



Shared Blessings

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

In elementary school, I was nervous on the day of “the talk.” I remember them separating the girls and boys to watch an animated film with G-rated sound effects and a lot of arrows. As we girls were whispering and giggling about it on the bus ride home, some boys jumped into the conversation ... and I immediately got uncomfortable.

I learned a lot riding that bus, but fortunately, I had more than my friends to talk with about bodies, relationships and boundaries. I could have helpful conversations with my parents and other adults I trusted.

I was lucky, though, and times are always changing. The reality is that kids today are mostly talking to each other about life and love, and it’s shaping the foundation of what they consider to be normal and acceptable in relationships.

We want to make sure these conversations are built on trust, honor and respect. That’s why we visit every middle and high school in Hendricks County—and talk with parents, too.

In this issue, you’ll read about how you can recognize signs of abuse and talk to your own kids about dating violence, how pastors can respond to a request for help and who you’ll soon be meeting (if you haven’t already) as our newest staff member.

As always, your support underpins everything we do. Thank you!



Letter from a Resident To the Wonderful People of Sheltering Wings,

Today is my one-year anniversary of being free from abuse. There are not enough words to describe how much you all mean to me.

I was pretty down and felt worthless when I first arrived at Sheltering Wings. It was so hard leaving my home of 36 years to come here, not knowing what to expect.

Today, I feel reborn!

Every day, I grew stronger and now I love myself again. I know God sent me here and has plans for

me. All of you have helped me in so many different ways—words of wisdom, grace, caring. You opened your hearts and your arms to me, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

It has been an amazing journey so far, and I could not have done it without all of you. God brought us together and we will never part in love or spirit. You are a great bunch of people and I know you will always be a part of my life.

God bless you all! I love you dearly. – KS

Healthy me. Stronger Us. Sheltering Wings is currently home to **27 SURVIVORS** and **39 CHILDREN**. Since Jan. 1, we've handled **965 CRISIS CALLS**.

Thanks to our donors, partners and volunteers for making this possible!

Employee Spotlight

DEVELOPMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Kevin Carr



What has it been like joining the team at Sheltering Wings?

After seeing my finalized job description for the first time, my reaction was, "Yowza!" Although I had to clarify what I meant, the word perfectly described my feelings! The dictionary defines yowza as an expression of approval, excitement and enthusiasm. And, in these first few weeks, none of those emotions have waned. I'm thrilled to be on the team!

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

So far, the most rewarding part of my job has been simply talking with people about what we do here. I count it a privilege to speak (and Tweet, design, post and write) about extending the love and compassion of Christ to people in circumstances of domestic violence. With help from donors and volunteers, we are really making a difference.

What drew you to Sheltering Wings?

My path to the staff has been different than many. I had been serving as a board member since January 2018 and was loving it, so I was primed for conversations over the summer about joining the full-time team. Having spent my entire career serving in churches and nonprofits, I knew how important board leadership is for the health of an organization. Because I have such high respect for the women and men who serve on our board—not to mention on the Sheltering Wings staff—I knew exactly what I would be getting myself into. Knowing how united the board and staff are in our mission made the decision easy.

What are your initial impressions of Sheltering Wings?

I'm so impressed by the staff culture. I've nearly completed what has been the most extensive, strategic and effective onboarding process I've experienced in any organization. That's a tribute to the entire leadership. In addition to learning all the policies and procedures, I've had the privilege of spending time with almost every staff member. The talents and passion at work here are truly inspiring and I hope I can do a good job of representing such a healthy culture.

What do you hope to accomplish in your role?

From a development perspective, I hope to cultivate healthy and lasting relationships with individual donors, supporting businesses, partner organizations and churches both in and around Hendricks County. As the communications officer, my vision is to help Sheltering Wings continue to develop a strong, steady and influential voice throughout our region. I would love for Sheltering Wings to be top of mind when people in our region need emergency assistance, want to learn more about domestic violence prevention or become motivated to join our efforts.

Men IN Action 3rd Annual Breakfast: **MOBILIZING MEN**

Men IN Action is a group of engaged and informed men who act as role models. Motivated by the love and compassion of Christ, they exemplify positive social behaviors and educate all people on ways to end domestic violence and teen dating abuse.

Two years ago, plans were made for 40 men to show up at the Men IN Action Inaugural Breakfast. More than 140 men attended to launch what has become a hugely popular group. Last year's breakfast was even larger, followed this spring by **Men IN Action READ**—300 men modeling the 40 vital developmental assets to students in nearly every Hendricks County elementary classroom.

This year's free Men IN Action Breakfast is Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Washington Township Park Pavilion. Attendees will hear three distinct perspectives on how we define and demonstrate true manhood. Guest speakers Justin White, Kent Wright and Andy Dix will encourage attendees to cultivate healthy and thriving relationships at home, at work and in the community.

Learn more about Men IN Action by visiting shelteringwings.org/men-in-action or by contacting Melissa Echerd at mecherd@shelteringwings.org or (317) 386-5061.



**3RD ANNUAL
Men IN Action
Breakfast.**

**Tuesday,
Oct. 8, 2019
7:30 a.m.- 9 a.m.**



EQUIPPING CHURCH LEADERS to Recognize and Respond

What would you do if a person in your congregation closed the door of your office and told you they were being abused at home?

Unfortunately, more and more church leaders are being confronted with this situation. Just because a family attends church or other house of worship doesn't mean they are immune to domestic violence or teenage dating abuse.

Church leaders from around Hendricks County decided to become better prepared.

They attended training led by Prevention and Education Officer Melissa Echerd where they received tools and resources to better serve the victims of domestic abuse who sit in their pews, attend their Bible studies and take part in their youth groups.

They also learned how to contribute to awareness efforts by speaking out strategically, biblically and compassionately.

Our community's ministers and church staff members play a critical role in recognizing signs of domestic abuse and responding with the love and compassion of Christ. We are extremely grateful for their interest and action.

To talk about similar training for your church, business or organization, contact Echerd at (317) 386-5061 or mecherd@shelteringwings.org.

How to Talk to Your Teen About SAFE DATING



In every group of teenagers we work with, we make one telling request: "Raise your hand if your parents have talked with you about what a healthy dating relationship should look like." Would your child raise his or her hand?

We usually see only one or two hands go up. And it's not because parents don't want to talk to their kids about dating. They just don't know how.

As parents, we naturally view our children's relationships with our own 20/20 hindsight. "There are plenty of fish in the sea," "You're too young to be dating," "You can't know what you want yet," "You don't know what real love is," and similar comments we've uttered make teens feel like we don't care about their feelings or understand that their relationships are important to them.

These feelings turn into a devastating fear: In a recent survey: 86% of teens said if they were in an abusive relationship, they would rather talk to a friend than a trusted adult.

Do teens want to talk to adults about relationships?

Yes! If we've learned anything in our work, it's that teens want to know what healthy relationships are supposed to be. From the time they're infants, they need parents to model how we treat someone we care about. Sons and daughters both will look to Dad to see how men should interact with women. They'll look to Mom to find out what traits and behaviors to look for in a man worth dating. Both parents will subconsciously or consciously model what their children will come to regard as respect, integrity and compassion.

What do we say?

Your conversations don't have to be complicated. Your most important role is to listen without making them feel judged or ignored. We get the opportunity to help shape and guide this part of their lives, so let's give them the tools they need to navigate their relationships in a healthy way.

Is your teen in an unsafe relationship? Download the Parent Information Card at shelteringwings.org/a-healthy-me/help-for-teens.

Upcoming EVENTS

October

(Domestic Violence Awareness Month)

8 Men IN Action Breakfast Washington Township Park Pavilion, 435 Whipple Lane, Avon, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.

13 Purple in the Pews Wear purple to church to raise awareness for domestic violence

14 Teens that Talk Youth Council Sheltering Wings, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

24 Dine Out Against Domestic Violence Boulder Creek (Brownsburg), Charbonos (Avon) and Stone Creek and Bru Burger (Plainfield)

November

4 Everyone's an Asset Builder Training Washington Township Park Pavilion, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

11 Teens That Talk Youth Council Sheltering Wings, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

December

25 Merry Christmas!

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit: shelteringwings.org/event/



Become a Partner

IN PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I am interested in:

- Gathering and cataloging supplies for the Premier Event silent auction
- Joining Men IN Action
- Helping with office administrative work
- Conducting children's activities at the shelter
- Inviting a shelter rep to my church or group
- Becoming a monthly prayer partner
- Volunteering at an event
- Serving on the Teens That Talk youth council
- Talking about planned giving (wills, bequests, donor-advised funds)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____



Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

shelteringwings.org

Double your Donation!

Your employer may match your donation to Sheltering Wings. Check with your supervisor or HR department to find out!

Help us create Healthy Me and Stronger Us

I want to help Sheltering Wings make the individuals, families and our community healthier and stronger. Please contact me about making a monthly tax-deductible donation of:

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

Today I would like to make a one-time, tax-deductible donation of:

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

I've enclosed my check # _____

Visa MC Discover Amex

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Exp. Date (MM/YY): □□ / □□ CW _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

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We never share your email address with anyone.

SHELTERING WINGS



P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

Mark your Calendars!

FOR 2020 PREMIER EVENT: **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**
NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND SPEAKER **BOB GOFF**



Everybody Always, featuring The New York Times best-selling author Bob Goff, is the 2020 Premier Event. Mark your calendars now for Friday, Feb. 7. **We need sponsors and volunteers!** Visit shelteringwings.org/everybodyalways

Special thanks to...

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

- **Northview Christian Church** for their clothing closet donations.
- **Dr. Lisa Coleman** for sponsoring a Day of Joy for our residents.
- **MOMS support group** for spending time with our kids.
- **Dave and Lucy Blanford** for allowing us to use their home for a staff retreat.
- **Bread Basket** and **Los Patios** for sponsoring recent Dine-Out events.
- **Mustang Club of Indianapolis** for collecting Christmas In July donations.