

SHELTERING WINGS

† HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

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Reflections | Maria Larrison

“New Beginnings – Sharing and Fulfilling the Vision”



Well the time is upon us to expand. I mentioned in our last newsletter the need. There are so many things that go into the planning of a major expansion project. I am learning a lot – elevation, site plans, electrical capacity, thermal and moisture protection, mechanical and HVAC, easements, wiring and the list goes on. Thanks to our great team at Edwards-Rigdon, BSA Lifestructures, and our building committee, making sense of all of this is a bit easier. Within these walls will be an

expanded kitchen, a children’s recreational room, individualized offices for intakes, crisis calls, children’s therapy, women’s therapy, mentor and case manager meetings, classrooms for our ladies, a wellness room, a chapel, expanded laundry facilities, a large meeting room, a larger outside play area with a small basketball court, and best of all an enclosed courtyard for our ladies.

If you are interested in seeing our expansion project first-hand or partnering with us, please feel free to call and arrange a time to meet with me. We will have updates on our website as they develop. This is an exciting time in our shelter history and our community.

Quick year in review:

Crisis calls taken = 1097

Women housed = 134

Children housed = 151

The average length of stay = 52 days.

Over 200 workshops and classes were offered to our children.

Over 300 workshops and classes were offered to our ladies.

95% of our ladies met with a case manager within 72 hours of entrance.

Most of all lives where changed. Thank you for being a part.

Blessings to you, | Maria Larrison, CEO

Community of Giving

We thank you all for your generosity this past Christmas season. You gave gifts that ranged from practical (much-needed) to the fanciful (to create joy and laughter). Below are messages to you from our ladies:

“You don’t know me and I don’t know you but there is one thing I know and that is the spirit of Christmas in one’s heart has not changed. The blessing that God put in your hearts to see that my children and I, along with others here at Sheltering Wings, had a wonderful Christmas was truly inspirational and memorable for many years to come. He truly has already blessed you when he put the gift of giving in your heart, as one gives to another in their time of need. God bless you as I know His will was done, and you are in my heart for the great deeds that you have done. Thank you.” “D” and children

“I would like to thank you for the gifts for my son and for me. It meant a lot to both of us. Without your kindness he wouldn’t have had anything. We both thank you for the gifts. God bless you.” “R” and son

“Thank you so much for making this Christmas such a special one for me and all the residents here at SW. I wasn’t looking forward to this Christmas because I could not ‘give’ like I am used to doing and felt bad about it. When I woke up Christmas morning and opened my door and saw all of the gifts outside my door, it made me feel so good that somebody cares no matter what. You are all so kind! May God bless you all and thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this Christmas such a nice one after all.” “N”

SHARED BLESSINGS

WINTER 2010 NEWS from SHELTERING WINGS

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NEW BEGINNINGS

SHARING AND FULFILLING THE VISION

Creating Hope. Meeting the needs.

Sheltering Wings has been saving lives since 2002 by providing the necessary emergency housing and resources to help abused women and children escape the terror of any form of domestic abuse. The Center exists to extend the love and compassion of Christ to women and their children in the desperate circumstances of domestic violence.

We Need Your Help!

When Sheltering Wings first began we felt our physical space, which accommodates 44 persons, and the services we designed would be sufficient for our community. Little did we realize the demands we would be facing. Each year we have increased in number of women and children served.

After extensive prayer and consultation, the Sheltering Wings leadership has retained an architect and developed facility expansion plans that will increase our daily capacity to 68 persons. The total cost is \$3,500,000.00.

The good news is that to date, we have firm commitments of \$1,960,000.00. We have launched the New Beginnings – Sharing and Fulfilling the Vision Campaign to raise the remainder of the funds needed. Groundbreaking is planned for 2010.

The successful completion of this campaign starts with you. New Beginnings is a three-year giving campaign in which we encourage individuals, churches, philanthropic organizations, and businesses in our community to give financially to support this expansion project and program enhancements.

Cover Story | Ways to participate.

A Christmas Story | A True Story.



One or more ways churches can participate:

1. Have a guest speaker from Sheltering Wings in worship services to describe the ministry.
2. Receive a one-time offering.
3. Invite one of our staff to visit with your missions team to consider including us in your missions budget for the next two to three years.
4. Conduct Sheltering Wing's Day at your church. Call Sheltering Wings to discuss details.
5. Donate in kind gifts. A list of needs will be provided.
6. Enlist a prayer coordinator to enlist a team to pray for our ministry.

One or more ways businesses can participate:

1. Distribute information and have a guest speaker from Sheltering Wings visit with employees to describe the ministry. Ask for a one time gift.
2. Donate in kind gifts. A list of needs will be provided.
3. Make a corporate gift.

One or more ways civic clubs can participate:

1. Distribute information, have a guest speaker from Sheltering Wings present a program and give a one time gift.
2. Make Sheltering Wings your local club's major project for one or more years.
3. Consider recommending Sheltering Wings as a district, regional or state wide project.
4. Donate in kind gifts. A list of needs will be provided.

Santa checked his beard and hair in the mirror. He was doing a pre-Christmas visit to Sheltering Wings Center for Women today. He didn't make many special appearances, but this was one of his favorites. The mothers and children all came fleeing abusers under a cloak of secrecy. Their safety depended on abusers not being able to find them. The children sometimes worried that Santa wouldn't be able to find them either.

The season was busy. There were half a dozen things he had yet to finish today. Tomorrow's list was already full. Maybe he was too old for this. He enjoyed his pre-Christmas visit each year, but with increasing demands on his time, he wondered if he shouldn't take it off his calendar next year. The only reason he did it was so the kids wouldn't worry about Santa finding them. And so he would know what to get them for Christmas, of course.

Mrs. Claus appeared behind him in the mirror. She smoothed his collar and straightened his jacket. "Is something wrong?" "Just thinking about everything there is still to do. And wondering if my visit to Sheltering Wings really matters. Maybe, I'll make this the last year for a pre-Christmas visit. There's always so much to be done here at the Pole."

At Sheltering Wings, the children were ecstatic to see him. Several children hugged him. One little boy brought him a cookie. They crowded around him, anxious to tell him their Christmas wishes. Santa settled into a recliner. "I want to talk with everyone," he explained, "but we have to take turns." One at a time he lifted the children to his lap.

The last little girl in line had patiently waited her turn. Her brown hair was pulled away from her face neatly with a red bow. She stood hesitantly at Santa's side. He gently lifted her to his lap. She smoothed the skirt of her red velvet dress over her knees. She stole a glance up at Santa, but quickly lowered her eyes back to stare at her hands.

"What's your name?" Santa asked softly.

"Beth."

"How old are you, Beth?"

"Eight."

"Did you help decorate for the party?"

"Yes. I made paper chains. Those green ones over there."

"Was that hard?"

"No, not so much. I learned how at school. My old school not my new school."

"How's school going?"

"It's okay. I can't go back to my old school because Daddy knows where it is. Daddy might come and take me away. He's real mad that we left with Mommy. He said we weren't allowed to go anywhere with Mommy unless he went with us. He said if we ever did, he'd make sure we were sorry."

"Do you do all your homework?"

"Yes. Mommy sometimes has to help me with my math, but mostly I do it by myself."

"Are you nice to your mommy?"

"Pretty nice. She isn't so sad here."

"Are you being good?"

Beth thought for a minute before answering. "Mostly. Mommy told me to turn off the TV, but I watched it a little longer. But she didn't get mad. Not like Daddy."

Santa moved to the million dollar question. "What do you want for Christmas?" He steeled himself to listen to another lengthy recitation of the season's most popular toys, but Beth sat silent for several seconds. Finally, she looked up into Santa's loving eyes. She cupped her hand around Santa's ear and whispered, "I just want you to have a merry Christmas."

Santa looked down at the little girl, who was already scrambling off his lap. His eyes filled with tears. Halfway across the room she turned back to wave to him. He raised his hand in return. She turned away quickly before his gloved hand moved to wipe away the tear rolling down his cheek. The little girl who wished Santa a merry Christmas had just reminded him of why he came.

Serving Our Community | Mary Williams

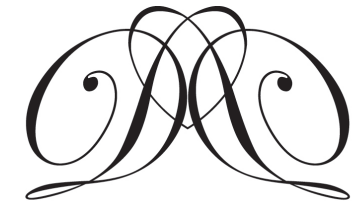
Did You Know?

Thank you to our giving community.

Mark your calenders for February 13th!

The staff and families at Sheltering Wings are so very grateful to our community for all of the support that we receive each and every day. Here are just some of those who have given these past few months:

- MIBOR Realtors
- UW/Ruth Lilly Foundation
- Hendricks County Community Foundation
- Flagstar Bank
- Duke Energy
- HIP Studios (provides ongoing clothing drives)
- Avon High School (football team's Senior Night, providing items and support for the shelter, and Walk held by National Honor Society to benefit the shelter)
- The Wellness Team (event held to benefit the shelter)
- Clarian West Medical Center (providing funding for our outreach/education staff personnel)
- The Indianapolis Colts (providing free publicity at the Nov. 1 home game)
- The Pacers (provided Thanksgiving dinner for shelter residents and children)
- Brownsburg Fitness (held spin-a-thon event to benefit shelter)
- Wings of Golf
- Hendricks Community Bible Church (provides facility for shelter volunteer trainings)
- Charbonos (provided Thanksgiving dinner for families)
- Hendricks County Senior Center (providing a facility for our monthly CCC meetings)
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Beauty Brands



St. Valentine's Dinner Dance

On February 13, 2010, Brownsburg Sertoma will host its 11th annual dinner dance event to benefit Sheltering Wings. The event will be held at Primo West Banquet Facility in Plainfield, Indiana. The event was first held for the shelter in August of 2002, and then the club decided to hold the event around Valentine's Day each year. At the initial event 89 guests attended. The event has grown each year. This past February nearly 700 were in attendance. This is the largest fundraising event held for the shelter each year. In 2002 \$7,000 was raised with this past year's proceeds being more than \$80,000.

The evening begins with a private reception for the event sponsors, with the doors opening to the public at 6pm. Dinner is served at 7pm, and the live auction and program begin at 8pm. A silent auction runs throughout the evening. Dancing is from 9pm until midnight with music provided by the Wright Brothers. The event is black tie optional. Ticket prices are \$150 per couple or \$75 per single. You may order tickets or contact us for more information by calling 317.718.0735 or log on to www.shelteringwings.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact Mary at 317.718.0735 or at mwilliams@shelteringwings.org. Come join us for a fun evening of dinner, dancing and delight!

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