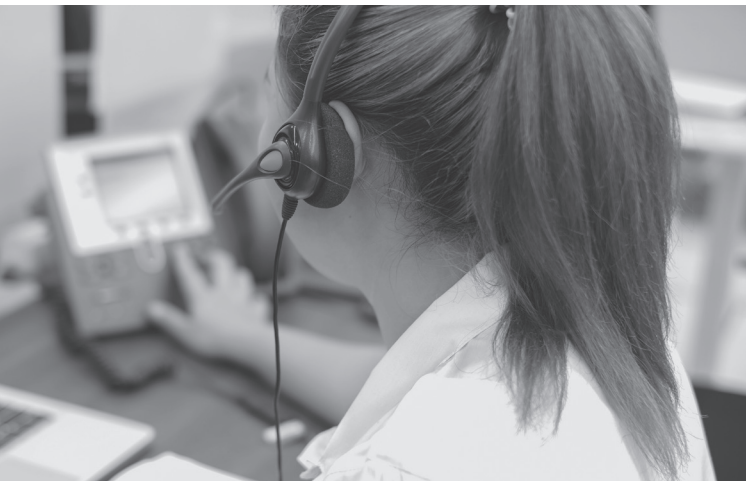


SHARED BLESSINGS

SPRING 2018 NEWS from SHELTERING WINGS

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.— PSALM 68:19

Director's Discussion *Cassie Martin, Executive Director*



As January began, I realized it was time to put my Christmas decorations away, including my eight-foot tree. It took just a couple seconds to realize I'd never be able to lift that tree into my attic by myself, so I asked for help. Instead of having to make 15 or more trips up and down the ladder, my helper handed all my totes up to me, and the job took minutes instead of hours. Asking for help can be humbling, but I'm so thankful I have a support network I can lean on.

I remember that when the voice on the intercom says

"crisis call, line one." It means someone brave is making an important call that could mean the difference between being afraid and finding lasting hope, living in danger or resting in security, and maybe even life or death. That brave person is about to discover their own support network that's willing to house them safely, and then help them build a stable and independent life, free from the threat of abuse.

Who's seeking safety?

Sheltering Wings is currently housing **26 women and 34 children**. Since January 1, we've handled **86 crisis calls**.

LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

When I first got to the shelter, I was extremely tired, emotionally fragile, scared, and apprehensive. My three children were in the back seat. I remember coming up to the front door and pressing the buzzer. They said, "Get back in the car and we'll open the gate for you." And when they opened the gate, we pulled into the parking lot, and my children could see the playground and the bicycles. They started jumping around in the car. They were excited, and that's something I'll never forget. I was glad they had something to look forward to, and I was hoping for a peaceful place for them to be. — "Carrie"



Did you know you're part of our support network? By coming alongside Sheltering Wings with your donations, your volunteer work, and your prayers, you help answer that phone every time it rings. Thank you for being the reinforcements that help us do so much for so many!

**CALL OUR 24/7
HELP LINE AT
317-745-1496**

Pathway to transformation



Phase I of our Emergency Shelter Program is a 45-day residential program designed to assist survivors and their children with their basic needs while we assess the factors (such as domestic/sexual abuse and human trafficking) that led them to seek shelter. Our goal is to provide a safe environment, meet their immediate needs through management and crisis intervention, and set goals to

help them become independent and self-sufficient.

One of our case managers assesses the individual's needs within 72 hours, using what's known as a Family Development Matrix tool that looks at categories including income, employment, education, health, addictions, support systems, transportation, housing, family interaction, food, and parenting. We immediately invite the survivor to attend life-skills and spiritual life classes, and recreation programs, and give them the opportunity to learn about the long-term programs we offer to help them become self-sufficient.

Women and children have told us their lives began to change as soon as they entered Sheltering Wings, because they felt physically and emotionally safe for the first time in a long time. The sense of "walking on eggshells" starts to subside, as there is no longer an abusive partner monitoring their every move and making every decision for them. **Now they have a voice and can focus on the future they choose, breaking the cycle of abuse.**

More than a Shelter

Not everyone who turns to Sheltering Wings for help needs to move into the shelter for safety. Some victims of abuse can find safety on their own, and only need help to regain their independence and build a healthier lifestyle. We support them by offering a full range of services, including:

- Assistance obtaining a protective order
- Court advocacy
- Case management
- Support systems
- Children's resources
- Embracing Empowerment support group
- Classes and programs

Lessons learned from leaving

Just because survivors leave their abusers, life doesn't suddenly become rosy. Being aware of the challenges survivors face after leaving enables us to be more empathetic and supportive. Among the things survivors who have taken that important step have learned the following:

- Leaving is just the beginning of your journey to safety and independence, and it may take quite some time to get there.
- You may not be able to count on your friends or family to provide the support you expected.
- People you thought you could trust won't believe your story.
- Some will blame you instead of your abuser.
- Many people don't understand domestic violence, and that can even include therapists and people in the legal system.
- Many victims develop post-traumatic stress disorder, which takes time to treat.
- People you considered close, may avoid you.

Despite all this, leaving is important for a survivor's safety. Knowing these are possibilities will help a survivor find alternate resources for support. And if you're someone a survivor may turn to, please remember these facts and be there to help.

TOGETHER

we laughed ... and loved

Live Laugh Love
PREMIER EVENT
BENEFITING
SHELTERING WINGS

An evening of laughter and love brought hundreds of our friends together at the beautiful Top Eliminator Club at Lucas Oil Raceway Park. This year's edition of our premier event was named Live Laugh Love, and there was plenty of love and laughter to be had.

Famed comedian Michael Jr. kept the crowd in hysterics while reminding us all of our God-given purpose. Attendees participated in silent and live auctions, and played fun games, all to help the women and children we serve.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors, everyone who donated auction or activity items, and everyone who laughed along with us!

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Together we raised \$126,500!

Meet our Board Chair



As a non-profit organization, Sheltering Wings is overseen by a volunteer board of directors, whose members generously donate their time to ensure we're using our resources as efficiently as possible and provide direction to help us meet the community's needs. The current leader of that board is our Chair, Alyson Lurker. Alyson works as an accounting professor at Butler University's Lacey School of Business and as a tax accountant with Katz, Sapper & Miller. She and her husband, John, have been married for nearly two decades and have three children.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PARTNER WITH SHELTERING WINGS?

John and I are members of Cornerstone Christian Church, so we had the opportunity to learn about and serve Sheltering Wings even before its doors opened. I've been a board member for the past four years.

WHY ARE YOU DRAWN TO OUR MISSION?

As Christians, we are called to be compassionate and to love others. Sheltering Wings provides hope and safety to those who are being abused. Being compassionate towards others and showing them love is what the shelter is doing when it serves those in need.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE RIGHT NOW FOR SHELTERING WINGS?

We depend on generous giving from individuals, organizations, churches and foundations, along with funding through United Way and government agencies. We need to find and nurture more private funders who are aligned with our mission and foundation in faith.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE BOARD IN 2018?

In 2017, the board developed an impressive strategic plan that will move Sheltering Wings forward, continue to serve more victims of abuse, and keep us focused on God's will. During 2018, we'll begin to put those plans in place. We created some aggressive goals and I can't wait to see how God will see us through!

WHAT SHOULD DONORS AND PARTNERS KNOW ABOUT SHELTERING WINGS?

Sheltering Wings has the most amazing compassionate, skillful team in place. They provide a haven, a home, and hope to victims. They show love and compassion in Christ-like manner. We treat the funds and gifts we receive as gifts to God, who owns everything. We are merely the stewards of those funds, providing the best for victims and creating programs to prevent abuse.

Want to see what we're doing?

Tours of Sheltering Wings are a great way to learn more about what we do, how we do it and how you can get involved. We often hear, "I had no idea you provided this service" or "I didn't know the shelter did that" or "this is not what I had imagined."

While we're always available for tours, we're making a special effort during the month of May. If you've never seen Sheltering Wings, or if you haven't been here since we remodeled our kitchen, why not find some time to come visit with us? **Contact Autumn Bucy at 317-386-5050 or abucy@shelteringwings.org to schedule your tour.**

(And by the way, we're going to offer some special opportunities to help and volunteer during June, July and August, so watch our social media for details!)



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

- A great big shout out to our Christmas Elves, who make sure every family living here has a Merry Christmas. Thank you so much to: **Michelle Payne, Ronda Rosenbaum, Sheree Hess, Casi Emrick, Chris Clark, and Pat Vonstrohe.** You guys rock!
- All the donors, businesses and organizations who made December an amazing experience! Thanks for all the financial, Wish List and Christmas-focused donations!
- The **Fraternal Order of Police** for the wonderful Christmas Party with Santa, bicycles and other amazing gifts.
- **El Roi fund donors**, who have been a Godsend, helping the ladies with things that can be stumbling blocks in their road to self-sufficiency -- like helping them attend driver's education, fixing vehicles, providing bus fare, and buying a special stroller for a resident.
- **Life Way Church** for providing Chapel services each Sunday and other activities. They also have provided transportation so our ladies and kids can attend services there.

Get Involved

I'd like to volunteer.

I am interested in:

- Becoming involved with Men IN Action
- 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 events
- Helping with the Shelter's domestic violence awareness campaign in October
- Serving on the Youth Council
- Learning more about planned giving (wills, bequests, donor-advised funds)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

What's on our Wish List?

When you provide items from our Wish List, we don't have to spend money to purchase them. That turns generosity into savings of thousands of dollars every year! Our current wish list is at shelteringwings.org. Can you help with these ongoing needs?

- Postage stamps
- 13 and 55-gallon trash bags
- Gift cards (Kroger, gas stations, and Lowe's)
- Neosporin, Advil and Tylenol, Cold Medicine (adult and baby/children)
- Disinfectant spray
- Copy paper
- Individually wrapped snack items
- Disposable Dinnerware
- HE Laundry

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us on



Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram and Pintrest!

HELP US BE THERE 24/7/365

I want to ensure Sheltering Wings is available when someone needs help.

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of:

_____ Monthly _____ One Time

\$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$ _____

To make an easy donation online, visit www.ShelteringWings.org and click **DONATE NOW**.

I've enclosed my check # _____

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TRIM OUT AND RETURN TO SHELTERING WINGS

GETTING

SHELTERING WINGS

HAVEN • HOME • HOPE

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

We hopped again and again for hope!

Our Teens That Talk group called attention to teen dating violence prevention in a way that had everyone bouncing off the walls. They hosted the second annual Hop for Hope jump-a-thon at Sky Zone, with more than 100 students from 7 different schools on hand for an evening of good-natured fun and a shared commitment to prevent abuse.

A fun new addition this year was the involvement of the Men IN Action group, who helped run the dodgeball tournament and judged the slam-dunk contest as well as just generally interacting with the teens. Thanks to all of our generous sponsors and all the teens who made Hop for Hope so much fun!



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