

SHARED BLESSINGS

WINTER 2014 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

A man has one hundred sheep and one of them is lost. Will he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to look for that one lost sheep? If he finds it, for sure, I tell you, he will have more joy over that one, than over the ninety-nine that were not lost. I tell you, My Father in heaven does not want one of these little children to be lost. MATTHEW 18:12-14

Directors Discussion **Cassie Martin, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



My family has a strange tradition that we enjoy when we get together for Christmas. We break out kazoos and play our favorite Christmas carols (think Name That Tune meets the Gong Show) until we run out of air from laughing and playing. It's one of my most cherished family memories, and I'm sure your family has its own unique celebrations. How many of your childhood memories center upon the holiday season?

I'd like you to take a moment to think about the families who will spend the holidays at Sheltering Wings this year, without their relative or those traditions that mean so much. Domestic violence affects women and children in so many different ways, and one of the most tragic is disjointed families. Those emotions are most pronounced this time of year.

We do our best to make the holidays warm and festive for our women and children, and I'm especially grateful for the community's generosity

during the holiday season. Thanks to you and many others, every woman and child has the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving feast and something to open on Christmas morning. We decorate cookies together and watch the children gaze in wonder when Santa comes to visit. Our volunteers take time from their own family celebrations to make the holidays brighter for our residents, and our donors make generous year-end contributions to ensure that we finish the year strong.

As the year comes to a close, I encourage you to spend extra time with your family. Consider the blessings that the Lord has provided this year and ask how He wants to work in and through you this next year. And, if you can, please carve out some time or treasure for those who could use extra encouragement or support.

Knowing that someone cares is the greatest gift of all.

**The need
is great**

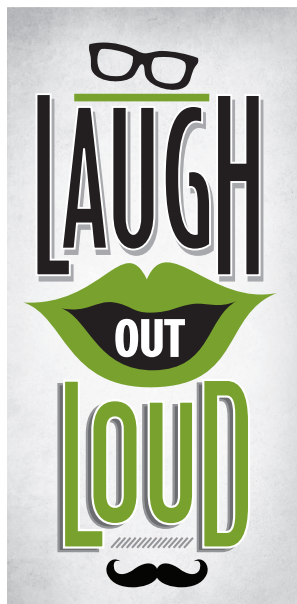
This year, we've answered more than 687 crisis calls. As this issue goes to print, 34 children and 21 women are sleeping safely at Sheltering Wings.

Lives are changing My girls are genuinely happy for the first time in a long time, and they have everything that they could ever need. They love having friends to play with and they can hardly wait for Bible study every week. I have a support system that I trust and can rely on and my girls have people who love them.

I attend Embracing Empowerment every week and I learn the red flags, so that I will never be in this situation again. The girls and I are in therapy so that we can deal with the things that we have seen and learn ways to cope with our feelings.

They are no longer scared, but walking in freedom and constantly running around with smiles on their faces singing about their Jesus. My girls tell me that 'Mommy is no longer bent, she's straight and we get to be together forever.' This is all because of Sheltering Wings, and for this place that I will always call home I am forever grateful.

I want the community to know that Sheltering Wings is a safe haven for kids. When they get here they have a big back yard and things that they get to play with. Things that are not broken by a man that has scared them. They get to learn new behaviors and not have to worry about what might happen to them. My girls have changed, and no, they are not perfect but we are better than we were. We have the support of the community to thank for that. So I want to say, Thank you for keeping my girls and I safe. You have changed our lives. *-Sharon*



LAUGH OUT LOUD IN FEBRUARY

SAVE THE DATE
SAT., FEB. 7, 2015

2015 Annual Premier Event benefiting Sheltering Wings
Laugh Out Loud The James Gregory Show featuring
"THE FUNNIEST MAN IN AMERICA"

James Gregory

The Duke Energy Event Center at Metropolis
2499 Futura Parkway, Suite 205 in Plainfield

Join us for a night of laughs at one of Hendricks County's most anticipated events.

Tickets and details available at www.ShelteringWings.org

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW about teen dating violence

Our outreach team is always hard at work with school organizations and youth groups, helping students learn about teen dating violence and what they can do to prevent abuse.

It's important that parents learn the facts, too. And if you suspect that your son or daughter may be in an abusive dating relationship, you need to take action. Over time, abuse tends to escalate.

If your son or daughter tells you about abuse, believe them and take them seriously. Don't brush off their concerns as drama or "puppy love." If you're supportive and non-judgmental, they'll feel they can trust you. Make sure they know that you're concerned and don't think they are at fault. After all, nobody "deserves" to be abused.

They may need your help to develop a safety plan, especially if they're trying to end the relationship, because that's when abuse can dramatically escalate. You may even want to contact the local prosecutor's office to obtain a protective order. If you need more advice or aren't sure that what you're seeing is abuse, **feel free to call Sheltering Wings at 317-745-1496. We're available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**

Save the Date

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and we're planning a full agenda of activities to build awareness and protect teens.

Watch for details as February approaches!



Helping children cope

Children who have lived in a home where domestic violence occurred face a long list of fears and problems. Some withdraw from the world; others lash out at those around them. The constant stress may result in chronic stomachaches or headaches, and can even compromise their immune systems. They may be forced to shoulder adult responsibilities or to tiptoe around an angry parent. Without intervention, they're far more likely to become victims or abusers as adults.

Our Children's Program is designed to address their immediate fears and concerns, while helping them improve the way they respond to and deal with the world. When they arrive at the shelter, we use a matrix to evaluate their individual needs. We pay close attention to their interests and strengths, so that we can develop plans that will help us address their needs in ways they understand.

We address everything from supporting their schoolwork, to helping them cope with parents' addictions, to learning how to interact appropriately with siblings and others, to showing them healthy ways to live. We draw upon a wide variety of local agencies and other resources as needed. As Mom gains the skills she needs to live a safe, independent life, her children are building a foundation that will increase the likelihood that they'll become successful adults who can sustain healthy relationships and families.



Homework support

A key part of serving children is helping them succeed in school. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, students can get off the school bus and head for our homework lab. For two hours on those afternoons, volunteers (many of them classroom teachers) help the youngsters with their lessons, guide them through homework assignments, and even provide one-to-one tutoring as needed. One excited mother told us that she has seen significant improvements in her children's grades, attitudes, and willingness to listen, and we've heard similar good news from other moms!

Toddler Transformation

When Dani (not her real name) came to the shelter with her mom, she was not only a shy toddler, but anyone and everyone except her mother terrified her. She would not talk and cried most of the time. After just a few months, she has become a very talkative toddler who laughs and smiles frequently. At nearly age two, this once-frightened toddler is now thriving.



"I am so thankful for the volunteers who take time out of their day to spend with my children. They have made a positive difference in their lives and mine too because I can attend Embracing Empowerment and other groups and they get to have fun too."

Help us out

I'd like to volunteer.
I am interested in:

- Helping with administrative work in the office
- 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 or helping at events
- Serving on the Youth Council
- Sponsoring a room
- Learning more about planned giving (wills, bequests, donor advised funds)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Look for us on



Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram and Pinterest!

Support our work

Yes, I want to ensure that children are safe and have a voice. Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75

\$100 \$ _____

Monthly One Time

To make an easy donation online, visit 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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Exp. Date (MM/YY): □□/□□

CVV _____

SIGN YOUR NAME: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Volunteer

ShelteringWings



SHELTERING WINGS

HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

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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:

Special
thanks

- **IU West Hospital**, for sponsoring this newsletter;
- **Reunion Church, The Branches, Clayton Christian Church, Messiah Lutheran Church Youth Group, Traders Point Christian Church, Hope Community Church, and West Bridge Church**, for coming out to perform special work and children's activities;
- **Avon High School's junior class**, for coming out during their Day of Caring;
- **Hendricks Power**, for help with major facility maintenance;
- **Cass & Company Salon**, for their monthly appointment to serve one of our residents;
- **Jody Toth and her family**, for storing donated furniture that our residents may receive when they move out to their own place;
- **Attorney Jeremy Eglen**, for volunteering his time and expertise to assist our women;
- **Tailgate Alley El-Roi sponsor**, for raising money to cover auto repairs for one of our residents.;
- **Pet-Agree in Danville**, for stepping up in a big way to help some of our residents by providing a place for their pets;
- **Unforgettable Photography**, who took professional pictures of the residents this fall.

What does your support accomplish?

When you donate items from our Wish List, you are actually providing significant support for our mission. Your donations allow us to operate without additional overhead expenses. You'll find our updated wish list on our website, and please consider helping us with these ongoing needs:

- Gift cards (Kroger, Lowes, WalMart, gas)
- Postage stamps
- 39-gallon trash bags
- Cleaning supplies
- White copy paper
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- New pillows

When you support Sheltering Wings, you make a difference in the lives of women and children who are trying to escape the terror

of domestic abuse. Your donations accomplish amazing things—like ensuring that a trained advocate is available to handle crisis calls 24 hours a day, helping teens learn what to do when a friend is being abused, and making it possible for a mother to gain the skills she needs to support her family on her own.

Every dollar makes a difference.