



# Shared Blessings

*I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.* *I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God,*

*through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.* **Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)**

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

A lot of things can distract us right now and steer us away from our priorities. Whether we're at home or work, it's easy to fall prey to the chaos that encircles us.

Thus, as we close out 2020 and anticipate 2021, my challenge to myself and the Shelter's staff is to focus on our one thing and hold fast to what's important:

*"We provide emergency services and housing for survivors of abuse to help build stable and independent lives, free from abuse. And, above all, we do it in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ."*

I'm grateful to the Shelter's founding board for so clearly establishing our one thing in this mission and vision.

I recently read something else that is helping me focus on our one thing: *Discover Your True North*, a book by Bill George. He talks about finding your true north, "your orienting point – your fixed point in a spinning world – that helps you stay on track." I see this as the internal compass that guides us as we navigate life and strive to ignore the distractions.

We all need courage and resolve to resist being sidetracked by the constant pressures, legitimate



challenges and our own and others' expectations. We also need each other. Through your continual prayers and financial support, our staff will be steadfast. Through our staff's courage and compassionate hearts, our work will go on. Until every home is safe and all forms of domestic abuse are eradicated, *we will focus all our energies on one thing, keeping to our true north: the hope and healing found through Christ.*

*Cassie Mecklenburg*

## Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

In 2020, we are on track to answer nearly **1,400 HELPLINE CALLS** and provide emergency housing for **20 MEN** and more than **160 WOMEN** and **100 CHILDREN**. By year-end, **200 RESIDENTS** will have moved into their own safe secure housing.



# Raising emotionally healthy kids

Healthy children are less likely to become abusive adults or victims. Children's Case Manager Jackie Flannery talks about our new program specifically focused on child development, safety planning and the critical skills kids need to grow up safe and independent.

**Safety Planning Class – teaching children to look for red flags in relationships and when, why and how to call 911.**

**Why:** "Every child that comes to us has been through some form of violence. We want them to know they have the right to feel safe and teach them ways they can be so."

**Life Skills Mentoring Program – giving kids one-on-one attention from a mentor while they learn cooking, money management, self-regulation and much more.**

**Why:** "A lot of these children don't know basic life skills because the family has been so focused on the violence. This mentoring time lets them focus on learning these essential life skills."

**Caterpillars into Butterflies – presenting a structured, hands-on learning class for toddlers.**

**Why:** "This child development class helps little ones learn social, emotional, and gross and fine motor skills in a fun, safe environment."



## Staff Spotlight

**Jason Howard**

CASE MANAGER



### Will you please introduce yourself?

I'm Jason Howard, a Sheltering Wings case manager. I encourage men and women as they regain ground in starting a new life. I meet them where they are, helping them find affordable housing, find employment or better income and budget, and enroll in available benefits for healthcare and nutrition. The most rewarding part of my job is offering prayer and faith-based services if the person seeks them. I'm very excited about our Mobile Advocacy and Rapid Rehousing programs.

### What is Mobile Advocacy?

Mobile Advocacy is meeting someone at their home or a safe location who is not seeking shelter but still needs our help. This ranges from finding housing, employment and counseling to help filing protection orders, applying for WIC, SNAP and the Marketplace, and connecting them with resources within their community.

### What is your hope for Sheltering Wings and the people you serve?

As our nation and world is ever changing, I hope we continue to offer the message of Christ's love by His example, that we continually seek to look upon others and circumstances as Jesus would. My hope is that when we cannot meet every need, we still offer the hope of Jesus, as God can make the true difference our world and we all need.

## Resident Story



### Emojis Tell a Painful Story

In India, Preet and her family were the exception: Christians. With the ridicule, threats and violence from certain Hindu family and neighbors worsening, Preet and her husband fled to the U.S. with their two children.

That should be the end of a beautiful story ... but it wasn't. Prone to drunkenness in India, Preet's husband buckled under the stress of finding work in a new culture and spiraled into alcoholism.

Preet's emoji-dotted calendar tells the story. Teary faces and sad ones, broken hearts and raised fists, angry faces, exclamation points and praying hands record one painful, hopeless day after another ... until the day she came to Sheltering Wings.

That day began with the usual emojis: sad face, fearful face, lonely face, fist and broken heart. But then, there's a police emoji ... a church emoji (for Sheltering Wings) ... praying hands, a heart and, finally, the emoji with the biggest smile.

**Preet is now writing a happier, more hopeful story – and she doesn't need emojis anymore. The bright smile on her own face says it all.**



# Nothing Makes a Place Feel Like Home More than Christmas

## Warm a resident's heart with a gift from our Wish List

A cozy bed with new sheets and a warm comforter can be the best gift ever when a restful night's sleep has long been impossible. That's why those items are on the Sheltering Wings Christmas Wish List – along with more fun things like hula hoops and lipstick!

Add Sheltering Wings to your holiday shopping. See [shelteringwings.org/wish-list](http://shelteringwings.org/wish-list) for a printable list and a link straight to online ordering.



## Adopt a Family, Make a Christmas

Generous people like you have been adopting our families, but you still have time to make a family's Christmas dreams come true! Great items that work as last-minute gifts include male and female (kids and adults) pajamas, slippers, lotion, cologne, games and puzzles. **Contact Alva at (317) 386-5056 or [arice@shelteringwings.org](mailto:arice@shelteringwings.org).**



# DOUBLE DOUBLE

## YOUR YEAR-END GIFT!

Thanks to **Cindy Bailey and Bailey Trucking**, we will double every gift to Sheltering Wings made before the year expires, up to \$20,000!

**This means:**

Your Gift	Matching Gift	Total Donation
\$50	\$50	\$100
\$150	\$150	\$300

In addition, your gift in the original amount is tax-deductible.

**Give now at [shelteringwings.org/donate](http://shelteringwings.org/donate).**

## Upcoming EVENTS

### Jan 12, 2021

**#PayItForward** Help us celebrate Sheltering Wings' 19th anniversary on January 12 with an act of kindness – even a virtual one– then use our downloadable coupon to encourage them to #PayItForward! Visit [shelteringwings.org/pay-it-forward](http://shelteringwings.org/pay-it-forward).



### Summer 2021

**Premier Event** Now a summer event! The 2021 Premier Event will be held in June during warmer weather. Watch your mailboxes and inboxes for info in the coming weeks.





# 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 donating non-cash gifts (stocks real estate, etc.) please contact:

**Cassie Mecklenburg at (317) 386-5052 or  
[cmecklenburg@shelteringwings.org](mailto: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](http://shelteringwings.org)

# 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

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Exp. Date (MM/YY): □□ / □□ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_





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*Special thanks to* those who participated in and supported our  
**Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month events!**

- For supporting the Luminary Launch: **Kapri Ames, IU Health West Hospital. Anissa Callis, Sheltering Wings Youth Council. Matt General, Westside Church of the Nazarene. Brittany Gibson, Care to Change Counseling. Kyle Prewitt, Plainfield Police Department. Sandra Puttkammer, Sitel. Dr. Tracey Shaffer, Danville Schools. Amy Svoma. Sean Wilson, Northview Christian Church.**
- **Carl's Donuts & Bakery, Redd's Donuts, Jack's Donuts (Avon and Plainfield) and Hilligoss Bakery** for selling yummy purple donuts as a part of Dine Out Against Domestic Violence.
- **Hendricks County Community Foundation** for pledging to match \$6,250 raised on Giving Tuesday.
- **Bart Fisher and MIBOR's Hendricks County Division volunteers** for moving and organizing storage areas.
- **Knights of Columbus 12387, Carmel**, for a trailer load of new books and toys for our children. (*Did you know 50% of our residents are kids?*)

## Stay connected

*Your involvement is key to preventing domestic violence. Stay informed!*

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