



Shared Blessings

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.

Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:33-34, NLT

Director's Insights

Cassie Mecklenburg, Executive Director

Domestic violence doesn't stop for a pandemic. (In fact, it gets worse.) Animosity, anxiety and isolation in general have combined to create virtually unbearable circumstances for people living with domestic abuse. Recognizing the constraints forced on your own daily lives, many of you have asked, "*How is Sheltering Wings able to help people during this lockdown?*"

How, indeed? And what role can we play in not only responding to but preventing domestic violence in the uncertain months to come?

Just as you've had to adjust your habits, so too has Sheltering Wings. We've had to find new ways to safely open our doors to survivors. Unable to visit groups, we've had to use other platforms for teaching teenagers, clergy and community leaders how to identify and prevent intimate partner violence. We've had to create new avenues for communicating our needs and new formats for raising funds – no golf outing, for example. We've had to buy food and goods that normally would be donated. And, of course, we've had to clean like crazy.

On the silver-lining side, we've learned a lot. We've reframed our teen dating violence program to better equip teachers online, made more life skills classes



available virtually and to many more people and, maybe best of all, found new partners to help us deliver services to people who deserve to be treated with respect.

Though I don't normally do this here, I'm going to ask for your support today. This situation has illustrated the dire need for preventing domestic violence and the crucial role people like you play in finding a solution.

So, in this special case, I'm asking you to please give today at shelteringwings.org/give.

Thank you.

Cassie Mecklenburg

Healthy Me. Stronger Us. What happened here?

Since the COVID-19 crisis began in March, we have answered **647 HELPLINE CALLS**, welcomed **131 NEW RESIDENTS** and helped **94 RESIDENTS** move to safe housing.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Awareness helps identify problems. Only action can prevent them.

That's the message of this year's national Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month campaign in October.

A 2018 British study by Pathway Project found that domestic violence increases 38% when England loses at football. A promotional campaign raised awareness of the issue, with memes shared by millions or so it seemed to reporter Eva Wiseman.

But did the public become aware of the right thing? Wiseman writes:



Diversity and Inclusion Committee starts work

"To any survivor of any background."

It's in our mission statement, and since the first time we opened our doors, Sheltering Wings has steadfastly held to our commitment to help survivors of domestic violence regardless of their background. Now, we're examining how we can enhance our efforts with a newly commissioned **Diversity and Inclusion committee**.

Among our residents, about 35% are people of color. Nevertheless, we believe in actively resisting complacency and the temptation to believe we have no room for improvement.

The Diversity and Inclusion committee is evaluating policies and practices because we want to get this right – not because it's the popular thing to do, but because we believe the people we serve deserve to be treated as Christ would have us treat them.

From our policy: "Sheltering Wings recognizes the strength of diversity, which acknowledges a society of different individuals and cultures whose knowledge, skills and talents enrich and strengthen us as a community."

"Football and alcohol do not cause domestic violence. Tension ... will contribute to and trigger it, but the cause of domestic violence is abusive [people] that lash out at their partners in order to control them. ... Many millions of football fans ... choose not to abuse their [partners]: blaming the game and the booze seems [misplaced]."

Turning awareness and caring into action

Use October to start educating yourself about the signs of abuse and watch out for them. Know how to respond when someone confides in you. Show young people how to form healthy relationships.

By turning awareness into action, we can build prevent abuse. To learn more, click the **Prevent Abuse tab at shelteringwings.org**.



Upcoming EVENTS

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

Oct. 1 Men IN Action Breakfast 7:30-9:00 am, Washington Township Park Pavilion. Special guest Antron Brown, NHRA Top Fuel Dragster world champion!

Oct. 6 Luminary Launch 7:30-8:30 pm, Gary Eakin Community Park. Join us at this ceremony celebrating partnerships that shine a light on the issue of domestic violence.

Oct. 11 #PurpleInThePews Wear purple to church (whether it's online, in a parking lot or safely in person) and share your photos to raise awareness. Tag #PurpleInThePews and @ShelteringWings.

Oct. 22 #PurpleThursday Wear purple all day (inside, outside, on Zoom) and share your efforts to raise awareness. Tag #PurpleThursday and @ShelteringWings.

Oct. 22 Dine Out Against Domestic Violence Plans are underway for an evening food truck event at a centralized location. Visit our website for updated information.

Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Visit shelteringwings.org/october for the latest information.



Staff Spotlight

Melissa Echerd

PREVENTION & EDUCATION OFFICER



What brought you to Sheltering Wings?

I wanted to help those in hardship situations, doing what I could as one person to help someone find hope. I've always been passionate about the community I live and work in, being a light to others and helping it become a place where families thrive on love.

What is your favorite part of your role?

Sharing with my community how domestic violence impacts us all and how it can be prevented if we are willing to come together. I especially love being in schools throughout the county sharing our healthy relationships curriculum. Kids are looking for direction when it comes to their relationships.

How has COVID-19 affected your day-to-day role?

I've missed my favorite part – sharing information in person. Overnight, I went from talking with groups almost weekly to no contact, and I'm sure this means a lot of people aren't getting information on preventing domestic abuse. So we've made adjustments and worked through the learning curves that come with new ways of doing things. But I'm ready to get right back out there when it's safe. Personal relationships are where prevention has its biggest influence.

For more insight and information about Melissa's training sessions, read "Can We Prevent Domestic Violence From Rising During A Crisis?" at shelteringwings.org/crisis.

How do we educate during a pandemic?

We normally visit every high school (and many middle schools) in Hendricks County along with dozens of workplaces, churches and events like the county fair and fall festivals. Now though, we don't have as many opportunities to speak with as many people in person.



Does that mean we're not educating people about how to prevent domestic abuse? No way!

Since this spring, we've hosted a wide variety of prevention and education webinars and livestream events.

- How Coronavirus is Impacting Domestic Violence Victims had 2,100 views.
- How to Advocate for Domestic Violence Victims During a Pandemic had 1,900 views
- Sheltering Safely: Pastoring Victims of Domestic Violence was a webinar with faith leaders.
- Maintaining Healthy Patterns at Home had 2,000 views.
- Leading and Caring for Employees had 1,900 views
- A seven-part educational series, Growing Up Strong, was released to help parents and caregivers keep kids thriving this summer.
- Tech Safety and Your Family was a webinar to help parents protect their kids when they are using screens.

The inability to gather has been one of the most difficult aspects of 2020. Thanks to everyone who has adapted and collaborated to keep prevention education going!

Resident Story

The danger you know

April thought she and her children had nowhere to go but a homeless shelter if she left her abusive husband – and she feared such a place wouldn't be safe for her kids.

But home wasn't safe, either. Learning that Sheltering Wings is specifically for survivors of domestic abuse was life-changing.

"I'd tried to leave before, but he always either stopped me or scared me so much that I went back," April said. "There's some strange kind of comfort in the danger you know versus the danger you imagine."

She finally had enough. After he went to work one morning, she called police and asked them to take her to a shelter. They brought her to Sheltering Wings, and her life and family are now moving forward in hope.

Double the Impact! Double your Dollars!

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

Healthy Me and Stronger Us

I want to partner with Sheltering Wings to make individuals, families and our community healthier and stronger by helping survivors of domestic violence build stable, independent lives. Please contact me about making a monthly tax-deductible donation of:

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

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): □□ / □□ CVV _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Become a Partner

IN PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Planning today can do good tomorrow

"Clearly, Americans prioritize generosity as a key part of their lives," said Rick Dunham, chair of Giving USA Foundation, in a news release. But did you know that you can give in the future by donating stock or including Sheltering Wings in your will?

You can structure such gifts to benefit you now and/or your heirs later, too. You can designate a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate, designate us as beneficiary of your retirement account, do a charitable rollover or create a charitable remainder trust.

You also can donate stocks and other privately held assets.

For more information, to notify us of a planned gift or for details about a donating non-cash gift (stocks, real estate, etc.) please contact:

**Cassie Mecklenburg at (317) 386-5052 or
cmecklenburg@shelteringwings.org.**

*This is in no way to be construed as financial advice.
Consult your attorney or tax advisor.*

SHELTERING WINGS



Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

shelteringwings.org



Special thanks to...

We are extremely grateful to the dozens of individuals, groups, churches and organizations that support us! Special thanks this month to:

- **Traders Point Christian Church West Campus, Westside Church of the Nazarene** and donors for providing new Bibles for residents.
- **Rodney Bucy, Steve Richards** and **Adam Nussel** for stepping up to meet facility needs.
- **Mark and Jayne Putman** for tending our garden, helping clients move out, caring for the facility and so much more.

Handy online resources

These recent online resources address the pandemic, racial equity tensions and domestic abuse prevention. Simply enter a title into the search bar at shelteringwings.org.

COVID-19:

- Constructive use of time
- Maximizing your quarantine
- I don't want to go back to normal

Racial equity:

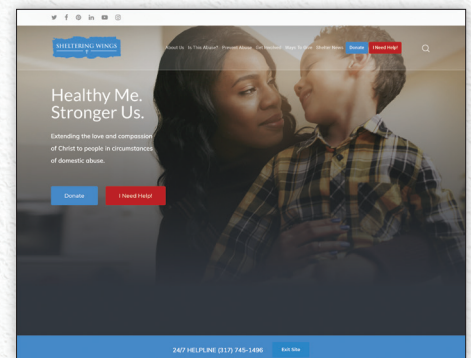
- Empowerment assets
- Changes, control and choosing to lead

Prevention:

- Can we prevent domestic violence from rising during a crisis?
- By staying engaged, we prevent domestic violence (video)
- Crisis brings clarity

Church Connections Council:

- Ministering to victims quarantined with their abusers
- The struggle is real
- The gospel is the only answer



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