

# SHARED BLESSINGS

WINTER 2018 NEWS *from* SHELTERING WINGS

*For from him and through him and for him are all things.*— ROMANS 11:36

## Director's Discussion

Cassie Mecklenburg, *Executive Director*



I was talking with two community partners about their ministry and the story that led one of them into this work. They mentioned they had been saved from a difficult situation and wanted to give back in return. They had been saved *from something, for something*. I jokingly suggested they get that as a tattoo, and it wasn't long before I saw a picture of the tattoo on their Facebook feed! While tattoos aren't for everyone, I appreciate it when a positive message resonates so much we imprint it on our minds, in our heart, and apparently, sometimes even on our skin.

My hope is that concept resonates with the children we serve. They have been saved *from something*, but their abusive past does not define them. They are being prepared *for something* so much better! Our children's team prepare them for whatever lies ahead with activities and support groups focused on redefining a sense of normalcy in daily

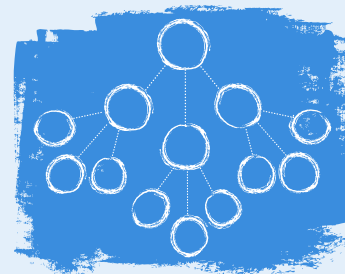
living, rebuilding relationships and trust damaged by abuse, learning about healthy relationships, modeling self-exploration and self-expression, and building self-esteem, values, and character.

As the New Year approaches and you think about your goals and resolutions, please think about what you can do for the kids of Sheltering Wings. Perhaps you can take some time to volunteer and invest in them so they can discover what their "for something" is.

*from something, for something...*

## On January 12, we turn 17!

It was on a chilly January morning 17 years ago that the first woman walked through our doors. This January, we'll celebrate 17 years of service to the community and spread kindness and appreciation for others by paying it forward. Watch for news about our anniversary plans!



**PAY IT FORWARD**  
WITH SHELTERING WINGS

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

PO BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122 | PHONE (317) 718-5460 | FAX (317) 745-1497 | [www.shelteringwings.org](http://www.shelteringwings.org)

## Connecting with our children

Our Children's Program has been doing amazing things with our youngsters, but we could do more with additional volunteers and community resources. Volunteers enhance a sense of stability for our children, particularly when they come in on a regular basis to lead activities. Children enjoy getting to know other adults and often develop important relationships that support the efforts our staff pursues. Those adults provide a calming presence and a listening ear that every child can use, along with patience and understanding their mothers may not be able to provide as they navigate their new lives.

Another way volunteers can help is by providing transportation to appointments at local doctors and other community resources. Volunteers who have flexible schedules are especially appreciated. **To learn more about our needs and what you can do to help, please contact Alva Rice at 317-386-5056 or [arice@shelteringwings.org](mailto:arice@shelteringwings.org).**

In addition, Sheltering Wings is exploring creative strategies to partner with childcare centers in the community who may be able to care for children when their mothers are out seeking employment, taking classes, or at appointments. Knowing that their kids are in caring hands in a safe place reduces stress



and allows mothers to concentrate on the important work of rebuilding their independence. **If you operate a childcare facility or are aware of potential options, please contact Linda Wells at 317-386-5040 or [LWells@shelteringwings.org](mailto:LWells@shelteringwings.org)**

## A strategy for deducting donations

With the changes in federal tax laws, fewer people will itemize deductions. If supporting charitable organizations like Sheltering Wings is important to you, there's a tax strategy you may wish to consider.

Donor-advised funds provide a way to take an immediate tax deduction, grow the money you set aside for charities that matter to you, and give when you want. When you establish a donor-advised fund, you can contribute cash, stock, real estate, and other investments and take an immediate tax deduction. The investments in your donor-advised fund can grow tax-free until you're ready to distribute them. You can make donations to IRS-qualified charities from your fund at any time.

Suppose you plan to donate \$1,000 to Sheltering Wings each year, but are concerned that the new tax law means you won't be able to itemize this year. Instead, you move \$20,000 of your assets into a donor-advised fund. That allows you to take a one-time \$20,000 deduction this year. Your fund will grow tax-free, and you then use it to make your \$1,000 annual donation to Sheltering Wings in subsequent years.

We cannot provide tax advice for your situation, so we recommend you ask your tax preparer and financial planner about this strategy and whether it's right for you.

## Staff Spotlight: Jan Smither



Jan Smither is a case manager at Sheltering Wings, and we asked her about the work she does.

### **What is your favorite part about working with the kids at Sheltering Wings?**

I get to show children who are scared and broken that they are loved and they are not alone.

### **How has working with the kids at Sheltering Wings impacted the way you help their moms?**

When moms flee domestic violence situations, sometimes all they can think about it is being in survival mode. I work with the families to establish routines, nutrition, and positive interactions with one another.

### **What is one thing that you would add or change about the Children's Program?**

A free or grant-funded childcare a place nearby for the children to go while there moms are looking for a job, other appointments or waiting on Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds. One of our other big challenges is trying to adequately transport children to all their medical and community resource appointments.

## Willing to grant wishes?

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year, and an excellent opportunity to remember it is truly more rewarding to give than to receive. Every year, we assemble a Christmas Wish List of needed items that make it possible for us to continue to meet the daily needs of our women and children.

You'll find that list at [shelteringwings.org](http://shelteringwings.org), and you may be surprised by what you find. Many things you probably consider as daily necessities are viewed as generous gifts by our women and children. There are also opportunities to provide gifts that benefit the different areas in which we are able to serve all our residents, and to help us stock the shelves of our boutique.

If you'd like to give gifts that will touch the lives of the women and children we serve, take a look at the Christmas Wish List at [www.shelteringwings.org/2018-christmas-needs/](http://www.shelteringwings.org/2018-christmas-needs/) or contact Alva Rice at 317-386-5056 or [arice@shelteringwings.org](mailto:arice@shelteringwings.org).



## Debunking the holiday violence myth

The holidays can be a busy and stressful time, so a symptom of that stress—namely domestic violence—must escalate at this time of year, right? Actually, wrong. The idea that domestic violence occurs more frequently during the holiday season is a myth.

A 2010 report from the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence concludes there is no link between the holiday season and domestic violence.

The idea that holiday stress fuels family violence persists because many people really do not understand domestic violence and how it typically occurs. A common misperception is that violence occurs as the result of some kind of trigger. The reality is that domestic violence is a pattern of behavior with the goal of controlling and intimidating the victim. It may include physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, and/or even economic abuse as part of an ongoing effort.

Domestic violence is never a temper tantrum. It involves an adult who is making deliberate decisions to control another person. It's critical for everyone to develop an understanding of the realities of domestic violence and the steps that can be taken to help victims. That's true at the holidays ... and all year long.



## Hop for Hope is coming!

Things are hopping on our Teen Council as they plan for our third annual Hop for Hope Jump-A-Thon to call attention to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Stay tuned for more information about this February event—and start brushing up your trampoline skills!

To make an easy donation online, visit [ShelteringWings.org](http://ShelteringWings.org) and click **DONATE NOW!**

SAVE THE DATE!  
2019 ANNUAL PREMIER EVENT BENEFITING  
**Sheltering Wings**



**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2019**

Join us for our Annual Premier Event with singer/songwriter Josh Kaufman.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.shelteringwings.org/Home2019](http://www.shelteringwings.org/Home2019)

### LETTER FROM A RESIDENT

#### A Nigerian's first American Christmas

Coming to America was so different for me. I knew Christmas to be a day where all families kill chicken, fry, and eat. No gifts and no decorating Christmas trees. I had never experienced Santa Claus coming. (At Sheltering Wings) we all went to the conference room to watch him come on the fire truck and sang Christmas songs to welcome him. I acted like a child because it was my first time seeing him! On Christmas morning, I woke up to find plenty of gifts for me, my son, and the baby in my womb. I was surprised to have so many gifts and cried. Sheltering Wings brought life and laughter back to me. I came with the mindset of just having a roof over my head, but I found love, peace, strength, and togetherness.

— "Chismdi"



# Double the Difference! Double your Dollars!

Does your employer match your donations to organizations like ours? Check with your employer to find out!

## Help us build safe, independent lives

I want to help Sheltering Wings save children from something bad and prepare them for something much better.

Please contact me about making a monthly tax-deductible donation of:

- \$250     \$100     \$50  
 \$25     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot give monthly right now, but 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

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SIGN YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

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TRIM OUT AND RETURN TO SHELTERING WINGS



# 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
- Helping with Children's Activities at the Shelter
- Inviting a Shelter rep to my church or group to share an update
- Becoming a monthly prayer partner
- Helping with upcoming events
- 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





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

## 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](http://shelteringwings.org). Can you help with these ongoing needs?

- Postage stamps
- 13 and 55-gallon trash bags
- Gift cards (Kroger, Gas Cards, and Lowe's)
- Neosporin, Advil and Tylenol, Cold Medicine (adult and baby/children)
- Disinfectant spray
- Copy paper
- Individually wrapped snack items
- Toilet Paper and Paper Towels
- HE Laundry Detergent

## A safe haven

Sheltering Wings has been home to **117** women and **98** children since January 1, and handled **1101** crisis calls.