



NEWS FROM SHELTERING WINGS Spring 2020

# Shared Blessings

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.* James 1:12, NIV

## Director's Insights

**Cassie Mecklenburg**, Executive Director

**Resilience.** According to the American Psychological Association, it is "the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress."

### Sound familiar?

**Resilience** – possessing the qualities of grit and flexibility – is a concept that remained relevant during the coronavirus pandemic. But, it's not a new topic at Sheltering Wings. Since we opened our doors, our mission has been to support survivors of domestic violence as they build resilience, acquiring the skills, habits and perspectives necessary to live stable and independent lives.

I'm proud of our residents and their children. Can you imagine the difficulty of enduring a stay-at-home order on top of coping with the stress of escaping abuse? The strength and courage they have shown encourages me. Because of the resilience and life skills they continue to develop, I am confident these men, women and children are even better positioned for freedom and independence in the months and years to come.

I'm also proud of the fortitude and faithfulness of our board, staff, volunteers, donors and partners. We have



remained in constant communication with each other as the landscape has continued to shift. Every single one of these incredible people has enabled us to carry on during this crisis.

I hope the stories and information on these pages shows how your prayerful, generous support is improving lives even in the midst of crisis.

## Healthy Me. Stronger Us. **Who Have You Helped Find Safety?**

So far in 2020, nearly **120 HELPLINE CALLS** per month have reached us ... **73 ADULTS AND 56 CHILDREN** have received emergency housing ... and **MORE THAN A DOZEN PEOPLE EACH MONTH** leave the shelter for safe housing. Congratulations and thank you!



# COVID-19 and the Transition to a New Normal

*"Like everyone, we are constantly adjusting,"* said Executive Director Cassie Mecklenburg. *"What we're learning is that the only guarantee is change."*

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 has affected everyone, including how we operate. However, we have managed to keep many things constant for our residents.



## What has changed:

We've maintained essential staffing onsite around the clock, even as most staff have been working from home for the sake of safety.



We've adjusted the shelter's daily life so residents can social distance according to national, state and local guidelines.



We've canceled, postponed or rescheduled events.



We've foregone opportunities to conduct vital in-person prevention and education initiatives in churches, workplaces and schools.



## What has remained the same:

We're open to those who need help, serving residents and helpline callers and maintaining operations without missing a beat.

We're accepting new residents, providing case management for residents and their children, and transitioning residents into safe housing.

Sponsors, venues and registrants have been understanding, at times transferring their support from an event to another need.

We've used existing and new ways, such as video conferencing, to get potentially life-saving information into people's hands.

We may have had to adjust, but our mission remains undeterred. We're confident we will emerge from this crisis an even stronger, healthier, more focused organization.

Yet, we can't fulfill our mission alone. Our greatest needs continue to be prayer, wish list donations and financial support. Visit [shelteringwings.org/ways-to-give](https://shelteringwings.org/ways-to-give) to help some of the most vulnerable people during this pandemic.

## We took a **mulligan**, but you don't have to!

In a friendly game, a golfer can "take a mulligan" and redo a shot that goes awry. Sheltering Wings decided to take a mulligan on this year's Fairway to Haven Golf Outing fundraiser to ensure everyone's safety amid the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

*You can still enjoy a day on the course for a good cause!*

Because of our generous friends at West Chase Golf Club, you can still play a round of golf to benefit the residents at Sheltering Wings:



**One** 18-hole round of golf with cart: **\$100 donation**

**Four** 18-holes rounds with carts: **\$400 donation**

Register for these deals by June 25 at [shelteringwings.org/mulligan](https://shelteringwings.org/mulligan) or by contacting **Donita Roberts** at (317) 386-5062 or [droberts@shelteringwings.org](mailto:droberts@shelteringwings.org).

**IDEA:** Shift your golf outing enthusiasm to our **Christmas in July opportunities!** (See next page.)

The tax-deductible portion of a \$100 round is \$65 and of a \$400 foursome is \$260. Redeem your round(s) no later than **June 25, 2021**.



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Jason & Jerrilyn Warner



When Jason and Jerrilyn Warner asked if we had a resident who needed an affordable place to live, the answer was yes.

They developed an affordable rent system and welcomed the first survivor to their apartment. Since then, they have helped several families transition to housing of their own after leaving Sheltering Wings.

The more involved they became, the more they saw financial struggles pulling families back into old habits.

"We could see them transferring [negative] habits to their kids, and the kids were learning, just as the parents had learned from their parents," Jason said. "We were witnessing a cycle."

The couple decided to try to break that cycle. Jason is the self-described "finance nerd," but says, "Of all the things I've done at Sheltering Wings, Jerrilyn has been just as involved behind the scenes"—such as helping her husband work up the courage to explore how his financial talents could be put to good use.

He created and is now teaching Financial Empowerment, a course beginning with the issue of financial abuse and how finances are handled in healthy relationships. "A lot of residents don't know where to start," said Warner. "What I enjoy most is talking about how to plan for the future. For many of them, that's a foreign concept. It's not where they are."

Warner quickly learned he has to help them crawl before they can walk. Now, some are starting to take giant steps forward.

"The mom of a preschool-aged girl was adamant that she would raise her daughter to understand finances" so she wouldn't be vulnerable later in life, he said.

"It is so important for residents to know people care. If you have even a little knowledge, you're more qualified to help than you know. The most important thing is that you love people and want to help," Jason said.

**If you want to help, contact Alva Rice at (317) 386-5056 or [arice@shelteringwings.org](mailto:arice@shelteringwings.org).**

## Upcoming EVENTS

### October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

**Mark your calendars and help us raise awareness at the following October events:**

**Oct. 1 Men IN Action Breakfast** at the Washington Township Park Pavilion

**Oct. 6 National Night Out Against Crime** at various Hendricks County locations

**Oct. 11 Wear purple to Church for #PurpleInThePews**

**Oct. 22 Wear purple for #PurpleThursday and participate in Dine Out Against Domestic Violence**

**Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Visit [shelteringwings.org/october](https://shelteringwings.org/october) for the latest information.**

## Treat Every Day Like Christmas – EVEN IN JULY!

*Help us spread Christmas cheer to families at Sheltering Wings this Summer.*



Thanks to our generous sponsors, all financial donations received between July 1 and 14 will qualify for a dollar-for-dollar match. Cash is the best one-size-fits-all gift!



You can also get involved in gift giving of a more traditional sort as well. Collect items from our residents' wish list—with the help of family, friends, neighbors or coworkers—and compete for a mid-Summer visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself. The group, church, business or club that donates the most items (by cubic feet) no later than July 31 wins.

To learn more about giving, wish list donations or sponsoring, contact **Kevin Carr** at (317) 386-5050 or [kcarr@shelteringwings.org](mailto:kcarr@shelteringwings.org) or visit [shelteringwings.org/christmas-in-july](https://shelteringwings.org/christmas-in-july).

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Edward Jones  
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McCool's Flooring





# Double the Impact!

## Double your Dollars!

Does your employer match your donations to organizations like ours? Check with your employer 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 by helping one survivor of domestic violence at a time. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Sign your name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Become a Partner

## IN PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### I am interested in learning more about:

- ☐ Participating in 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)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*We never share your email address with anyone.*

**SHELTERING WINGS**



**Healthy Me. Stronger Us.**

**shelteringwings.org**





## Special thanks to...

We are extremely grateful to all who provided dinners for residents during the stay-at-home order:

### Businesses

- Locker Room
- Michaelis
- Miller Masonry Inc.
- OneAmerica Project Management Team
- OneAmerica Retirement Services Team
- R&M Electric

### Churches

- The Branches
- Brownsburg Church of Christ, Second Sundays
- Chapelwood Baptist Church
- Good Samaritan Episcopal Church
- Plainfield Christian Church
- Plainfield United Methodist Church

- Radiant Bible Church, Putman Small Group
- Traders Point Christian Church, Ladies Small Group
- Westside Church of the Nazarene

### Individuals & Families

- Sam Barton
- Dave & Lucy Blanford
- Robbie & Julie Carter
- Becky Cauldwell
- Carol Ford
- Mary Hill
- Steve & DeAnn Heinekamp
- Kevin & Emily Hines
- Stephen Johnston
- Pamela Jones
- Josh Kiemel
- Peggy Kieper
- Ben Lamb

- Daniel & Wendi Lepley
- Aaron & Jillian Litke
- Judy Marchbanks
- Gary & Kay Owens
- Cody & Katie Podor
- Mark & Jayne Putman
- Brian & Chavonne Sauer
- Matt & Monica Shelton
- Lori Steininger
- Angie Turley
- Mandi Uhrich
- Phillip & Christina Ward
- Terry & Katherine Ward
- Emily Woods

### Other Organizations

- Danville Rotary
- Stan Albaugh for State Senate Campaign
- Town of Plainfield



## 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/subscribe](https://shelteringwings.org/subscribe)