

sheltering wings
center for women

2003 annual report



Be not afraid

So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children. - Genesis 50:21

Be not afraid

"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. - Jeremiah 1:8

"Sheltering Wings is not afraid ... not afraid to care ... not afraid to reach out ... not afraid to praise God."

Those words summarize the hope one woman found within our doors. With the help of God, working through His community, we have shared that courage with the 151 women and 178 children who have briefly called Sheltering Wings home since our doors opened in January 2002. As each woman and child enters our doors, as each caller talks with a crisis mentor, as each audience member listens to one of our speakers – they receive a simple, yet life-changing message: you need not be afraid.

Our Mission

Sheltering Wings Center for Women provides emergency housing for women and children suffering from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. We provide a supportive and nurturing Christ-centered environment, with the goal of reaching emotional and economic stability.

Our Vision

Sheltering Wings Center for Women was formed in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. The Center will 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 the services provided by the Center. Our assistance to any victim of any background will be offered in the name of Christ.

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(with expiration of term of service)

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From our chairman

As I write this, Sheltering Wings is finishing its second year of operation. We remain steadfast in our mission to provide shelter to the women in our county who have suffered the agony of domestic violence. From its inception two years ago, Sheltering Wings has housed over 300 women and children and received almost 1,000 calls from families in crisis.

Our successes are not measured by the number of women in residence, but by those who depart the shelter with new direction, confidence, housing, employment, and hope. If we have been able to stabilize their lives and shown them achievable alternatives to their plight, we have met many of the goals for which Sheltering Wings was created.

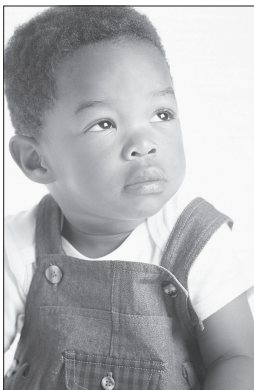
Non-profit charitable organizations have felt the pressures of a weak economy during the past year. Sheltering Wings has limited its staff and program offerings to maintain a responsible balance sheet. As we reflect on this period of tightened finances, we are sincerely grateful to a host of organizations within our community that share our mission to help those in desperate circumstances. As I review our sources of income, I see churches, individuals, for-profit companies, grantors, government, and fund raisers all contributing to the financial stability that Sheltering Wings has sustained. To those who have given, let me express a most heartfelt “thank you” and assure you that every dollar given is considered a gift from an individual or organization that has many giving options to consider. We appreciate you very much.

Let me help you better understand the generosity with which we have been blessed. When creating the budget for the shelter’s start-up, we anticipated an annual food budget of \$24,000, which we thought was very tight. The shelter actually spent just \$375 for food during that time, because the community gave to the point of overfilling our refrigerators and fully stocking our pantries week after week. We do not take a community that has partnered with us to minimize domestic violence in our county for granted.

During 2004, Sheltering Wings must make a major push at providing effective programming for the children who live here, because the cycle of violence is perpetuated through those that have witnessed abuse. Indeed, it is well established that violence against women is a “learned behavior.” Statistically, both male and female children who live in a violent home have high probabilities of returning to that lifestyle as they approach adulthood. It’s the very definition of a “cycle”— and it’s our mission to break that cycle.

As our second year of operation concludes, I would like to extend the thanks of the Board of Directors for sustaining your support for Sheltering Wings. It is involved in a vital work on behalf of those who find themselves in a terrible situation and with limited options from which to choose. You are enabling an option that protects life and gives hope, and for that, we are extraordinarily grateful.

Robert E. Leonard



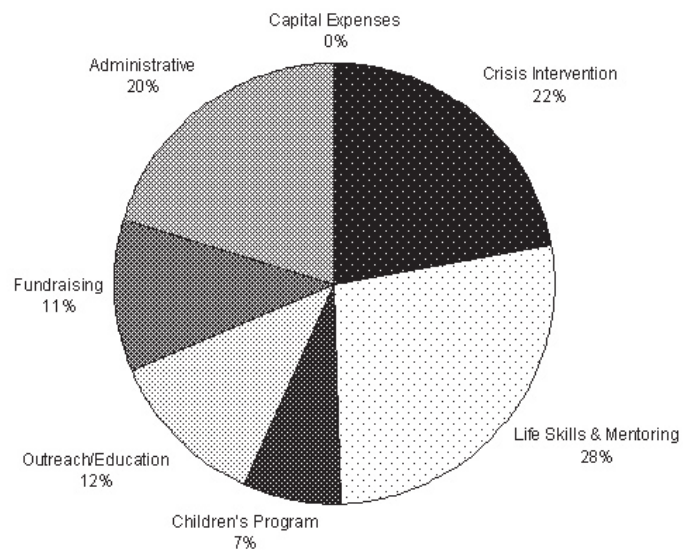
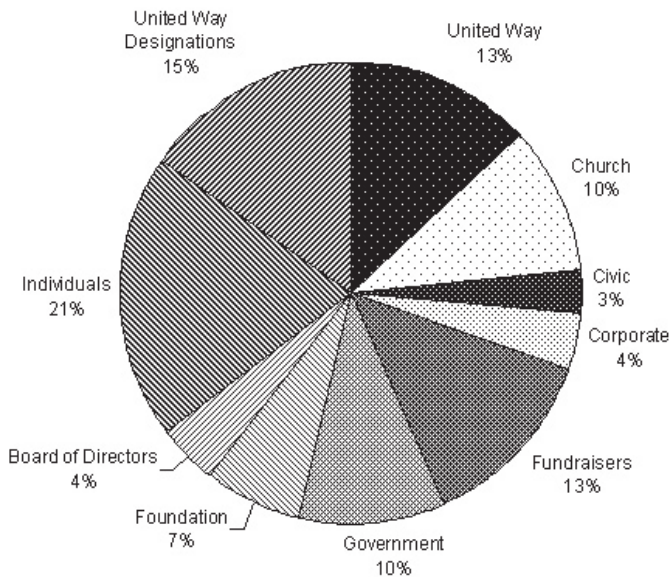
Financial highlights for 2003

Income

Contributor	Amount
Individuals	\$ 89,000
United Way Designated Donors	67,000
United Way	62,000
Fundraisers	58,000
Government	45,000
Churches	43,000
Foundation Support	30,000
Board of Directors	19,000
Corporate	19,000
Civic Groups	17,000
Total	\$ 448,000

Expenses

Purpose	Amount
Life Skills & Mentoring	\$ 111,000
Crisis Intervention	91,000
Children's Program	28,000
Outreach/Education	52,000
Fundraising	48,000
Administrative	92,000
Capital Expenses	0
Total	\$ 422,000



These are preliminary 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 an appointment to review our most current financial statements and audit information, please contact the Executive Director at 745-1496.

Our donors for 2003

The individuals, churches, companies and other organizations whose names appear on these pages made significant contributions to our success in 2003. In addition, there are many others who made donations of items or services, or who responded anonymously to our needs during the year. We appreciate every one of you and thank God for your generosity. We have worked diligently to avoid misspelling or inadvertently omitting anyone's name and apologize if your name somehow suffered that fate.

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Highlights of 2003

	2002	2003	Total
Crisis calls	346	550	896
Women housed	76	75	151
Children housed	89	89	178
People educated	5,300+	8,400+	13,700+



Yo sabia que habia muchos angelitos en la tierra y siempre desie conocer uno, pero Dios nuestro Padre que todo lo da en abundancia no me puso uno en mi camino. Sino que me puso muchos angelitos como ustedes que estan en el Center for Women. Y mi agradelimieta es tanto que si yo pudiera les pondria una estrellita del cielo a cada una de ustedes y les vajaria un pedacito de cielo. Pero ustedes yo tienen todo el cielo y las estrellas en sus manos y a Dios muy dentro de sus almas. Dios nuestro Padre las vendiga a ustedes y a toda su familia.

P.D. Estoy luchando y se que.

A letter from "Juanita," a 2003 Sheltering Wings success story. Its translation:

I knew there were many angels on earth and I always wanted to know one, but God our Father who gives us everything in abundance had never put a real one in my path. Instead He gave to me angels like all you at Sheltering Wings Center for Women. My thankfulness is such that I want to take a star from heaven and give it to each of you. But I can't bring down a piece of the sky to give you; you already hold the sky and the stars in your hands and hold God deep inside your souls. May God the Father bless you and all in your family.

P.S. I am fighting my struggle and will succeed.

Please help us conquer fear

Sheltering Wings Center for Women is blessed with a remarkably dedicated staff and devoted volunteers without whose help we could not serve our mission. There is a third, equally important component to our work: the generosity of those who provide financial support. We are prudent stewards of that assistance, providing our services for about half of the typical shelter's million-dollar budget. Even so, it takes just over \$1500 each day to give our women and children the safety and the support they need to rebuild their lives without fear.

We appreciate donations of money, goods and services (and encourage employers to match gifts made by their employees). A gift of just \$21 feeds a woman and child for a week. Another \$124 covers the cost of housing. Because we are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consider us in your estate planning, too.

Donation levels

Diamond	Above \$50,000
Emerald	\$25,000 to \$49,000
Ruby	\$10,000 to \$24,999
Platinum	\$5,000 to \$9,999
Gold	\$1,500 to \$4,999
Silver	\$500 to \$1,499
Bronze	Up to \$499

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. - Deuteronomy 31:8



sheltering wings center for women

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