



Shared Blessings



*He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.*

*Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;*

*but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:29-31

Response to our plans for men’s housing here at Sheltering Wings has been fascinating. We’ve heard men bravely sharing their experiences and affirming the need for such a resource. People are asking really good questions, too, admitting their lack of awareness and showing a real willingness to learn and to help.

All of this has been both affirming and educational.

By talking openly, we’re able to shine a light on an almost unseen challenge faced by many. You’re helping us give a voice to the voiceless ... and bring a real solution to an underserved group of people.

In this issue of Shared Blessings, you’ll enter into the conversation surrounding our men’s housing expansion. As you do, let me encourage you to keep an open heart and mind. As always, if you have questions, if you know anyone who is being abused or if you want to roll up your sleeves and join us in our mission, please contact us.

Director's Insights

Cassie Mecklenburg, Executive Director

A Former Resident's Story: **Adaeze**

Adaeze (which means “daughter of the King”) is from Nigeria. When she moved to the United States, she learned that her Nigerian degree isn’t accepted here.

Unfazed, she was ready to start her American education when things stopped her: children to care for and an abusive husband.

For Adaeze, these obstacles were temporary. She sought help at Sheltering Wings in 2017, pregnant with her fourth child. She got to know an adult therapist, Elizabeth Craig – and soon said she wanted to become “Elizabeth II” and help people the way she was being helped.

Adaeze started a job and school as a single mother of three children and an infant, re-learning everything she’d learned in Nigeria – this time in a second language. She graduated with honors in 2019 ... and she and her kids started a new life on their own.

“I want to be an asset to others,” she says. “When life gives you opportunities, you don’t want to miss them. Some people don’t get second chances, and I’m aware I’ve been blessed. I appreciate everything I’ve been given, and I give glory to God.”

Healthy me. Stronger Us.

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

So far this year, **237 SURVIVORS AND CHILDREN** have found emergency housing at Sheltering Wings, and **27 ADULTS** and **37 CHILDREN** are living in safety with us.

Thank you to all of our donors, partners and volunteers for making this possible!

Men's Services EXPANSION ON SCHEDULE

Domestic abuse also affects men, and Sheltering Wings is doing something about it.

Renovation of the second-floor unit for men has begun. By the end of the year, we'll have three private resident rooms with bathrooms, 12 beds, a kitchen and a living room – all handicap accessible – and we'll provide the same programs and training we offer women to help men build stable, independent lives.

Sheltering Wings has seen the demand for men's services grow. In 2018, police from Hendricks County went on 68 domestic disturbance runs where a man was the victim, and those are just the ones we know about. Based on reported national data, one in seven men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner. Two in five men have experienced coercive control by an intimate partner.

We would like to give a huge thanks to our construction partners, DEEM, T&W, Electric Plus, DEEM Mechanical, Fite Plumbing, Flora Brothers Painting, HTH Construction, Superior Systems & Supply, Brownsburg Custom Cabinets and Marburger Fine Flooring – and special thanks to each of you who have made gifts to support this effort!

To learn more and donate, visit shelteringwings.org/menshousing.

Be Inspired and Inspire others AT ANNUAL PREMIER EVENT

"When we're not afraid anymore, we start doing stuff!"

Bob Goff believes we all have unused power.

"We've got a big, beautiful dream, but [like a sailboat], it's still tied to the dock," he says in a video. "What we need to do sometimes is to cut the lines ... and start sailing in that direction."

The Sheltering Wings Premier Event is one of Hendricks County's most anticipated and successful nights each year. Last year raised almost \$140,000. Register today!



EVERYBODY ALWAYS: Premier Event Benefiting Sheltering Wings

February 7, 2020

Embassy Suites Conference Center,
2353 Perry Rd, Plainfield

Registration: 6:30 p.m.

Cocktail attire

shelteringwings.org/everybodyalways

MEN CAN BE ABUSED TOO



"Courage doesn't mean we're not afraid anymore; it just means our actions aren't controlled by our doubts." - Bob Goff

A male who is abused by a woman is often paralyzed by doubt and must find the courage not just to face her retribution ... but also the danger of losing his children, the risk of becoming the accused and the stigma of a society that still views male victims as weak.

Our November blog posts examine this misunderstood topic.

The first, "*When a Man is Abused by a Woman: One Mother's Story*," is a gut-wrenching account of a mother who lost her son to suicide when his wife's abuse became too much.

The second, "*When Men are Victims of Domestic Abuse*," explores the reasons men stay in abusive relationships and don't ask for help.

Read these posts at shelteringwings.org/blog to get a glimpse into the lives of male domestic abuse.



Employee Spotlight

VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST
COORDINATOR

Alva Rice



During her 10 years at Sheltering Wings, Alva Rice has been an advocate, shelter assistant, on-call assistant and volunteer receptionist coordinator, and she's just heard some wonderful news: She's been awarded a grant from Eli Lilly and Company through United Way of Central Indiana that will take her to Scotland and Ireland!

What brought you to Sheltering Wings?

My niece, Lynnelle, was working here and kept after me to apply. I was convinced I wouldn't be good at the job, but I'm glad she believed in me because I found my life's passion here.

What is your favorite thing about working at Sheltering Wings?

This became my home away from home, and the staff has become my family away from family. I love being around our volunteers and residents, but the deep relationships with my co-workers are what keep me coming back day after day.

What has changed and what has stayed the same during your time here?

So much about what we do has grown over the years. We've expanded our services in every way possible. We've added programs, the volunteer base has grown and new staff has increased our capacity. Now that we're in the middle of the men's expansion, I've been through three major facility projects.

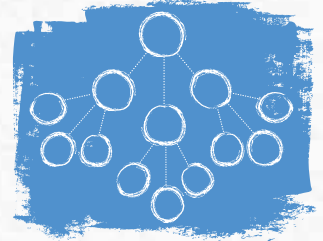
Our vision and values haven't changed, though. We've remained faithful to our Christ-centered mission. The longer we do what we do, the better we get at it. It's been wonderful to see how hard we've worked to make sure we're true to the vision that made this ministry a reality in the first place.

What do you most hope to experience while you're abroad?

It's always been a dream of mine to travel to Scotland and Ireland, but I didn't think I'd ever be able to afford it. Now it's a reality! I want to put life and work to the side for a few weeks and focus on breathing, taking in the scenery, learning about my ancestors and coming back ready for the next 10 years.

PAY IT FORWARD on Jan. 12

In January, Sheltering Wings celebrates 18 years of service to our community. God has blessed us ... now, we want to pay it forward. Will you help?



PAY IT FORWARD
WITH SHELTERING WINGS

Join us by paying it forward on January 12!

Perform an act of kindness for someone in our community and share the experience on social media using **#PayItForward**.

Together, we can inspire our community to grow in love and good deeds!

#PayItForward

January 12, 2020

shelteringwings.org/pay-it-forward



Men IN Action

MEN IN ACTION Teach Kids About Choices Through Reading

Volunteers with Men IN Action READ will introduce elementary school students to choices and consequences using the book, *What Should Danny Do? School Day*.

Students choose their own adventure and learn about how choices affect their day.

Join us in teaching positive values in an easy, fun way!

Men IN Action READ

March 19, 2020

Hendricks County Elementary Schools

shelteringwings.org/men-in-action-read

Double your Donation!

Many employers will match your donation to Sheltering Wings. Check with your supervisor or HR department!

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 _____



Become a Partner

IN PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I am interested in learning more about:

- Gathering and cataloging supplies for a silent auction
- Participating in Men IN Action READ
- 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



Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

shelteringwings.org

SHELTERING WINGS



P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

Special thanks to...

the many individuals and organizations that help us in special ways, including:

- **Chad Ferman and Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance** for beautifying our courtyard.
- **Cunningham Restaurant Group** for partnering with us for October's Dine Out Against Domestic Violence.
- **Each of the volunteers** who helped make the Shine the Light Vigil a success..

3rd Annual **MEN IN ACTION** Breakfast sponsors

Presenting sponsor



Silver sponsors **Avon Junior Athletic Association, Banning Engineering, Mission House Realty** and **Old National Bank**

Thanks also to **Justin White, Kent Wright, Andy Dix** and **Mike Tinder** for inspiring us and **Traders Point Christian Church West Campus men's small group** for directing traffic and greeting guests.



Christmas Wish List

Christmas is an excellent time to remember the daily necessities our residents will consider wonderful gifts.

Visit shelteringwings.org/wish-list or contact Alva Rice at (317) 386-5056 or arice@shelteringwings.org. This makes a great office, group or family project!