

# SHARED BLESSINGS

SUMMER 2014 NEWS from SHELTERING WINGS

*Two People are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help.* ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

## Directors Discussion **Cassie Martin, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



*"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." There is so much wisdom in Helen Keller's words, and those two simple sentences underscore a large part of what allows us to help so many women and children.*

Here in this amazing place called Sheltering Wings, the community joins together to support women and children in crisis. I'm constantly amazed at the scope of support we receive. Individuals who live very different lives come together for a common purpose. Businesses that normally compete share common ground. Organizations with vastly different interests and members each lend their support in unique ways. Churches of varying sizes join hands willingly and gladly to proclaim and deliver Christ's love.

We could not accomplish even a small portion of what we do

without so much broad-based support from the community, and we make the most of every dollar shared with us. In return, we reach out to the community to share both our successes and our needs. We work especially hard to educate everyone about the realities of domestic violence. That way, managers will know what to do if they suspect an employee is being abused. A teenage girl will understand that her boyfriend's behavior isn't acceptable. And a woman in fear will know there is hope.

Domestic violence is an immense problem that may seem unsolvable to individuals. But as Miss Keller said, together we can do so much.

**Thank you for doing your part.**

## Lives are changing

As this issue goes to print, 18 women and 28 children are sleeping safely at Sheltering Wings.

224 families have called us in crisis since the past year began.

## Great ways to get involved

**Give your time!** We need individuals and groups who are willing to volunteer. All volunteers go through an orientation program, drug screen, and background check.

**Share your treasure!** We welcome financial support, as well as in-kind contributions and donations of food, supplies, clothing and vehicles. See our current wish list on our website.

**Educate yourself!** Help us build awareness in the community. We will come to your church, business, school, or organization to help you identify domestic abuse, learn how to respond appropriately, and explain what resources are available.

**To learn more about all of these opportunities, visit [www.ShelteringWings.org](http://www.ShelteringWings.org).**

## Meeting educational needs



Each time a woman enters Sheltering Wings, we evaluate her needs using what's known as a Life Domain Matrix that assesses twelve different categories. In most cases, that process tells us that the woman needs help with employment, job skill training, and

education, along with transportation and childcare. In fact 90 percent of the women we serve need these critically important life skills.

Fortunately, we are able to draw upon resources in the community to serve women. For example, we have many volunteers who share their knowledge of everything from basic budgeting to workplace computer skills. Other volunteers are happy to drive women to appointments and job interviews. We have some volunteers who make sure that the women's cars are in good working order, and others who are happy to provide babysitting on an as-needed basis.

We also draw upon community organizations such as WorkOne Plainfield and Hendricks College Network for their special expertise, and we partner with Avon and Brownsburg schools to help women who lack high school diplomas earn their equivalency certificates.

## Four programs with a single goal

Sheltering Wings offers many services to women, children, and the community, but they can all be grouped into one of four categories. While each category has specific objectives, all four serve a common goal of protecting families from domestic violence.

**Emergency/crisis intervention** is exactly what the name suggests. It's our response to emergency situations, whether that's a terrified woman calling our 24-hour crisis hotline, or a mother and child in need of a safe place to sleep.

**Life skills** focuses on developing the skills women need to live independently, so that after they leave Sheltering Wings, they'll be self-sufficient economically.

**Children's programs** help the silent victims of domestic abuse overcome their own fear and anger. Just as important, the boys and girls who have witnessed abuse learn what a healthy relationship looks like, so they will not become abused or abusers as adults.

**Education** is the program through which we help all facets of the community better understand domestic abuse and the roles they can play in addressing it. From Teen Dating Violence presentations, to special classes for pastors, to workshops at local companies, we're addressing the problem through awareness and knowledge.



## Join our community of support

We encourage you to prayerfully consider your role in the Shelter's network of partnerships. Your money, time, talents, and prayers will support women and children.

**Call 317-386-5052 to speak with Cassie about joining our community of supporters.**

### LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

*Lives are changing* "I came here broken with nothing, but I refused to leave here that way. I bought my own vehicle and enrolled in college full-time. God has put it in my heart to help others so I am seeking a degree in social work. And hope to have my Bachelor's degree within four years. "I've gone from being a 'ward of the court' to a battered mother and now I am a woman of God, a mother, a survivor ... a college student! I wouldn't have ever made it this far had it not been for Sheltering Wings and the overflowing love that is in this place. God brought me here and gave me the family I had been missing my whole life.

"You may all think that I am a success, but I honestly believe that **Sheltering Wings is a miraculous place.** Once you walk thru those doors, no matter what your life has been like in the past, Sheltering Wings gives you everything you need to transform something ugly into something beautiful. God simply lives in these walls, and with Him anything is possible."

— "Monica"

## Spotlighting our wonderful staff

Our staff is the key to protecting our residents and helping them prepare for safe and independent lives outside Sheltering Wings. They do everything from brushing the tears from a child's eyes to helping a longtime victim of abuse see that she is valuable in God's eyes. At one moment, they may be laughing at a family's funny stories, and in the next, responding to a call from a woman whose life is in danger. Their jobs are extremely stressful, emotionally taxing, and physically draining, but they arrive each day with a full understanding of the tasks they'll face. They truly live to serve, and we exaggerate not a bit when we call them a blessing.

While Sheltering Wings can house up to 68 women and children, we are only staffed for approximately 50 residents. This means that as the number of

families climb, our staff must take on additional workloads. And yet, they remain steadfast; the safety of our families is of utmost importance. The need is great and we continue to rely on community support to help us bridge this gap.

We're proud of our staff and are continually touched by their devotion to women and children. It isn't just a job; it is truly a calling. With God's help, we know the day will come when we'll be able to address the needs through ample staffing.



*"Imagine how heartbreaking it is for our staff to refer a crying and terrified woman to another shelter, knowing there are empty beds just down the hall."*

## Educating the community in many ways

Our education efforts give people in the community an opportunity to participate in our work, by making them more aware of the warning signs of domestic abuse and the steps they can take when they encounter it.

Let's look at the role **CHURCHES** have in domestic violence, especially since church members and leaders are often first responders. When a pastor looks out over a congregation, one of every four women he or she sees has been affected by domestic violence. But many pastors aren't sure what they can do when a parishioner asks for help. Throughout the year, almost 20 churches meet monthly for our Church Connection Council to learn about the shelter, our community and each other. This spring, Christ Church in Brownsburg invited us to share our resources with their congregation. We also spoke with teens in the Mary Queen of Peace and Our Shepherd Lutheran youth groups.

**BUSINESS** managers and employees need to know, too. If you noticed that a co-worker was trying to hide bruises or seemed to be receiving angry phone calls, would you know what to do? We recently spoke to staff at Siemens Healthcare so they could know how to respond to colleagues who are involved in unhealthy relationships.

We also teach in **SCHOOLS**, because one in three teens has either been or will be in an abusive dating relationship. In the past few months, we've increased awareness of the warning signs of abuse and what teens and teachers can do at:

- Avon Middle School South, Avon High School counselors, and the Gay-Straight Alliance
- Plainfield Community Middle and High Schools
- Brownsburg High School
- Tri-West High School
- Cascade High School



# Volunteer

I am interested in:

- Volunteering in the office to help with administrative work
- Providing child care at the Shelter
- Inviting a Shelter rep to my church or group to share an update
- Becoming a monthly prayer partner
- Organizing events
- Helping with the Shelter's domestic violence awareness campaign in October
- Serving on the Youth Council
- Sponsoring a room
- Learning more about planned giving (wills, bequests, donor advised funds)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Giving info

**Yes, I want to ensure lives continue to change. Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:**

- \$100     \$75     \$50
- \$25     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly     One Time

To make an easy donation online, visit [www.ShelteringWings.org](http://www.ShelteringWings.org) and click **DONATE NOW!**

- I've enclosed my check # \_\_\_\_\_
- Please charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Visa     MC     Discover     Amex

CARD NUMBER

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- SIGN YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_
- I authorize my bank to pay Sheltering Wings from my checking account

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Account number \_\_\_\_\_

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TRIM OUT AND RETURN TO SHELTERING WINGS

# SHELTERING WINGS

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West Hospital Thank you to IU West for sponsoring our newsletter.

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

*a Special*  
**thanks**

- **REALTOR® Foundation**, for supporting our Life Skills program.
- **Papa John's**, for donating pizza for our Youth Council meeting.
- **Dave Scudder**, a regular facilities/maintenance volunteer.
- **Sherry Shattuck**, who provides monthly massages for the ladies.
- **Jody Meyer**, for weekly grocery shopping.
- **Caroline Horn**, a girl scout who makes book bags for the kids.
- **Niagara Water, New Day Church, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chase Bank, and United Way Day of Caring** for providing volunteers this spring.
- **Avon High School Interact Club** (sponsored by Avon Rotary), for their Girls' Prom Essentials Sale to benefit Sheltering Wings.
- **Family Dollar**, for a cart load of laundry detergent and softener.
- **O'Reilly Auto Parts** who made a donation in honor of their 56th Street location grand opening .

Help us inform the community

Looking for ways to stay informed about domestic violence and what Sheltering Wings is doing?

- Like us on Facebook (@ShelteringWings)
- Follow us on Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram (@ShelteringWings)
- Sign up for our newsletter and eNewsletter at [www.ShelteringWings.org/Stay-Connected](http://www.ShelteringWings.org/Stay-Connected)



Right now we need:

- Gas cards
- White copy paper
- Toilet paper
- 39 gallon trash bags
- Monthly meals for Youth Council meetings (second Tuesday of every month)

Please visit our website to see our current wish list.