



SHARED BLESSINGS

WINTER 2013 NEWS from SHELTERING WINGS

Children are a blessing and a gift from the LORD—PSALMS 127:3

Directors Discussion



The people who started Sheltering Wings wanted to help women who were victims of domestic abuse, but it didn't take long for them to realize that there was another group of victims who also needed help. We call them the silent victims of abuse, because they can't speak for themselves. They are the children of mothers who are being abused.

Think about your own childhood. Think about living in a home filled with love, where Christmas was a time to be treasured, where days were spent in carefree play, where fear was a foreign concept. Now imagine yourself as a child hiding under the covers in a desperate attempt to block out your mother's screams and cries. Imagine your family life involving a steady diet of anger and violence. It's no surprise that you would expect more of the same when you became an adult.

As I write these words, 22 women are safe in our shelter, along with

45 children. In fact, on most days, we serve more children than we had total beds just two years ago. Many of them feel safe for the first time in their young lives. Beyond that security, we do our best to break the cycle by helping them understand that anger and violence are neither inevitable nor acceptable.

Our goal is to help these silent victims grow into self-sufficient adults capable of entering and sustaining healthy relationships. This Christmas, as you celebrate your family and your many blessings, please remember our children and help us give them hope and joy.

The need is great

With your help this year, we've received **+700** crisis calls, provided safe housing to **150** women and children, and educated nearly **3,000** people through our outreach program.

LETTER FROM A CHILD

The need is great: from a teen's eyes

The shelter has changed my life in so much. Before I came to the shelter, my father hit me and hollered at me all the time. I didn't think it was anything at all. I was used to it. But one day, my mom brought me to the shelter.

I was terrified at first, but then I met the people that work there. They were very loving and caring. I didn't want to be at a shelter away from my friends. The mentors help me and talk to me. I go to the groups they have here. I have learned all about abuse. Before I came to the shelter I knew nothing about abuse. The groups help me see it's not okay if someone abuses you.

I am 15 years old. I had to make a lot of changes. But I'm going to make it with the help of the mentors and my family. I was abused, but now I am free.

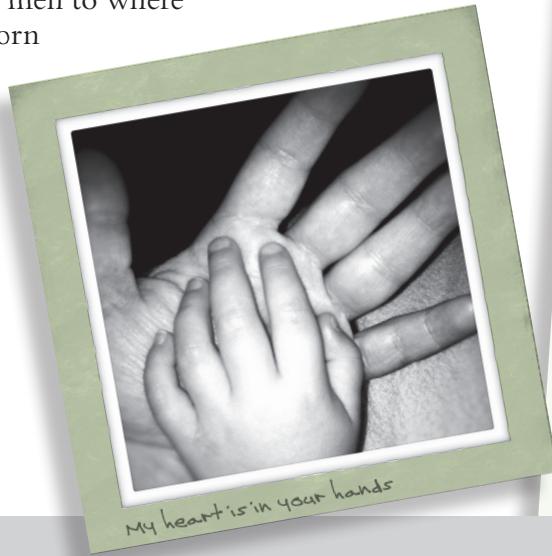
—Julia

Listening to our kids

The children who live at Sheltering Wings are like youngsters everywhere when it comes to Christmas. For most, this Christmas will be different, because they'll celebrate in a place where they and their mothers are safe. We ask them many questions, and we enjoy the wonder and honesty in their replies.

What do you think about Christmas?

- A day for family to get together and celebrate love
- Church plays
- When Jesus was born and the star that lead the wise men to where Jesus was being born
- Toys
- Presents



Support from churches

- We're excited that almost 50 representatives from various churches across the country joined us for our recent workshop about what churches can do to deal with domestic violence. Our churches are critical partners in accomplishing God's work through Sheltering Wings.
- We have a favor to ask local pastors: as you remind your congregations of God's greatest gift to us—the child born in a manger—please encourage everyone to pray for and support the innocent children who live at Sheltering Wings. Please remind them that we express Christ's love when we remember and care for the least among us.
- Is your church remodeling? We have a need for sound barriers in our new gymnasium, and if your church is replacing any, we'll be happy to take the used ones!

What's your favorite part of the holiday?

- Snow
- Decorating the house
- Getting and playing with toys
- PlayStation games
- Opening presents
- Decorating the tree with family
- Going to Grandma's

What gifts have you received at Sheltering Wings?

- Barbies
- Bookbags
- Toys

Stay in touch with us on



Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!

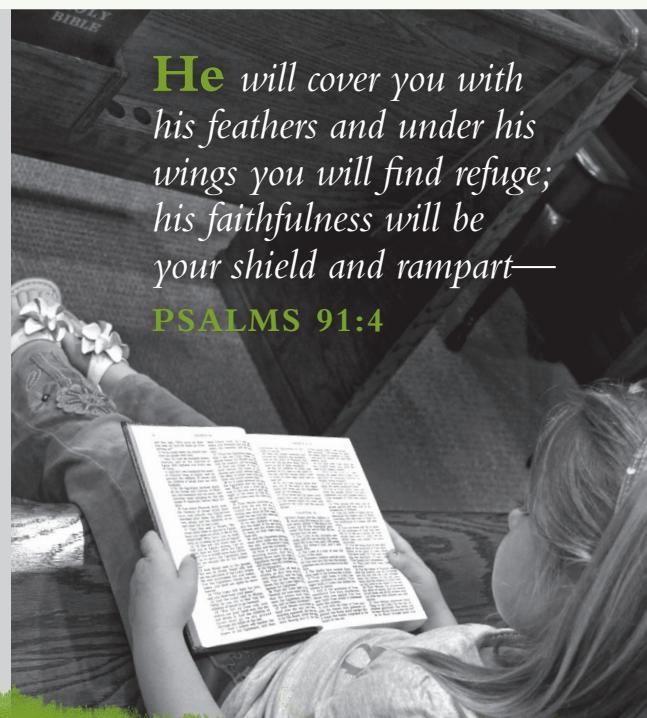
A quote from a resident

"Most of us as victims have lost everything: money, marriage, job, security, safety, self-esteem, pride, friends, family, intimacy, companionship, and self-sufficiency. Myself, I nearly lost my soul. By chance I met someone outside a church who lent me his cell phone, and so began the process of my reaching safety and the path towards recovery. To those of you who have been called to support Sheltering Wings, know that you are giving a most incredible gift. On those tough days when all seems hopelessly overwhelming and we teeter between quitting or continuing on, it may be your gift—your actions or words or touch—that gives us the strength to continue. Now I am alive again. What greater gift than that?"

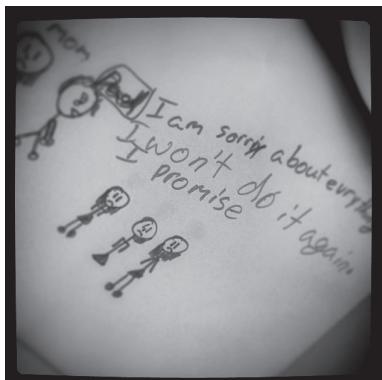
— Cathie

He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart—

PSALMS 91:4



Breaking the cycle, one child at a time



To learn more about what we do to break the cycle, and to discover ways that you can help with our Children's Programs please contact our **Volunteer Services Coordinator, Donita, at (317)386-5062.**

Tonight, nearly four dozen children will drift off to sleep under our roof. For some, it may be the first time they didn't hear yelling, swearing, or cries of pain and terror. For others, it may be the first night's sleep that isn't haunted by fearful nightmares. And tomorrow morning, as they all awaken and prepare for school, they'll be confident they'll sleep in safety again when night arrives.

Before this year ends, more than 140 children will have found peaceful slumber at Sheltering Wings. They leave places of violent terror for surroundings of love, compassion, and amazing resources. While they stay with us, professionals will minister to their medical, emotional, and spiritual needs as we work to transform their lives.

It's some of the most important work we do. After all, we know that boys who are exposed to domestic violence are far more likely to become men who abuse their wives than sons of nonviolent parents. We know that young girls learn that being abused is a normal part of relationships. And we know that both genders learn that anger and violence are acceptable responses to frustration.

So we work to break the cycle of abuse and violence by addressing both their immediate needs and providing long-term guidance to help them become adults who are capable of entering into and sustaining healthy relationships.

Did you know?

When we see battered mothers, we must also reach out to their children. Why? Consider these facts about abuse and kids:

- Children of abused women are at high risk of being abused themselves. The rate of child abuse is from six to fifteen times higher in families where the mother is abused.
- More than half of women coming to shelters report that their children are also physically, emotionally and sometimes sexually abused.
- Wife abuse is the single strongest identifiable risk factor for child abuse. Almost 82 percent of those boys witnessing spouse abuse were also abused themselves.
- Children from violent homes get sick more often and generally have more health problems than children from non-violent homes.
- Early exposure to violence can disrupt brain development and immune systems. If the children themselves are abused, their problems are even greater.
- Psychological and emotional problems are more frequent in children of abused women.
- Abusers are six times more likely to have seen their fathers beating their mothers than nonabusers.
- Societal values encourage girls to accept how their husbands or boyfriends treat them.

We appreciate those who have helped us in special ways, including:

- a Special thanks*
- Our volunteer, **Gwen**, for facilitating our Parenting group for years now;
 - Volunteer, **Sally**, for providing free massages each month;
 - **Trinity Church** for providing meals each month and for spending quality time with our residents during this time;
 - **Nunn's Performance Training** for collecting wish list items for us.
 - **Ron Stoner** for his faithful service in teaching Computer Class each month;
 - **El Roi Room Sponsors; Trinity Presbyterian Church** provides supper and fellowship one night each month;
 - **Plainfield Correctional** has kept the pantry stocked with fresh vegetables;
 - To the **Toth Family** for assisting with furniture storage for the shelter;
 - **Beauty Brands** for sponsoring our *End Abuse* campaign;
 - **Brownsburg Sertoma** for this coming February's premier event benefiting the shelter;

SHELTERING WINGS

HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

P. O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 6783

 West Hospital **INCASA** Thank you to INCASA and IU West for sponsoring our newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 8!



SATURDAY *with* **SATURDAY**

**Plan to join us on Saturday,
February 8 for Brownsburg
Sertoma's 14th annual
Premier event.**

This year's edition, called "**Saturday with Saturday**," will once again benefit Sheltering Wings. For tickets and additional information, please visit www.shelteringwings.org.

Our work continues: you can help

Sheltering Wings needs your generous support all year long, but the Christmas season creates even more needs than usual. Your precious gifts of money, time, talents, and prayers bless women and children right here in Hendricks County.

Right now, we have a particular need for volunteers who are willing to help wrap Christmas gifts and play with the many children who currently call Sheltering Wings home.

We also have a strong need for donations of:

- Gas cards
- Clorox wipes
- Toilet paper
- Wal-mart gift cards

Monetary donations are always welcome, too—and are a great opportunity to get a last-minute tax deduction for 2013! If you'd like to know more about our current needs and how your donation could help, please **call April at (317)386-5050**.

Capital campaign update

We had hoped to wrap up the campaign in December, but we still have **\$195,000** of unpaid pledges. If you would like to extend your pledge by another year, or if you'd like to step up and replace the contribution of someone who is no longer able to help, please **call April at (317)386-5050**.