

# SHARED BLESSINGS

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FALL 2011 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

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Ramona knows a thing or two about adversity. After enduring almost 20 years of physical, verbal, and emotional abuse at the hands of her ex-husband, she had to completely start her life over. Like many other women across the state, Ramona (whose last name is being withheld for her privacy) turned to Sheltering Wings for help.

## Still STANDING

Domestic Violence  
Victim Finds Peace



For more information about our services or if you'd like to receive our e-newsletter go to [shelteringwings.org](http://shelteringwings.org).

**B**ut the decision wasn't entirely hers; it took a little nudge from her pastor to get the ball rolling.

"I never said anything because I figured it was just between us," Ramona said of her years of silence about the abuse.

She said her ex-husband would not only subject her to physical abuse, but would also do other horrific things like sleep with a gun, shut off the electricity when she was spending time with their children, and threaten her. He was even abusive to the children.

Eventually she and the children got out. Leaving was no easy task. Her opportunity to escape the situation came mixed with personal sadness.

A friend and fellow church member passed away and Ramona, who did not have a driver's license, needed a ride to the funeral. Her husband offered, but on the day of the service he was under the influence of pills. "I don't know how many he took, he must have taken a lot because he started acting funny," Ramona said.

When they arrived at her church the police were called and Ramona's husband was transported to the hospital under detention because he had weapons in his car. He threatened whoever was involved in turning him in. Ramona's pastor urged her to take the children and leave while he was in the hospital.

"At first I was debating because I loved him," she said. "I didn't want him to die. I wanted to be there if anything happened." She knew she had to protect herself and her children. So she took her pastor's advice and went to a nearby domestic violence shelter.

They stayed there for two weeks and were moved to Sheltering Wings. It was here that her life started over. For Ramona and the children, it wasn't a complete and instant relief. The abuse was over but adjusting to life in a shelter took some time. "It was hard because you have to give up everything you have," Ramona stated.

"The kids took it hard. They thought I should get out, but it was hard going from being out in the country with so much space, to living in a shelter."

She credits the staff at Sheltering Wings and old friends from her community with helping to make the transition easier. Her oldest daughter finished her last semester of high school with the help of tutors and friends from back home. The high school principal there, along with local law enforcement

**"Not only did she get a license while in the shelter, she also went from having an eighth grade education to completing her GED with honors."**



added extra security measures in order for her to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Ramona and her children spent about two and a half years at Sheltering Wings, a time that changed her life forever.

At first, she did have limited contact with her ex-husband. "Every time I talked to him it would bring me down more,"

she said.

"The last time I talked to him, I told him I didn't want him to hurt me or the kids anymore." With that chapter closed, Ramona vowed to change her future.

With her children adjusted and doing well she decided it was time for a little self-improvement. "When I came to the shelter I didn't have a driver's license," Ramona said. Not only did she get a license while in the shelter, she also went from having an eighth grade education to completing her GED with honors. She also learned how to use a computer and is Microsoft certified. She plans to continue her education in computer technology and become an administrative assistant.

Ramona and her two youngest children have since moved into their own apartment and she works as an advocate at Sheltering Wings. She has discovered that her passion lies in helping others and she wants to continue to work in a shelter and help other women like herself. "They just gave me so much."

Ramona says that generosity, along with the influence of her case manager have had huge impacts on her life. She is no longer a victim.

## Many thanks for the support of the following foundations:



Haddad Foundation  
Children's Program



Duke Energy Foundation  
Women's GED Program



Verizon Foundation  
Building Expansion



Steel Dynamics  
Building Expansion

## Brown & Brown of Indiana 100 Hole Golf Marathon

**Brown & Brown** of Indiana employees along with the help of several representatives from various insurance carriers hosted a unique fundraiser to support Sheltering Wings. This 100 Hole Golf Marathon called "Carriers Care", featured individual golfers that solicited sponsors who donated a specific amount of money per hole of golf played. Over 400 donors supported the 24 golfers in this one day event and donated anywhere from \$0.10 to \$20.00 per hole.

The supporters of "Carriers Care" 100 Hole Golf Marathon raised over \$18,000.

## Meet Our Board



**Deanna Sanders** – De is the wife of Pastor Danny Sanders of Coatesville UM Church, and mother of one daughter (age 11) and three stepchildren (ages 25, 27 and 29). She has been employed at Citizens Energy Group for the past 26

years, where she manages the dispatch office. De directs the choir at Coatesville UM and is also the vice-president of the women's group there. Her church provides welcome bags for the children who come to live at Sheltering Wings, with books, stuffed animals, crayons, paper, pencils, etc. De has served on the board for five years and has been the board secretary the majority of this time.



**Mike Neely, MD** – Mike has been married to his wife, Sandra, for 31 years and has two children and five grandchildren. He has been board certified in Family Medicine since 1977, practicing in Danville for 15 years. Since

1992, Mike has been an occupational health physician at Eli Lilly and will be retiring the end of this year. Mike and Sandra plan on spending the first two months of next year working in a mission hospital in Africa. They have given of their time over past years in Kenya, Swaziland, Haiti and Cambodia with medical mission's teams. Mike has been the Chairman of the shelter's program committee since its inception, served on the board for nearly eight years, and has just returned to join the board once again. Mike and Sandra attend Faith Church in Indianapolis.

## Beauty Brands

Beauty Brands in Avon is hosting their 2011 "End Abuse Campaign" to benefit Sheltering Wings. All proceeds from Redken Guts sales, profits from End Abuse t-shirt sales and customers direct donations will be given to support Sheltering Wings. The campaign will run from September 26 through October 30, 2011.

## Planned giving



## Did You Know?

Planned giving, sometimes referred to as gift planning, is a method of supporting Sheltering Wings that enables you, as a donor, to make larger gifts than what can be made from your income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques that would provide for the shelter and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate.

Thus, by definition, a planned gift is any major gift, made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning.

Whether a donor uses cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc., the benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both donor as well as the shelter. If you have questions or need more information regarding planned giving, please contact Mary at 317.386.5060 or [mwilliams@shelteringwings.org](mailto:mwilliams@shelteringwings.org).

## What You Want to Hear

In June of this year a donor survey was conducted (by an outside consulting firm) with a cross-section of our donor database.

The purpose of the survey was to better understand how you view your relationship with us, if you have a clear vision of the shelter's future, what we can do better to meet your expectations. How we communicate with you and what, as well as how, you would like to hear from us. We would like to share a few of the highlights from this survey with you.

- You would like to know who our board members are, what the vision is, and how we are making an impact/share success stories
- You want to know more about current/urgent financial needs and be asked to give
- You appreciate being asked for feedback and invited in for tours

Please let us know if you have questions about or need further input on the survey. Contact Mary at 317.386.5060 or [mwilliams@shelteringwings.org](mailto:mwilliams@shelteringwings.org).

# SHELTERING WINGS

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## October Events

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In observance of this time Sheltering Wings will host the following events:

- **October 1** “Walk A Mile In Her Shoes” | 5K Walk/8K Run Hummel Park 8-11am
- **October 4** Domestic Violence Training (open to community) Sheltering Wings 7-8:30pm
- **October 13** Judicial Open House | Sheltering Wings | 3-6pm
- **October 27** Candlelight Vigil (remembering those who have lost their lives to domestic violence and honoring survivors) Sheltering Wings | 7-8pm
- **October 29** Battle of the Bands | Hendricks County Fairgrounds | 5-10pm

## Social Media



See us on [twitter.com/shelteringwings](https://twitter.com/shelteringwings) or [www.facebook.com/shelteringwings](https://www.facebook.com/shelteringwings)

Need information, interested in online donations or learning more about the campaign?



- Log onto [www.shelteringwings.org](http://www.shelteringwings.org) and sign up for our e-newsletter and e-wish list
- Process your online donations through Google checkout (*with option of recurring donations*)
- For updates on the capital campaign log onto: [www.shelteringwings.org/newbeginnings](http://www.shelteringwings.org/newbeginnings)

2♥12  
Dinner  
Dance



**Saturday, February 11, 2012**  
Brownsburg Sertoma's Annual Valentine's Dinner and Dance Proceeds to benefit Sheltering Wings. Join us this year at The Westin, Indianapolis. Black tie optional.

For more information about our services or if you'd like to receive our e-newsletter go to [shelteringwings.org](http://shelteringwings.org).