



# Shared Blessings

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by.* **Psalm 57:1, NLT**

I'm still floating from the outpouring of generosity we saw at last month's annual Premier Event, Everybody Always. The night took us through the inspiring and entertaining experiences of author Bob Goff and raised \$140,000 to support our families and the programs and services at Sheltering Wings. My favorite part was hearing directly from a few of those families (watch at [youtube.com/shelteringwings](https://www.youtube.com/shelteringwings)). Their inspiring courage and grit gives hope to others.

Though the event theme, Everybody Always, was based on one of Bob's books, we didn't realize how appropriate it would become. Our story has unfolded in ways we used to only dream about for our families: childcare

subsidies, safe housing for male survivors, rental assistance for permanent housing and realigned case management.

These initiatives are creating transformational opportunities for our families, allowing us to truly be here for everybody, always.

You'll hear more about these initiatives and how your generosity helps individuals and families feel safe, build stability and live the independent lives they crave ... and deserve.

*Thank you for partnering with us. If you'd like to get more involved, let us know. We're all in this together!*



*Director's Insights*  
**Cassie Mecklenburg, Executive Director**

## *A Resident's Story:* Carolyn

**The violence would start as soon as Carolyn's husband came home after a long night of drinking.** "I would lock myself in the bathroom, lean against the door and pray to God for him to fall asleep. It was only when he'd passed out that I felt free to move around the house."

The police had responded to Carolyn's 911 calls a few times before. Each time, she had reassured them she was safe to remain at home. This time, after an

especially violent outburst, the officer didn't give her a choice. He called the 24-hour helpline at Sheltering Wings and drove her here in his cruiser. Now, Carolyn is safe at Sheltering Wings and she's busy planning her future – a future free from abuse.

*"I was so afraid to leave my home. But, from the moment I arrived here, I finally feel safe."*



*"I lived here for three months after I fled my abuser. This place helped me tremendously! The staff is amazing and so loving and caring. They truly make you feel at home and help you get back on your feet."*

*Hannah's Google review*

It's thanks to people like you that survivors like Hannah can start new lives in safety. Look inside to see what you've accomplished this quarter!

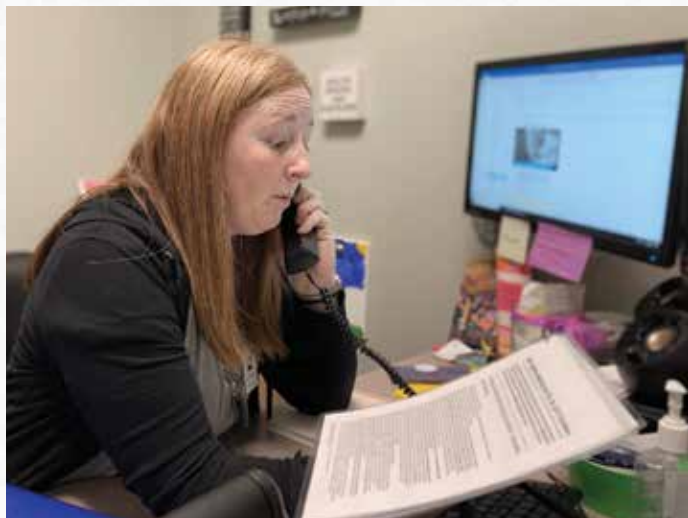
**24-hour Helpline (317) 745-1496**

**Give (317) 718-5460 or [shelteringwings.org/donate-now](https://shelteringwings.org/donate-now)**



# WHAT HAPPENS when Someone Calls the Helpline?

**One of the most important emergency services we offer at Sheltering Wings is our 24/7/365 helpline: (317) 745-1496.** Since we opened our doors in 2002, we have answered over 20,000 helpline calls for an average of 1,030 a year. In 2019 alone, we answered 1,499 calls. Many of them were from people in dangerous situations who reached out to us for a lifeline. So, what happens when someone calls Sheltering Wings?



They immediately speak with someone who can help. In a brief conversation, we assess their situation and find the resources that best fit the need. If they require safe housing, we ensure transportation is available and get them to the shelter.

Once a resident – along with his or her children – checks in, they get a tour and they meet their advocate, a dedicated staff member who makes sure they get what they need. We make arrangements with children's schools and, when possible, we even recruit volunteers to care for pets.

Making sure a resident and his or her children know and feel they are safe is top priority. Residents receive a room with a door that locks so they can rest and have privacy. We reassure them they are protected by a state-of-the-art security system, we will never reveal to outside individuals

or agencies they reside here and absolutely no one can enter without official permission. Plus, we let them know local police closely monitor the area around us.

Whether residents remain with us a month or a year, we do whatever we can to equip them to create the future they've dreamt of. And, it all begins with a phone call.

## The Helpline Is for More Than Emergencies

"We receive two kinds of calls through our helpline," said Jan Smither, case manager. "Emergency calls come from people who are actively fleeing domestic violence. And, we also answer a lot of basic-needs calls."

According to Smither, basic-needs calls come in from a wide variety of people: individuals, pastors, human resource professionals, school administrators, landlords and worried neighbors call seeking information to help them advise loved ones, congregation members, employees, tenants and friends who they suspect are being abused.

Basic-needs calls also come in for a wide variety of reasons: callers want to learn about how protective orders work, they need non-residential case management, they want help with safety planning, they want to know if they're in an abusive relationship or they are survivors who simply need reassurance and advice.

Smither notes, "So many people hesitate to call because they don't think they need emergency shelter. But, we are here 24/7 to educate, equip and encourage anyone who calls. When in doubt, call."

*"So many people hesitate to call because they don't think they need emergency shelter. But, we are here 24/7 to educate, equip and encourage anyone who calls. When in doubt, call."*

## Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

**Call our 24/7 helpline at (317) 745-1496. If you are in danger, call 911 immediately.**

During 2019, your faithful and generous support meant that **1,499 CALLS TO OUR 24-HOUR HELPLINE** were answered, **244 SURVIVORS AND CHILDREN** found emergency housing, and over **16,000 PEOPLE** in our community learned more about domestic violence prevention. **BRAVO!**



## THANKS for Making Men's Expansion a Reality

Under the leadership of owner Cindy Bailey, Bailey Trucking of Frankfort, Ind., shares many of the same values as Sheltering Wings: No one is alone. Everyone should be safe. So it's not surprising that the company has supported Sheltering Wings for years, most recently with help expanding men's services.

Cindy said she has been aware of domestic violence since a young age. Moreover, about a year and a half ago, Bailey Trucking was able to expand significantly after several years of economic hardship.

*"That's why I give back," she said. "I've seen abuse in this business, and I've seen the community support us during our ups and downs."*

Sheltering Wings wants to extend a special thank you to the major donors and construction partners that made the men's services expansion possible:



## Volunteer Spotlight

COMMUNITY IMPACT  
DIRECTOR, INFRASTRUCTURE  
UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL INDIANA

### Gary Woodworth



"Sheltering Wings always makes a strong case when asking United Way of Central Indiana for support," said Gary Woodworth, who oversees the UWCI's Capital Projects Fund. "But when they shared statistics on the number of men impacted by domestic abuse, it was really eye-opening. That was the first time we'd seen that kind of information and the need for those services."



As a result, UWCI committed just over \$296,000 to renovate the shelter's second story to house male victims of domestic violence. Some of the groundwork for this expansion had been laid with funding granted in 2010 for the shelter's first expansion, he said. UWCI gave \$1 million for that \$2.5 million project.

"They really had the forethought with that first expansion to do some things anticipating the day they'd need to expand residential capacity," Woodworth said.

Sheltering Wings also used this opportunity to rebuild an outdated waste management system. Woodworth said the shelter's onsite maintenance person "did a phenomenal job creating the plan," which moves responsibility and costs for annual maintenance to the city.

"UWCI is the only United Way in the country to have the type of capital fund that has helped Sheltering Wings," Woodworth said. "It's the result of a partnership with Lilly Endowment Inc. to give nonprofits access to high-quality professional help in planning and funding construction projects, as well as in the actual building of them."

*"Sheltering Wings is a highly respected organization and a wonderful asset for central Indiana. They have projects we're always excited to do but wish there wasn't a need for."*

## Upcoming EVENTS

Thursdays **Embracing Empowerment** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

March **29** **Dine Out Against Domestic Violence**

at Chick-fil-A in Avon

April **13** **Teens That Talk Youth Council**

May **5** **Volunteer Appreciation Event**

June **25** **Fairway to Haven Golf Outing**

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit [shelteringwings.org/events](http://shelteringwings.org/events)



## PREMIER EVENT RECAP

over **600 ATTENDEES**,  
**\$140,000 RAISED**, event photos available  
 at [shelteringwings.org/everybodyalways](http://shelteringwings.org/everybodyalways).

## Men IN Action CAP

**22 S** **estima** **For updates and more info, visit** **shelteringwings.org/menread** **ENTS.**  
 Thanks to **mark your calendars**  
 for the **Tues., Oct. 6, Men IN Action breakfast.**

## Help Us Create a Healthy Me and Stronger Us

I want to partner with Sheltering Wings to help make survivors 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  Please charge my credit card  Visa  MC  Discover  Amex

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

Exp. Date (MM/YY)   /   CW

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## I am interested in learning more about:

- Gathering and cataloging supplies for a silent auction
- Receiving Men IN Action communications
- 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)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ *We never share your email address with anyone.*

SHELTERING WINGS



P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

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*Special thanks to...*

- **Jody Toth**, for the use of your barn to store furniture donations
- **Katrina Rhodes**, at Family Promise of Hendricks County for all the help with Rapid Rehousing
- **Volunteers** who took on extra roles during construction
- **Residential Services team, facility committee and residents** for being so flexible during construction

## Stay connected

Stay informed about domestic violence and Sheltering Wings:

**LIKE US** on Facebook  
(@ShelteringWings)  
and share our posts

**FOLLOW US**  
and share on Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest  
and Instagram (@ShelteringWings)

**SIGN UP**  
for our monthly INSIDER email and  
other mailing lists of interest at  
[shelteringwings.org/news](https://shelteringwings.org/news)