's a startling fact.

As part of the comprehensive program to stop relationship violence Sheltering Wings has a proactive Teen Council. Its mission is to educate their peers on domestic violence with the goal of prevention and to counsel other teens on getting help. The Teen Dating Program is an outreach program available to all area schools. There are seven teens on the council from area schools including Avon, Danville, Harris Academy, Tri-West, and Brownsburg.

"We want to prevent teens from ending up in our shelter," said Amy Willis, Sheltering Wings' Volunteer Coordinator. "If they can recognize the signs of abuse and know that it is not O.K., then they can pick healthy relationships which will benefit them for the rest of their lives."

Willis and Cindy Dowers, Director of Events & Education, mentor the council. Both male and female teens make presentations in high school classrooms and at assemblies. The program consists of educational videos and role playing to help explain the signs of an unhealthy relationship. There is even a short quiz about how to recognize relationship abuse.

"I had a teenager who did not consider texting a form of abuse," Willis said, "but it turned out to be a control mechanism. That opened her eyes to the truth in her relationship."

Many times a teen will not feel comfortable speaking with an adult about these issues, so the Teen Council offers peer-to-peer contact with trained teens who can recommend a safe course of action.

"It offers them an extra layer of support that they won't seek from their mom or dad," Willis said. "They're using each other as a network of support and many times teens are not qualified to help each other."

The Teen Council is available to answer individual questions after each seminar.

Teens that seek assistance online are directed to LoveIsRespect.com. There they can speak with counselors and peers in a safe chat room about their relationships, seeking help in an anonymous fashion. Duke Energy believes in our future generation and has generously donated \$10,000 for the Teen Council and Teen Dating program.

For more information on the Teen Council contact Amy Willis at 317-718-0735, ext. 304, or Cindy Dowers at 317-718-0735, ext. 303.

## Volunteer Voice: Shelby's Room *by Andrea Crozier*



It was in September of 2006 that I began my journey working with the children of Sheltering Wings. I quickly noticed that it was common to find young children playing together in the playroom or outside on the playground, but the teens would be sitting in the kitchen or outside on the patio alone. Teens did not have a place to be alone or away from the smaller children. It was evident that there needed to be a special place for teenagers who call Sheltering Wings their home.

A special room for teens was needed and God began to work. I was contacted by the counselor at Danville South Elementary. She shared that their school always does some form of giving to the community and wanted to know if there was something they could do for the children of the shelter. I shared with her the idea of having a Teen Room. She was enthusiastic about the idea, and their fundraising efforts garnered \$1,236.

As we began constructing the Teen Room, local teen and volunteer Shelby Mitchell contacted us about a donation of \$2,000 that she was awarded from the Children's Museum. Shelby's mother was tragically killed by her father through domestic violence in 2004. Shelby has a heart for the children of Sheltering Wings and wanted to give the money she received to develop the Teen Room. With her donation we were able to finish the room. The staff and board agreed to dedicate it to her and name it "Shelby's Room".

Now the teens have a place to do homework, hang out with each other, play games, watch movies, listen to music, and/or journal.

As we look to the future we are in the process of developing a Transitional Life Skills program for children and teens. This will consist of lessons on computer safety, safety in general, nutrition, health, cooking, cleaning, organization/time management, laundry, hygiene, budget and etiquette. Eventually we also hope to hire a part time children's therapist.

It has been about a year since Shelby's Room has been opened and the response is remarkable. To see the teenagers in Shelby's Room laughing, singing, doing homework and helping each other, journaling, and writing poetry is a blessing from God. It is because of answered prayers and willing hearts that a teen can walk through our doors and know they have a special room and can now say that what they like most about the shelter is "Shelby's Room".



Future volunteers receive training in April

### Bilingual Case Manager



In March of this year Linnette Garcia came to us to provide bi-lingual services to our agency.

She is able to answer crisis calls and assist Spanish speaking clients with essential case management.

Her experience and expertise assure that our ladies are provided with the emotional support that is so essential to their healing.



Staff learning essential skills to assist residents during spring training



# SHELTERING WINGS

† HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

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[www.shelteringwings.org](http://www.shelteringwings.org)

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all of those who attended our annual St. Valentine's Dinner Dance. Brownsburg Sertoma continues to bless this ministry with their hard work in organizing this event. Thanks to you, over \$107,000 was raised.

Our title sponsors were: **Avon Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, ClaimAid Consulting Corporation, Hendricks Regional Health and ReMax Unlimited.**

Many thanks also to the volunteers who donated their time to make this event a success.

Mark your calendars now for next year's dance on February 14.

## Call to Action:

You can now donate to Sheltering Wings online at [www.shelteringwings.org](http://www.shelteringwings.org). This is a secure option using Google Checkout and 100% of the donation goes to Sheltering Wings. There are the traditional ways to donate as well by calling the shelter at 317-745-1496 or by mailing your donation to P.O. Box 92 Danville, IN 46122.



Participants of the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event to benefit Sheltering Wings

**PLEASE NOTE:** Please help us update our records by sending any address corrections or changes to Linda at [lwitner@shelteringwings.org](mailto:lwitner@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.