

SHARED BLESSINGS

FALL 2018 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.— THESSALONIANS 5:15

A Step Beyond Values – Developing Assets

When you think about assets, what comes to mind? Money? Investments? Actually, assets are anything that we own. In addition to physical items, assets can include aspects of our personality that support our lives, and resources around us that can help out when we need them.

When you were growing up, was there someone who made a big impact on your life? Perhaps it was a teacher who took an interest in you, a relative who checked up on you, or even a store cashier that remembered you with a smile. No matter who it was, or what they did, their actions created a lasting impact in your life.



Now imagine you could have that kind of impact on a young person. Maybe you're a neighbor, a parent, a coach, or employer. Or maybe you're someone who can help in other ways. That African adage that "it takes a village to raise a child" is true. We need a commitment from everyone to help children become successful adults—and as part of our efforts to prevent domestic violence, Sheltering Wings wants to make our community that village. We want to encourage everyone to create a net of environments, opportunities, and relationships that reach every child and youth.

An organization called the Search Institute has identified 40 positive experiences and qualities that enhance the lives of children and youth. These 40 factors, called developmental assets, have become sources of ideas and inspiration for improving the lives of young people and increasing their potential to become healthy, successful adults. And research has found the more of these assets a child "owns," the less likely they are to engage in violent behaviors, use drugs and alcohol, or become sexually active.

We're building these assets into our programs for young people. If you'd like to know more about them and how they can benefit your youth-serving organization, school, church, or business, please call Melissa Echerd at 317-386-5061 or email her at mecherd@shelteringwings.org.

Director's Discussion

Cassie Martin, *Executive Director*

Ever try to explain ethics to a nine-year-old? I was telling my nephew that it involves how we decide right from wrong. To illustrate, I gave him scenarios and asked what he would do. For example, "suppose your brother thought he had \$10 sitting on the table, but actually had \$11. Would you take the extra \$1 since he wouldn't notice, or would you leave it there?" "I'd take the \$1. No, wait! I'd take all \$11! He shouldn't leave his money sitting around." After briefly worrying about unethical behavior, we laughed as we realized he understood and was just being a stinker.

Our conversation prompted me to think about how we teach young people about ethics, as well as integrity, respect, honor, and honesty. I've often heard it said that "values are typically caught more than taught." That's why it is so important to surround our young people with men and women of integrity. We need to instill those values in children, so they grow up thinking ethical behavior is the norm.

In this newsletter, we describe ways people in the community are partnering with us to instill these important values and ultimately break the cycle of abuse. Our kids are counting on us to lead the way.

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

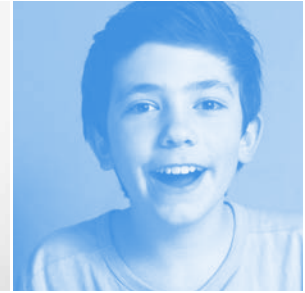
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Everyone is an Asset Builder

One of our ongoing goals is helping our mothers and their children build stronger, healthier relationships, and we've added a class called Building Strong Families to enhance those efforts.

Facilitated by advocate Holly Porter, the class is focused around the 40 developmental assets, helping mothers learn about and build those assets in their children (even as they're working to build many of those same assets in themselves). Participants share in activities, games, stories, and crafts that foster positive life experiences, with separate classes for moms and kids as well as sessions they attend together.

One recent lesson centered on positive values, addressing integrity and teaching everyone to see the value in helping others. It was eye-opening for many of the moms, as this is an area that can often be damaged by domestic violence. Knowing they have a purpose and value helps children feel they exert control over their lives, strengthening their sense of self-esteem.



Volunteer Spotlight: Ryan Sebree



Men IN Action

The co-chair of Men IN Action, Ryan is an Indy-area native who lives in Avon with his wife, Kathy, daughter Kylee, son Noah, a dog, and a pair of guinea pigs. He has recently joined the team of Thurston Springer Insurance, is volunteer music coordinator for the family's church, and is an avid hiker and backpacker.

How did you become involved?

Last year, I was invited to attend a breakfast hosted by the newly formed Men IN Action group. This was my first in-depth exposure to the impactful things that Sheltering Wings does for women and our community. As a husband and father, I have always sought ways to honor the women in my life and teach my son to follow my example. Through my involvement with Men IN Action, I hope to model and rightly reflect the love and honor that God clearly has towards women, and to encourage the other men in my life to do the same.

Why is being involved in the community important to you?

I have been increasingly convinced that we are called to steward the gifts, abilities, and funds that we have all been given to impact the lives of those people around us, whether that's our family and

friends, our local churches, our community, or foreign countries. I want to find ways within our community to serve others, and bring light to darkness and hope to despair.

Why would you encourage others to get involved?

There's rarely a day that goes by without us hearing of something tragic that has happened in our communities. However, we are not powerless or relegated to sit on the sidelines. It's not enough to simply talk about community involvement. We must identify our gifts and seek to give them away to others. The idea of "loving our neighbors" can take on multiple forms, but the essence of all community involvement is action.

How do you share what you are doing with others?

During my day-to-day professional and personal life, I enjoy learning about people's strengths, values, and passions, so I can help them find organizations that best align with them. Whether at a networking group, a business meeting, or coffee with a friend, I love hearing about what they are doing to positively impact the people around them. This gives me the opportunity to share some of the ways that I seek to affect our community through Sheltering Wings, Men IN Action, and other organizations.

The need grows every year

So far this year, Sheltering Wings has been home to **87** women and **65** children. Since January 1, we've handled **751** crisis calls.

A Special thanks to...

- **Good Samaritan Episcopal church in Brownsburg** provided 30 back packs for the “stuffing party” we had at our Back to School night event!
- **Josh Echerd** for our new flag pole and flag as a part of his Eagle Project.
- **The Wabash Institute of Theology for Youth Scroll group** for helping clean up our courtyard.
- **The 26 volunteers** who helped man our booth at the Hendricks County 4H Fair.
- **Putnam County Kids Count Camp, Howdy Hooves, and Springhill/Kingsway Christian Church** who all made it possible for our kids to attend summer camps.
- **Hendricks County 4H Club** for providing life skills and involvement for our kids.
- **Animal Tails at McCloud Nature Park** for story and activity time.
- **Jesus** and all others who made our new Therapy Room possible.

Building Success

One of our employees was working at our information booth at the Hendricks County Fair and shared a story about her encounter with a young girl:

She approached the table and excitedly asked, “Do you want to know my favorite Christmas memory?” I was a little puzzled, wondering why she wanted to share a Christmas memory in the middle of July.

“Many years ago, me, my mom and my siblings were at the shelter. My favorite Christmas memories are from the year we were there. I remember Santa coming in on a firetruck, someone reading the Christmas story to us, food—lots of food—and getting a present from Santa.”

What she described is exactly what happens at each’s year Christmas party for our residents. And then she added, “That was the first Christmas I remember with no fighting, and that we were happy.” We went on to talk about her mom and how all their lives had changed after staying at Sheltering Wings. One of our many success stories, her mom raised her children in a healthy environment, has a successful IT position in a thriving company and recently obtained a college degree!

Our outreach opportunities ensure the community knows we’re here to support them in times of crisis. Just as important, they sometimes allow us to reconnect with our past residents or to hear about a survivor who has broken the cycle of domestic violence. I love this part of my job!

A Fantastic Fairway



With 151 golfers, 51 sponsors and 26 raffle donors, the event was a success, raising over \$27,225 to allow us to continue with our mission. This event provides crucial funds to ensure Sheltering Wings is able to continue to serve victims of domestic violence in a supportive and Christ-centered environment, helping them lay the groundwork to develop stable, safe, and independent lives.

Platinum Sponsors



Hendricks
Regional Health



Gold Sponsor

Ray's Trash Service

Join Us
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
is coming in October.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE ACTIVITIES!

Monday, Oct. 1

“Shine the Light”
Annual Vigil 6:30 p.m.
at Sheltering Wings

Sunday, Oct. 14

“Purple in the Pews”
Wear purple to church, share it with us on social media
#PurpleInThePews

Tuesday, Oct. 9

“Men IN Action” Annual Breakfast
8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at Washington Township Park Pavilion, Avon

Thursday, Oct. 25

“Dine Out Against Domestic Violence” All day at Boulder Creek in Brownsburg, Charbonos in Avon, Stone Creek and Bru Burger in Plainfield

You can make a difference!

Learn how you can be an Asset Builder at our FREE Workshop

November 7th, 2018 8:00am-12:30pm

Hendricks County Fairgrounds Conference Rooms 1 & 2
To RSVP visit www.shelteringwings.org/calendar/events/

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

Help us build Values & Assets to create safe and independent lives

\$25 \$50 \$100

\$250 \$ _____

Monthly One Time

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

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TRIM OUT AND RETURN TO SHELTERING WINGS

GIVING

Help us out

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

- Becoming involved with Men IN Action
- Helping with administrative work in the office
- 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 _____

Look for
us on



Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram and Pinterest!

Volunteer



P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122



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

Santa arrived early this year

It was way too warm for snow, but Santa didn't mind as he made an early trip from the North Pole to Sheltering Wings for our first-ever Christmas in July celebration. Brownsburg Sertoma served up a tasty cookout for the jolly old elf and our families, while dozens of local families and businesses provided extra support. The Mustang Club of Indianapolis collected items from our wish list as part of their 39th Annual Car Show. And just to make sure Jack Frost was on hand, the good folks at Frigid Frog kept everyone supplied with snow cones.

We appreciate the support we receive during the holidays, but we serve needs all year long. Christmas may be a few months away, but you can give us a gift at any time—even today!



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?

- **Paper plates, cutlery and cups**
- **Children's items (sippy cups, new baby toys, baby bottles)**
- **Pull Ups size 2t, 3t, 4t diapers size 4**
- **Adult/children allergy meds**
- **Individual wrapped snack items**
- **New twin size bedding, towels and pillows**
- **HE laundry detergent**
- **Reams of copy paper**
- **55 (or larger) trash bags**
- **Windex, spray cleaners, toilet bowl cleaner, Fabuloso**