

Love your neighbor as yourself.
GALATIANS 5:14

Sheltering Wings 2016 Annual Report

From the Director



When was the last time you exclaimed, "I can't wait to read an annual report!" If you're like me, the answer will be, "never!" But I can't wait to share three things that caught my eye as we prepared this year's report.

First, I want you to meet Donika. Her story appears on page four. Donika and her six children lived at Sheltering Wings for more than two years. She is one of the bravest, most driven, most beautiful women I've met. While living under our roof, she passed her high school equivalency test, completed a phlebotomy certificate, held a job, and raised her kids. She is a remarkable woman who achieved great things with your help. Her story is a touching example of the more than 100 families we housed in 2016. Like Donika, they worked toward their own goals of safety, stability, and independence.

Page three features a brief recap of our programs and services. I'm so proud of the work we've been able to accomplish together. This year, more than 68 percent of our families moved from Sheltering Wings to safe housing!

Finally, I want to introduce you to the company you keep as a Sheltering Wings supporter. I find the list of individuals and organizations who make our work possible astounding. Like them, your heart is big and your support is generous. Your stories, motivations, and commitments are unique, but you've joined together with a common purpose that brings a smile to my face and hope to so many people.

In His Service,

Cassu Martin CASSIE MARTIN, Executive Director

From the Chairman

Imagine a domestic violence victim. Now, who just came to mind? Is it your favorite barista? Is it someone that sits in the next pew at church? A teacher? Your neighbor with the nice yard? A local business leader? Someone wearing a uniform? Someone educated? Someone who's poor? A working professional? Someone of a particular ethnicity or gender? If you answered "yes" to any of these, you are correct. That's not because any one of these categories represents most victims of domestic abuse, but because victims fall into all of these categories and many more. Domestic abuse does not discriminate.

You've possibly heard us share that one in four women and one in seven men will be affected by domestic abuse in their lifetimes. Those numbers are entirely too high. This means that 25 percent of the women in your life know firsthand (or have witnessed through a friend or family member) the fear instilled through an intimate partner's words, threats, or fists. And nearly 15 percent of the men you know have experienced or witnessed control exerted to intimidate, coerce, or hurt them.

If we're going to address domestic violence, we must overcome the mentality that it only happens to someone else ... not in your family. Not among your friends. Not in your church. The chilling, simple fact is that it's not as uncommon among our friends and family as we'd like to think. Again, domestic violence does not discriminate.

Thank you for walking alongside us in our efforts to end the cycle of domestic abuse.

DAN BOND, Chairman, Board of Directors

Our Mission

Sheltering Wings provides emergency housing for women and children suffering from any form of domestic abuse. We build stable and independent lives through essential programs offered in a supportive and Christ-centered environment.

What exactly does Sheltering Wings do?

Sheltering Wings has served the community for the past 14 years.

While most people are aware that we provide a safe haven for victims of domestic violence, they may not know about everything we do to serve victims and educate the community. Here's a summary of the many facets of our work.

THE PHONE RINGS

Seven days a week, 365 days a year, our phone rings, and on the other end is a person who is in danger, or calling on behalf of a friend, neighbor, or relative. Often, we help them find resources in the community. Some are in situations that warrant an invitation to our shelter facility. The people who take the calls use what's known as a lethality assessment to determine the degree of danger. During 2016, we answered 1,617 crisis calls and provided safe housing for 125 women and 89 children.

A HAVEN FOR FAMILIES

Moving to a new place is disruptive for families, so Sheltering Wings has been designed with a homelike atmosphere. Each family has a room that includes four beds, a walk-in closet, a private bathroom with shower/tub, and a door that locks. Residents share a common kitchen and fully stocked pantry. There are lounge areas, as well as play and study areas for children. Families are protected by state-of-the-art security systems. No one can enter the shelter facility without permission from our staff. We never reveal who is (or who is not) residing with us, in order to maintain confidentiality. Our local police department closely monitors the surrounding area.

CREATING SAFETY & STABILITY

Our long-term goal is to equip and empower women to build safe, stable and independent lives. Residents work with a case manager who identifies their individual needs and connects them with the classes, support groups, and resources necessary to help them become self-sufficient. During 2016 we helped 85 women exit Sheltering Wings to a safe and independent life.

Our Usson

HELPING KIDS, TOO

Even if the abuser never touches them, children suffer lasting effects from witnessing domestic abuse. Without intervention, they'll grow up believing that it's acceptable for men to be abusive and for women to take that abuse. We created our Children's Program to help them identify what healthy relationships look like, so they can break the cycle of abuse and live safe, healthy adult lives.

BUILDING COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

The best way to eliminate domestic violence is to educate the community, so everyone can become involved in preventing it. We offer a variety of outreach and educational programs, including our Teen Dating Violence Program for middle and high school students. In 2016, we spoke with chamber groups, civic organizations, businesses, schools, and churches, reaching nearly 21,566 people.



Sheltering Wings was formed in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. We extend the love and compassion of Christ to women and their children in the desperate circumstances of domestic violence. Christ was never coercive or offensive and neither are our services. Our assistance will be offered to any victim of any background in the name of Christ.



I thought I had an ideal life ...

"I had loving parents and a wonderful childhood."

Like all children, Donika's impression was that her life was the same as everyone else's. But it wasn't, and it eventually led her and her six children to a two-year stay at a place called Sheltering Wings. She claims that stay saved her life.

"We didn't know it wasn't right because it was our father," she recalls. "I was eight years old." Her father stole her innocence and her sister's, abusing them until Donika turned 12 and spoke up. "My dad left because I was forced to tell the truth about unspeakable acts."

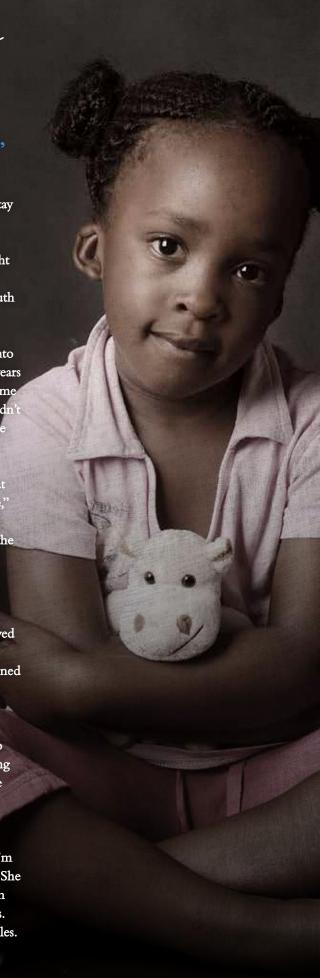
With that childhood experience marring her perspective, she trudged forward into a bleak future. She looked for love in all the wrong places. First with a man, 14 years her senior, when she was barely 14 years old. "I got pregnant at age 14. He gave me everything I wanted and needed, so I felt like he was different than my dad. It didn't register that I was being sexually abused until I was pregnant and the police came to my house."

Donika had low self-esteem and felt vulnerable. Her last boyfriend played on that vulnerability. "Opening up to him about the past was a way he could control me," she recalls. "He was verbally abusive. He would call me a whore or he would tell me that I deserved what I got as a child because I don't listen." And sometimes, the abuse turned physical.

She was so despondent that "I wrote a suicide note to my son telling him to get his sisters out of the house and that I love him and that I couldn't live in fear anymore," Donika soberly recounts. She took many pills, but miraculously survived and made a call that changed her family's life. "I called Sheltering Wings. I said I need help. If I don't get help, I'm not gonna make it." And Sheltering Wings opened its doors to Donika and her six children. "We literally came with the clothes on our back," she remembers.

She and her children have received a home, a haven and hope. "I'm not scared to go out the door. I'm not scared to watch my kids go to the park or the swimming pool. I don't look over my shoulder anymore." Imagine that. A life with no more fear after years of living with abuse. "We're free!" Donika sobs softly. "And we're loved. These people don't give up on you."

Sheltering Wings helped Donika love herself again. "I'm stronger. I realize that I'm worth more than what my past allowed me to be." She has gone back to school. She hopes to become an advocate for women fleeing from abuse, and she wants them to know they are not alone. There are life-changing places, like Sheltering Wings. "God has these angels who are just waiting to save women like me," Donika smiles. "The words 'thank you' will never be enough."



Thank you for your generous support

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We are grateful to these individuals, companies, and organizations for the financial support they provided during 2016.

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I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. PHILIPPIANS 1:3-4

2016 Financials

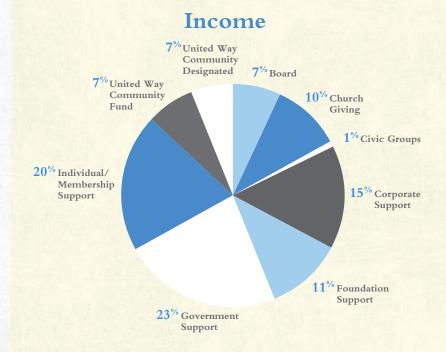
INCOME		
Board	\$ 100,149	7%
Church Giving	160,581	10%
Civic Groups	14,908	1%
Corporate Support	223,186	15%
Foundation Support	174,924	11%
Gift Cards	6,095	0%
Government Support	347,579	23%
Individual/Membership Support	313,022	20%
Interest	236	0%
Other, Misc.	504	0%
Schools	2,668	0%
United Way Community Fund	101,591	7%
United Way Designated	93,448	6%
Total	\$ 1,538,891*	
EXPENSES		
Administrative	\$ 111,642	9%
Crisis	297,712	24%
Life Skills	409,354	33%
Children	297,712	24%
Education and Outreach	124,047	10%
Total	\$ 1,240,468	



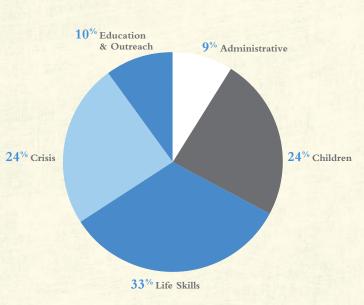
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^{*}Our 2016 revenue includes special contributions to fund the complete kitchen renovation planned for 2017.



Expenses



These are preliminary, unaudited year-end figures and may differ slightly from the final figures we will report to the state and federal governments. Our finances are reviewed annually by an independent public accounting firm. For questions about our financial statements and audit information, please contact the Executive Director at 317-718-5460.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Sheltering Wings is led by a Board of Directors made up of local leaders who share our commitment to serve domestic violence victims and educate the community in Christ's image. Our Directors provide oversight for our planning and operations, lending their professional expertise and skills to ensure that the services we deliver comply with our mission, vision, guiding principles, responsible stewardship, and state and federal laws governing non-profit organizations.



TEN GREAT WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

- 1. Become a monthly prayer supporter.
- 2. Volunteer in the office with administrative work.
- 3. Become a children's or mom's mentor, or help with evening children's activities.
- 4. Invite us to your church or group to share an update.
- 5. Serve on our program, development or event committees.
- 6. Join in our domestic violence awareness campaign.
- 7. Be a part of the Youth Council.
- 8. Give monthly.
- 9. Leave a legacy through planned giving.
- 10. Subscribe to our monthly Wish List to help fulfill our most immediate needs.



P.O. Box 92 Danville, IN 46122 Ph: 317-745-1496 FAX: 317-745-1497

shelteringwings.org

Look for us on:







