

Abide in me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. JOHN 15:4 (NIV)

#### SHELTERING WINGS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

# From the Director



I've always been focused on goals. From an early age, I saw what I wanted, disciplined myself to pursue it, and worked to achieve it.

But one of the lessons I learned in 2017 was the value of abiding. When the Lord places something before us, it's tempting to push past it and race for the next goal. But I'm learning that there is merit to accepting, absorbing, resting, and reflecting upon what's before us. God wants us to abide in His creation.

During 2017, Sheltering Wings helped 129 women and 92 children grow. Just as important, we gave them the opportunity to abide. They left behind trauma and simply needed time to rest, regain their sense of security, and start to find themselves again. Our programs help them find healing and hope. They abide, and once they're ready, we support their steps to move into stable and independent lives.

On page 4, you'll meet Jackie. She came to Sheltering Wings as a young teen whose mother was escaping an abusive marriage. Jackie now serves as our Children's Activity Coordinator. Think about that for a moment. What she witnessed as a child has made her better able to help other silent victims of abuse discover their own voices and move toward hope. To us, it may have taken years, but to God, it was but a moment of abiding.

Your past generosity and prayerful support lifted a victim and began her transformation into a healer, and the support you provide today is setting others on paths that will enlighten and better our world. Who knows what they will accomplish one day thanks to you and a place called Sheltering Wings?

In His Service,

Cassie Martin Executive Director

Cassu Martin

From the Chairman

Most of the time, our board addresses the day-to-day elements of Sheltering Wings and its mission, but this year we gathered for an extended time to cast a vision for the future through the strategic planning process.

As we sketched out plans for the next four years, it became clear that we could move confidently because we have such strong support from our partners in the community. We are blessed to be part of a larger community in which relationships with other organizations and individuals allow us to better serve the families within our walls, as well as those who call us with needs.

We're well aware that helping a person get out of an abusive relationship is only the first step. The wraparound services Sheltering Wings provides through community support allow our residents to build safe, stable, and independent lives.

Our board is particularly excited about our new focus on prevention. Yes, intervention is critical, but prevention is what will help us break the cycle of violence. One example is the Men IN Action breakfast you'll read about on page 5. This new group brings men from all corners of the community together to not only break the cycle of violence, but to support and encourage one another in living lives of purpose and love.

My board term comes to a close as 2017 ends, and as I reflect on my time with Sheltering Wings, I continue to be amazed at the Lord's role as our provider. Whether addressing the increased demand for our services, growing our prevention program, or providing the means to renovate our kitchen, He continually reminds us He is there to walk this journey with us.

Sincerely,

Dan Bond

Chairman, Board of Directors



Since 2002, Sheltering Wings has provided a safe haven for victims of domestic violence, but that's only the beginning of our efforts to help the community overcome this serious social problem. The services we provide are divided into four program areas.

#### **Emergency Services**

When the phone rings, we answer 24 hours a day, and find ourselves talking with someone who is in danger, or who is calling on behalf of a friend, neighbor, or relative. We assess the situation and degree of danger, and then recommend the best course of action. That may involve resources in the community, or it may require bringing them into the safety of our facility. During 2017, we answered 1,611 crisis calls and provided safe housing for 129 women and 92 children.

#### Life Skills

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 2017 we helped 63% of our women exit Sheltering Wings to a safe and independent life.

#### Children's Programs

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 and live safe, healthy adult lives.

#### **Prevention & Education**

We offer a variety of programs focused on educating the community and preventing violence, including our Teen Dating Violence Program for middle and high school students. During 2017, we enhanced our community prevention efforts based on the 40 Developmental Assets young people need to grow into emotionally healthy adults. Throughout the year, we spoke with civic organizations, businesses, schools, and churches, reaching more than 23,600 people.

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.



Our Vision 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.

# "He was screaming that he was going to crash the car and kill us."

"He would hit my brother so hard that blood would run out of his nose and mouth. He pulled my sister's hair and tried to hit her. He slapped my face as hard as he could and it left his hand impression on my cheek and it made my nose bleed."

Jackie isn't remembering the neighborhood bully. The story she's sharing is about her father.

"He set a fire in my parent's room and started yelling. 'I'm going to

"He set a fire in my parent's room and started yelling, 'I'm going to burn this house down with you and the kids in it.' Luckily, my mom was able to put the fire out."

She was 13 at the time, and this terrifying situation was what she saw as everyday life.

"I struggled with anger, frustration, confusion, and sadness, but I kept it locked inside. Then I took it out on myself. I started cutting my arms and legs with a razor blade."

One Sunday morning, as the family traveled to church, "My dad popped a whole bunch of pills in his mouth and swallowed them. He started going really fast and was swerving all over the road. He was screaming that he was going to crash the car and kill us. Luckily, by the grace of God, we did make it to the church. My mom called the ambulance and the police to get some help. As they were taking him away in the ambulance, he told the police officers that as soon as he got out of the hospital, he was going to shoot us. He said he had all of his guns in the trunk of the car. The police checked, and sure enough, he did have all of his guns with him."

Her mother brought her children to Sheltering Wings. Jackie finally had the support she needed. When the family left us, Jackie promised herself she'd return to help others.

"I am now 26 years old and proud to say I have worked at Sheltering Wings for seven wonderful years. I'm the Children's Activities Coordinator, fulfilling my passion of working and helping children who have been impacted by domestic violence."

Jackie's story had a happy ending because Sheltering Wings was there to help when her mother needed safety and support. We're here to take crisis calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and to provide the emergency support victims of these unthinkable situations so desperately need.

(There's an even happier ending to Jackie's story. For years, she struggled with trusting men and pledged she would never marry. "God had other plans for me. I have fallen in love with a wonderful man who treats me with love and respect. This year he asked me to marry him and I said yes.")

Lam now 26 years old...

and proud to say I have worked at Sheltering Wings for seven wonderful years. I'm the Children's Activities Coordinator, fulfilling my passion of working and helping children who have been impacted by domestic violence."



#### A Renewed Kitchen

In most homes, the kitchen is more than a place for preparing food. It's where people gather for conversations and laughter, and where the soul is nourished along with the body.

The kitchen at Sheltering Wings is no different—just a lot larger. Our residents work together to prepare meals for each other's families and clean up after everyone's done. They share recipes, tips, and chores. Families gather around the dinner tables and discuss the ups and downs of life.

In 2017 we completed a major renovation of our kitchen. It's now more efficient, much easier to keep clean, and better suited to host health and nutrition classes. That's important, because our kitchen plays a key role in our Life Skills program, helping women and their children learn practical skills that support their quest for independence.

We deeply appreciate the contributions of everyone who worked on this major project or helped make it possible. There were also groups that combined efforts to provide 74 meals for our women and children while the kitchen was out of service. Thanks to their help, what could have been a difficult transition was amazingly smooth. Because of all of you, our kitchen will be able to serve up transformations in the lives of women and children for many years to come!

#### A New Group of Supporters

When people talk about ending domestic violence, they often forget the role men must play by becoming positive, supportive role models who know that abusive behavior is always wrong. That's why we were so excited that more than 140 men joined together for our first Men IN Action breakfast on October 5.

Men IN Action are engaged and informed mentors impacting the community by developing positive social behaviors, to end all forms of violence, including domestic violence and teen dating abuse. The group is designed to equip and encourage men to build each other up, hold one another accountable, challenge the status quo, and navigate life by being positive role models for our youth and each other.

Interested in becoming involved? Just send an email to meninaction@shelteringwings.org.



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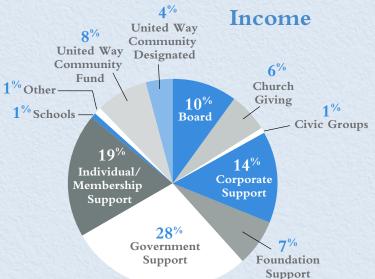
Sheltering Wings Financial Summary

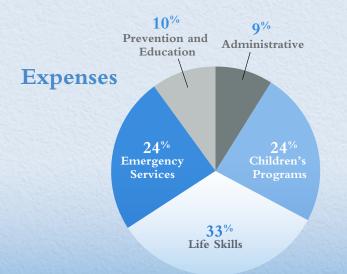
#### Income

Board	\$	155,868.26	10%
Church Giving		91,598.43	6%
Civic Groups		17,129.38	1%
Corporate Support		224,022.55	14%
Foundation Support		115,692.91	7%
Gift Cards		7,751.04	0%
Government Support		447,785.83	28%
Individual/Membership Support	t	311,824.56	19%
Interest		241.77	0%
Other - Miscellaneous		12,099.69	1%
Schools		16,701.13	1%
United Way Community Fund		133,705.59	8%
United Way Designated Dollars		70,908.06	4%
	\$	1,605,329.20	

#### Expenses

Administrative		9%
<b>Emergency Services</b>		24%
Life Skills		33%
Children's Program		24%
Prevention & Education		10%
	\$ 1,580,528.53	





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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.



- 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 committee.

- 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.



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