

shared. blessings

winter 2006 • news from **sheltering wings** center for women

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
II Corinthians 9:6*

"I don't know the faces or names of the people who have helped by donating to Sheltering Wings but I thank God for them. I am reminded every day. All I have to do is look around my apartment and see the gifts that have been given. I am truly blessed."

- "Martha"

"Martha" recently moved into her own apartment. Thanks to generous donations from individuals like you, we were able to provide her and her children with all of the furniture they needed.

How powerful is your gift?

- **\$1** provides food for one woman or child for an entire week (thanks to food donations).
- **\$10** provides one hour of childcare while a woman looks for employment.
- **\$50** provides an initial assessment for mom and child.
- **\$100** educates ten teens about healthy dating habits.
- **\$1,000** provides a woman with two weeks of one-on-one mentoring.

Back on her feet again



Months ago, she arrived at our door with two small children and nothing else. The few possessions she shared with her boyfriend in their rundown apartment were now his. She had no money, no car – they walked away with nothing except their lives and a hope that something better was awaiting them.

Today, she learned that they would get the apartment they wanted. Two days ago, her supervisor mentioned that she had passed the probationary period and would soon receive a raise. She tells us that she's sad to be leaving, but we see the joy in her eyes. For the first time in her life, she's making decisions with confidence and feels a sense of value. Her poise is contagious, as she has become a role model for her fellow residents – and for her children, too.

Sheltering Wings saves lives and restores hope. Just as important, by helping the women we serve become self-sufficient, we build a financially stronger and more stable community. Women leave our doors with the resources and knowledge they need to stand on their own two feet. †

By year-end, we expect to have:

- helped 1,300 families who called us in crisis.
- assisted about 100 women and 150 children with emergency housing.
- educated nearly 15,000 people about the impact of domestic violence.

If you or someone you know needs help, call 745-1496 immediately, day or night!

www.shelteringwings.org

Here at the shelter, we're often reminded of a story most of us learned in Sunday School. Luke 21 tells us of the woman who puts just two tiny coins in a treasury overflowing with huge contributions. Jesus responds, *"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

One morning, we opened the mail to find a dime taped to an index card. An attached note thanked us for helping the sender's daughter, and apologized that she couldn't spare more. Her gift was just as precious and sacrificial as the largest donations we have received – and long after her daughter moved out of Sheltering Wings, she continues to share as much as she can.

Two years ago, "Rita" arrived with a unique situation. She had entered the U.S. with a student visa. Leaving her husband put her legal status in jeopardy, and she knew she needed

to return to school. She enrolled in classes and prayed for help with the tuition. God worked through you to provide the funds she and her children needed. She soon found work as a translator and was able to start a new life. Later, we received a letter and a check. Rita had saved for two years so she could repay Sheltering Wings for her tuition. She wanted to give back what she had been given and bless others as she had been blessed.

We often receive reminders of how God moves hearts, and they always humble us. Our staff and our families are constantly in awe of God's ability to turn pennies and dimes into blessings and safety for so many.

As we enter the season of giving, we hope you'll share our joy at these wonderful stories, and we encourage you to think of these women as you consider your own gifts. Thank you for all your support this year, and may God bless you and your loved ones now and always. †

About financial integrity

In each 2006 edition of *Shared Blessings*, we examine one area of our strategic plan to help you better understand our operational challenges. One of those is maintaining the highest level of financial integrity and accountability.

In addition to meeting our day-to-day needs, we are working to identify and develop sustainable sources of funding for the services we provide. Our long-term goal is to achieve economic stability, so that we can ensure our continued viability and maximize the value of the support the community provides.

While we pray that the day will come when our services are no longer needed, we recognize that domestic violence will exist for the foreseeable future. That's why we believe it is just as important to plan for future needs as it is to meet today's challenges.

We recognize that every contribution we receive represents a sacrifice by the giver, so we treat each with respect and seek to obtain the greatest possible impact. We follow standard accounting procedures for nonprofits, with regular reviews and audits to ensure the integrity of our operations and our compliance with the law. You can contribute to Sheltering Wings with confidence that your generosity will be used as you intended. †

Special thanks to

- Principal Financial Group for support of the crisis intervention program.
- CARE for sponsoring teen dating violence outreach in Hendricks County.
- Everyone involved in making Christmas special for the women and kids at Sheltering Wings.

Remember, your end-of-year donation is tax deductible!

Welcome to our newest Church Connection Council members, Kim Geckler (Avon United Methodist Church) and Dennis Ouellette (Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church). To learn more about CCC, call Mary at 317-902-7056.

Just what are people who volunteer worth to Sheltering Wings? Consider that in 2005, we chalked up more than 7,500 hours of volunteer time. That's the equivalent of having four additional full-time people on our staff. This year, we're on track to accumulate more than 8,000 hours.

Because of our generous volunteers, our staff is able to accomplish more than they could otherwise. Most important, they're able to spend more time working directly with the women and children, because our volunteers are able to handle many of their other tasks.

In addition to people donating their time, we expect to receive more than \$100,000 in in-kind donations in 2006. Those donations help us

save money, because we're not forced to use our limited funds to purchase many items. For example, food donations have saved us an estimated \$22,000 in food costs, and \$30,000 in personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. The money we would have spent on those items is available to fund well-qualified staff members and expanded services.

Whether you help us by providing time or donating items we need, your support is every bit as valuable as monetary donations. We know that God works through you to bring safety and hope to our women and children. If you'd like to know more about what you can do to help, call Danielle at 317-718-5454 ext. 204. †

Meet our staff: Mary Williams

There's always good news about Sheltering Wings and our activities, and the responsibility for spreading the word falls to Mary, our Director of Marketing and Events.

Q: Why do people give?

A: People give for several reasons. Many have a passion for this work, some see the need, and some because they know someone personally who has been or is now suffering from domestic violence. I also believe that God touches hearts to give to this ministry.

Q: How is the money spent?

A: The money is spent prayerfully and responsibly for programs, building needs, community outreach and education, crisis intervention, and children's services. We realize that each contribution is precious and that people have sacrificed to give.

Q: Who gives financially?

A: Individuals, community groups, families, churches, businesses, and civic organizations.

Q: How do the gifts transform lives?

A: Any gift we are blessed with gives encouragement, hope, and the love of Christ to those who are hurting. The gifts also provide the support needed to allow our residents time and comfort to work on reestablishing their families and their self-worth.

Q. What do the donors get in return?

A: All donors, unless they request otherwise, receive a personally signed thank-you letter. Those who sponsor one of the fundraising events receive marketing benefits based on the level of sponsorship. Our prayer would be that each individual, business, church, family, group, or organization that supports Sheltering Wings would be personally blessed by their gift. †

"When we arrived at Sheltering Wings I had feelings of guilt, hopelessness, confusion, anxiety, and I shed many tears. I did not have any confidence in myself and I wondered why this was happening to my family. Since we arrived at the door of Sheltering Wings, you could feel something special inside. There are plenty of special people; the staff, volunteers, and the residents all have hands you can see every-day. But there are others that we never see because they are behind the scenes praying for us. Everyone gives us support and help us make changes in our life by helping us be safe, and make good choices. No one who leaves the shelter is the same as when they entered because you leave the shelter feeling strong and powerful. We learn that we have the power to make positive changes, especially mothers who are raising sons and daughters."

- "Julie"



sheltering wings center for women

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Two big events are coming

Mark your calendar for two important 2007 events! Our annual Sertoma Dinner Dance will be on *Saturday, February 10*, sponsored by ClaimAid and Hendricks Regional Health, with 100 percent of proceeds to benefit Sheltering Wings. And on *Thursday, April 26*, we'll have the annual Dazzling Designs Fashion Show to benefit our children's program. †

"The father of my children harassing and stalking me and my family is what brought me here. Also, threatening, intimidating, and scaring me into his manipulative ways and trying to make me believe whatever he says is true. Before now, I would have believed him. Being here in the last few weeks I have been out from underneath his thumb and web of manipulation. I know that he is a liar and only wants to hurt me. I know that there is a life besides him now. I no longer have to live a constant life of being in fear of him, I know that I don't have to put up with being called names and belittled. I know I will slowly get back to the strong-willed, independent person I was before I met him. Also, I know that I don't have to settle for a life where I feel like I am on the bottom of the priority list and be dependant on him." - "Terri"

Want to grant wishes?

We'll send you our monthly wish list by email, letter or fax. To receive it, contact Danielle Huff at 317-718-5454 ext. 204.




**Please save
this important date:**

**Saturday,
Feb. 10, 2007**

for
**Brownsburg Sertoma's
8th Annual
St. Valentine's
Dinner Dance
at Primo West**

Benefitting
Sheltering Wings



See www.shelteringwings.org for more ways you can help.