



SHELTERING WINGS



Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

2020 Sheltering Wings
Annual Report

Though he may stumble,
he will not fall, for the Lord
upholds him with His hand. PSALM 37:24 (NIV)

From the director and chair

To Our Caring Community of Supporters:



When we look back on 2020, what do we want to remember? In adjusting to COVID, we stumbled along the way, but we were never alone.

We can't help but think about the countless lives that were changed because of COVID. Our hearts break for those of you who lost a loved one or who are still dealing with the aftermath of the virus physically, emotionally or economically. Without a doubt, the pandemic will cloud our memories of 2020 forever.

People quarantined together and cut off from outsiders create conditions that are ripe for abuse that's easy to hide from others. Colleagues can't notice signs of a co-worker's abuse. Teachers can't see red flags that indicate abuse. Friends and neighbors can't hear abusive language or the sounds of violence.

As victims were silenced, abuse escalated. But we have used our concerns and what we learned to create new ways to serve victims of domestic abuse.

Through the support of our donors, we adapted programs to meet evolving needs and constraints. We built a mobile advocacy program so families could access our services whether or not they ever came to our door. We helped file protective orders, found beds when ours were full and secured permanent, safe housing for so many families. We put our prevention materials and training programs online so teachers and employers could easily access them.

We were able to overcome challenges and continue helping those being abused because of support from people like you. We stumbled once or twice, but our staff, board and volunteers never wavered from our commitment.

In a lot of ways, 2020 strengthened our mission. And we have you to thank. Thank you for providing the funding, resources and community support that allowed us to keep our families and their safety and stability as our top priority.

In Christ,

Cassie Mecklenburg

CASSIE MECKLENBURG
Executive Director, Sheltering Wings

Tiffany Mulligan

TIFFANY MULLIGAN
Board Chair, Sheltering Wings
Chief Legal Counsel, Indiana Office of Inspector General

*Sheltering
Wings*
gained 667 new
donors and 29
new volunteers
in 2020.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair hugging a young girl. The woman is leaning her head against the girl's head, and both have their eyes closed, conveying a sense of comfort and care. The lighting is soft and warm, highlighting their profiles. The woman is wearing a light-colored, textured cardigan, and the girl is wearing a blue and white striped scarf.

Vision

Sheltering Wings was formed in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. We will extend the love and compassion of Christ to survivors of domestic abuse. Christ was never coercive or offensive and neither are our services. Our assistance will be offered in the name of Christ to any survivor of any background.

Mission

Sheltering Wings provides emergency housing for survivors escaping domestic abuse. We build stable and independent lives through essential programs offered in a supportive and Christ-centered environment.

*Sheltering
Wings*
has been a
United Way partner
for 20 years.

One Survivor's Story

Preet Used Her Calendar and Emojis to Journal. You took her from despair to :-D

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

Preet found an outlet in a hidden calendar, using emojis to track her days. Teary faces and sad ones, broken hearts and raised fists, angry faces, exclamation points and praying hands show how she recorded 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. The bright smile on her own face says it all. She has been baptized and she became certified as a translator. Thank you for creating opportunities for Preet and so many other survivors with your support!



Sheltering Wings
helped 176 women
and 19 men start
new stories
in 2020.



How He Made Straight Our Path Amid a Year of Challenges

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. – [PROVERBS 3:5-6 \(ESV\)](#)

The Lord certainly straightened many paths for us in 2020, so often working through generous donors, partners and volunteers to make accomplishments possible even during one of the most challenging years we've ever seen. Here are some of the highlights of 2020:

Greater Mobile Advocacy

We knew some victims of domestic abuse were staying at home with their abusers instead of seeking help during the pandemic for safety reasons. We also knew that our residents weren't staying with us as long as usual for the same reason. So we dramatically expanded our mobile advocacy program to connect more regularly with people we don't see every day – people who leave us but still need support, and those who never come through our doors but still benefit from support services and case management.

The program was so well-received in 2020 that we plan to continue perfecting it in 2021.

Safer Daily Intake

In response to the pandemic, we dropped our daily total of residents from 80 to 55 to enable social distancing and infection control. Though we feared fewer people might use our emergency housing services, they remained in high demand. We had only one positive COVID case among all our residents the whole year.

Expanded Men's Facility

Sheltering Wings grew in early 2020 as we expanded from a 68-bed women and children's shelter to an 80-bed men, women and children's shelter. Though men don't typically come to mind when you hear the term "domestic abuse," the CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey reports that one in seven men experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner. Now, these men and their children can find safe, secure and comfortable housing at Sheltering Wings and access to all the resources we provide.

Affordable Housing is an Urgent Need. Here are Two Ways You Helped in 2020.

So many survivors of domestic abuse feel they face a choice: become homeless or stay with an abuser. In 2020, Sheltering Wings addressed this problem in two ways: rapid rehousing and supportive housing.

Rapid Rehousing: A Quick, Effective Solution

Rapid rehousing programs connect families with short-term housing, rental assistance and vital services quickly and at significantly reduced costs. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, rapid rehousing is a proven solution to homelessness, one that's especially effective for survivors of domestic violence.

Allie was one of these survivors. Before Sheltering Wings, she'd lived in prison and in her car. Her children had been tossed from one relative to another. Through rapid rehousing, she found safe housing, got her kids back, secured a job and is now engaged to be married.

Haven Homes: Helping Survivors and the Community

Supportive housing works hand in hand with rapid rehousing to address homelessness and stability for survivors of domestic abuse. We broke ground in July 2020 on Haven Homes, a supportive-housing apartment community that's an alliance of RealAmerica, Sheltering Wings and Cummins Behavioral Health Systems. Though all 52 units will provide affordable housing to those who need it, 13 will be dedicated to Sheltering Wings residents who are ready to live on their own but still need access to mental health, life skills and other key support services that address the most daunting obstacles for residents who leave the shelter. The complex is expected to open in December 2021.

By supporting these programs, our community partners, donors and the community at large are standing up for the needs of survivors. The problem is urgent, and you've brought us a long way!



Haven
HOMES

"It took me until I was 30 years old to get it right. If it wasn't for Sheltering Wings and the resources they had, I probably never would've come out of the cycle of drugs and domestic abuse. I've come a long way."

– Allie

Children's Services/Life Skills

Kids Pining for Friends Found Them at Sheltering Wings

"Our kids have been desperate for interaction. Whenever I'm getting ready to do something, even take out the trash, I hear a chorus of, 'Can I go? Can I go? Please?' It's really hard for kids to be isolated, and it breaks my heart for the moms and dads who don't have the support we offer here."

Jackie Flannery, children's activity coordinator, knows some men and women who are being abused have chosen to stay with their abuser rather than risk exposing their children to COVID-19.

"We've heard voices on the other end of the phone say as much. It's devastating, but we get it," she said. "Being a parent is tough anytime. Factor in abuse, and it's a nightmare."

Jackie holds newborns so moms can shower. She helps kids with the virtual learning they've had to adjust to during the pandemic. She creates activities that are fun, educational and comforting for the young people to do alone, with each other and with their families.

Her work illustrates what makes the support of donors so important. You give parents who are escaping abuse for themselves and their children peace of mind. You help us heal whole families.

Why was COVID-19 deadlier than the numbers show?

According to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the state saw a **102% rise** in domestic violence-related deaths from March to December 2020 over the same period in 2019.

Prevention & Education

Extending a Lifeline to Kids During COVID

Most young children didn't go back to school after Spring Break 2020. That meant they had no one to confide in if they were witnessing abuse at home or being abused themselves.

That was our constant worry: the abuse we weren't able to see and do something about.

Fortunately, we're in a caring community. Sheltering Wings partnered with Susie's Place, the Town of Plainfield and Plainfield Community School Corporation (PCSC) to let kids know there are still trustworthy adults they can turn to during the pandemic.

The campaign by the four organizations sent safety reminders home in students' lunch bags. Sheltering Wings also supplied resources for teachers to help spot abuse during virtual contact and distributed 500 Safety in Your Hands cards.



"Sheltering Wings has long been a valued partner with Plainfield Community Schools, but perhaps no time was ever as important as when schools were abruptly forced to close. The shelter's commitment to supporting children and ensuring that school is a consistent factor might go unnoticed by most in our community, but we are extremely grateful for everything they did and do for our students."

Laura DelVecchio, assistant superintendent of PCSC

Sheltering Wings
helped care for 129 children in 2020.



Case Manager or Birthing Partner? Sometimes, Both.

The title “case manager” can sound a little clinical. But few people inside Sheltering Wings are as close to residents as these individuals – people like Carla Leathers, who’s been present when three residents have given birth.

A case manager’s job is to assess each resident initially to find out what they need to build a stable, independent life, then plug them into the resources that can get them there. Needs are as varied as the individuals: food stamps, child support, schooling, transportation, protective orders and even a birthing partner.

“If a resident is pregnant and doesn’t have anyone to go with them to the hospital, we offer to be their support person. It’s a wonderful opportunity. It’s just an honor,” Leathers said.

The first time, she was with a young mother who was in labor for 23 hours.

“She kept saying, ‘Mama’ – that’s what she always called me, her American Mom – ‘Mama, just go home. You need rest.’ And I kept saying, ‘No, I am not going home. I’m going to be here until the baby is born.’ I couldn’t imagine not having anyone with me in that circumstance,” she said. “I got to cut the cord. It was so great.”

Those are the good days, and of course case managers have difficult ones, too. Leathers, though, wouldn’t do anything else.

“I just feel like I’m born to help people. You see a woman come in so broken and you see them leave so empowered. It’s just amazing. And to know you had a tiny part of it – I really love my job.”

Donors to the Rescue During Quarantine

As soon as the isolation order went into effect in March 2020, Sheltering Wings turned to the community for help – and the community responded. Since the shelter could suddenly no longer accept dropped-off donations as it always had, we sent out a plea for supporters to donate dinners from local restaurants for residents who were sheltering in place during quarantine.

“Typically, meal times are the most social times of the day. Our residents look forward to preparing and eating dinner together. When that couldn’t happen, we had to ask our donors for help. We were so touched by the response,” said Cassie Mecklenburg, executive director.

Thank you to everyone who
helped keep our residents
fed and feeling loved!



Dear Donor,

Will you allow me to get a little sappy? Your kind heart brings tears to my eyes. Each person, church, foundation and business on this list –**YOU** make this tough, important work possible. Thank you for your prayers, your gifts and your love of our families.

Yours in Christ,

Paige Vanzo

PAIGE VANZO
Development Director



Sheltering Wings is an accredited partner of United Way of Central Indiana.

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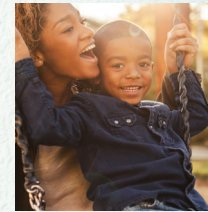


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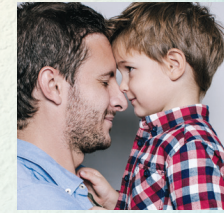
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 Paver, Floyd and Bernice
 Payne, William and Michelle
 PayPal and PayPal Giving
 Pedersen, Pam
 Peebles, Buford
 Peters, Stacey
 Phillips, Derek and Rachael
 Pierce, Chris and Kim
 Ponugoti, Ajay
 Raths, Richard and Carmen
 Reed, Jessica
 Revive and Restore Ministries
 Reynolds, Eric and Jennifer
 Rice, Les and Corky
 Riggen, Larry
 Kasmer, Scott and Rebecca
 Keith, David
 Kiefer, Bob and Pat
 Knock, Kevin and Gretchen
 Kowalski, Larry and Diana
 Kozyrski, Carrie
 Kroger
 Kroger-Brownsburg
 Lambert, Melanie
 Langan, Francis and Carolyn
 Langford, Michael and Linda
 Leathers, Lloyd and Carla
 Leiviska, Darren and Susan
 Lingle, Mike and Cati
 Lippert, BJ and Ginger
 Litten, Tami
 Los Patios Mexican Restaurant, LLC
 Louden, Steve
 Loyalty Research Center
 Mally, Joe and Emily
 Marathon Petroleum Corporation
 Marsh, David and Cyndi
 Martin, David and Jill
 McCauley, Stephen
 McCool's Flooring
 McGraw, Ann
 Mecklenburg, Paul and Sally
 Meyer, Donald and Kimberly
 Mohr Chiropractic, P.C.
 Morris, Nancy
 Nicodemus, Thomas and Sondra
 Norman, William
 Nysewander, Beverley
 Owens, Gary and Kay
 Pacific Life

Short, Jennifer
 Signature Flight Support
 Stephens, Josh and Charissa
 Steve Moore
 Stonehouse, Karen
 Tarter, Randy A.
 Taylor, Robert E.
 Teachers Credit Union
 Tinsley, Harold and Jennifer
 TMC Transportation
 Tufano-Clinton, Lynn
 United Way of Hancock County
 Vineyard Life Church-Indianapolis
 Vogler, Mark
 Waggoner, Larry and Sharon
 Wagoner, Terry and Gwen
 Ward, Kevin
 Weesner, Erin
 Wellman, Susie
 White Lick Presbyterian Church
 Wiggins, John and Janet
 Williamson, Paul
 Wilson, Cindy
 Wood, Lori J.
 Woods, Larry
 Yeung, Winnie
 Zigler, Mary
 Zuccala, Madeleine



Tributes

IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Ambrose III
 Richard Bennett
 Joyce Clark
 Neal Colson
 Dr. Neal Flowers
 Emily Giles
 Bill and Rosalie Hess
 Gary Hill
 Mike Hook
 Greg Hylton
 Vicky and Dixie Israel
 IMPD Officer Breann Leath
 Helen Leonard
 Arielle Miller
 Cynthia Mitchell
 Kathryn Nickell
 Ronald E. Opel
 Gladys Patterson
 Jim Snodgrass
 Anita and Scott Stevenson
 Joyce C. Thompson
 Victims of COVID-19
 Eloise Waggoner
 Angela Warnock
 Danny P. Young

IN HONOR OF:

Amy
 The Town of Avon
 Leah Beaman
 Joetta Bokma
 Darren Boston
 Joe and Krysten Carey
 ClaimAid Consulting Corp.
 Julie Crown
 EM Studio Salon LLC
 Gordon Esterline
 Kate and Stephen Grossi,
 Jenny and Jeff Maze,
 Lisa and Todd Tucker,
 Emily and Julian Wachner
 Laurie Farris
 Dave and Shirley Halterman
 of White Lick Presbyterian
 Church
 Jennifer Harris
 Sue Hoeffeditz
 Dusty J. Hoffman
 Sarah Jennison
 Sarah Killion
 Don King
 Linda Maners

Julie Marvel
 The McKinney Family
 Cassie Mecklenburg
 The Meyer Family
 Paula Moore
 Ellen P
 Kimberly Palmer
 Christine Rodine
 Heather Rushing
 Carole Schroeder
 Jody Schumm
 Sheltering Wings Staff
 Brian and Brianna Snyder
 Lillianne South
 Jeremy Stojakovich
 and Courtney Roach
 Gregg and Amy Svoma
 Grandma Trauner
 Taylor Traut
 Christina Warren

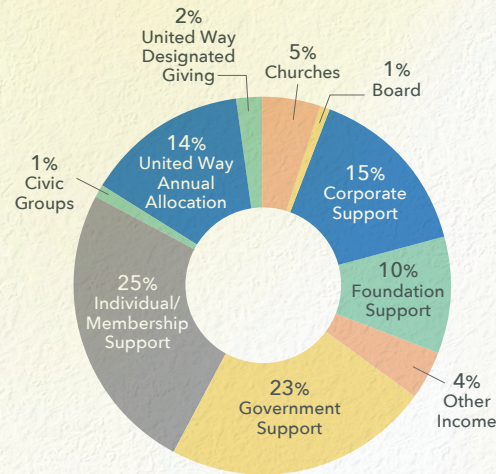
Financial Summary

Income

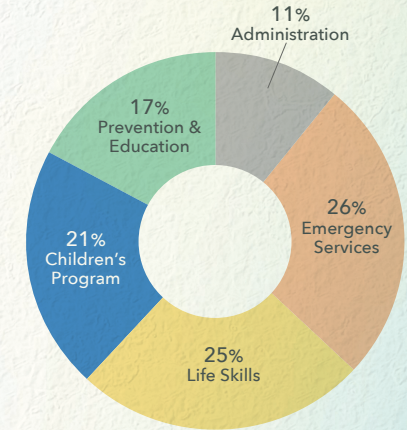
Board of Directors (100% participation)	\$ 11,810.00	1%
Churches	108,004.26	5%
Civic Groups	11,745.00	1%
Corporate Support	298,603.12	15%
Foundation Support	197,318.35	10%
Gift Cards	5,496.21	0%
Interest Income	129.70	0%
Other Income	85,598.65	4%
Government Support	449,391.25	23%
Individual/Membership Support	490,437.74	25%
Schools	750.00	0%
United Way Annual Allocation	277,073.02	14%
United Way Designated Giving	48,838.99	2%
	\$ 1,985,196.29	

Expenses

Administration	\$ 206,999.27	11%
Emergency Services	489,271.01	26%
Life Skills	470,452.89	25%
Children's Program	395,180.43	21%
Prevention & Education	319,907.97	17%
	\$ 1,881,811.56	



Income



Expenses

Board of Directors

Tiffany Mulligan, Chair
Chief Legal Counsel, Indiana
Office of Inspector General

Kyle DeFur, Vice Chair
True U

Greg Hylton, Vice Chair
Indianapolis Colts

Randy Bordeau, Treasurer
YMCA of Greater Indianapolis

Angela Delp, Secretary
Community Member

Kapri Ames
IU Health West

Lori Butler
Community Member

Ryan Call
Compass Medical Solutions

Alex Hershey
The Branches Church

Tony Smarrella
Smarrella Consulting

Kevin Speer
Hendricks Regional Health

Cassie Mecklenburg,
Executive Director,
Sheltering Wings

These are preliminary, unaudited year-end figures and may differ slightly from the final figures we will report to state and federal governments. Our finances are reviewed annually by an independent public accounting firm. For questions about our financial statements and audit information, please contact the executive director at (317) 386-5052. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Sheltering Wings is led by a board of directors made up of local leaders committed to serving victims of domestic violence and educating the community about domestic violence, all in Christ's image. Directors oversee planning and operations, lending their professional expertise and skills to ensure that services comply with responsible stewardship, the Sheltering Wings mission, vision and guiding principles, and state and federal laws governing nonprofit organizations.



Be strong and courageous,
do not be afraid or tremble
at them, for the Lord your
God is the one who goes
with you. He will not fail you
or forsake you. DEUTERONOMY 31:6 (NASB 1995)



Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

24-Hour Helpline : (317) 745-1496

To give, call (317) 718-5460

Shelteringwings.org

P.O. Box 92, Danville, IN 46122



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