



YOUR NEWS FROM SHELTERING WINGS Spring 2021

Shared Blessings

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3

Director's Insights

The day-to-day rhythm of the shelter is quite different from a year ago. We were at capacity and had just opened space for men and their children. Since then, we've had to reduce how many people we house and change many habits and procedures to keep residents well. Those efforts have paid off: As I write this, only one resident has tested positive for COVID.

I'm grateful our residents have stayed healthy. I'm also grateful that despite the pandemic, all the world's distractions and ever-evolving needs, we remain focused on helping any survivor of any background in the name of Christ.

You'll see some of the changes reflected in this newsletter. We're hosting survivors for shorter stays, yet helping more residents than ever. We're reaching further into the community so any survivor, whether or not they need housing, has access to supportive and protective services. And we're helping families secure permanent, safe housing so they can move forward independently and without fear.



We don't have the option to lose our focus. Our mission is too important. Thank you for making this work possible.

Cassie Mecklenburg Cassie Mecklenburg, Executive Director

Healthy Me. Stronger Us.

Your kind support meant we could be there when more survivors than ever before came to us for help during 2020 and the pandemic. In 2021, we have already answered **260 HELPLINE CALLS** and provided emergency housing for **66 WOMEN, 5 MEN** and **40 CHILDREN**. Thank you!



As we've reported, Sheltering Wings, RealAmerica and Cummins Behavioral Health Systems broke ground last July on a supportive-housing apartment community in Plainfield, Ind. But do you truly know what it will mean to survivors when Haven Homes opens in December 2021?

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CHS) says "supportive housing ... combines affordable housing with services that help people who face the most complex challenges live with stability, autonomy and dignity." Sound familiar?

Supportive housing improves a survivor's and their family's stability, employment, school attendance and mental and physical health. So services won't end when Sheltering Wings residents walk out of our doors. They will continue as they proudly walk into the doors of Haven Homes.

Learn more at shelteringwings.org/haven-homes.

Supportive housing will mean independence

Your involvement in Sheltering Wings' mission has always given survivors of domestic violence the safety and education they need to start new lives. With your help, Haven Homes will extend to the next phase of their lives: living independently.

Resident Story

Allie went from drugs and abuse to a new life

"A year ago, I was strung out on meth, living in my car, didn't have my kids. I was jumping from one abusive relationship to another. I'd lost everything. Sheltering Wings helped me get my life back."

Following the example set by her parents, Allie started using drugs when she was 13 and got into her first abusive relationship when she was 17. **She thought beatings were a normal part of being a couple.** At 23, she was in prison on a felony drug conviction ... and pregnant with her abuser's baby.

From there, her life became one violent relationship after another, each fueled by drug abuse. She lost her house, her job and eventually her kids before realizing she'd had enough. She wanted a life with her children. So she called Sheltering Wings.

"They made room for me and my daughters. We had our ups and downs there, especially when we were quarantined. It was rough, but I stayed sober through it all," Allie said.

Today, she has a job and "a good man in my life." The couple is engaged and expecting a son soon – and they are living in safe, permanent housing.



Thanks to your support and her own hard work, Allie is home.

"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," she said. "I've come a long way."

You helped Allie escape domestic violence and you keep our doors open to others in similar situations. Thank you!

“Working to break the cycle of domestic abuse is certainly Kingdom work.”

Volunteer Spotlight

Kyle Defur

BOARD PRESIDENT



Of all the causes out there, why domestic violence?

I believe God puts specific opportunities in our path to participate in His restoring and reconciling work. The invitation to serve on the Sheltering Wings Board was one of them. Supporting those in this healing ministry and working to educate and break the cycle of domestic abuse is certainly Kingdom work.

As president of TrueU, you’ve said work connected to purpose can be life-giving. Can Sheltering Wings foster a culture of giving and caring in a workplace?

Absolutely. Employees want to be proud of where they work and know they and their employer are making a positive difference in the lives of others. The best employees want to work in a culture with a greater purpose than just profits and paychecks.

Coming alongside Sheltering Wings is a great way to fulfill this purpose. It’s life-giving for employees and the company.

What have you been most proud of as a board member?

The staff’s incredible resilience during such change and challenges. The pandemic certainly disrupted operations, but it also required staff to put themselves and their families at risk to ensure our residents remain loved, encouraged, educated and supported. The staff have been inspiring!

As board president, what would you like your legacy to be?

I hope we will build on the great work of all those who have come before us. Sheltering Wings is a ministry that belongs to God. Stewarding this work is a privilege and responsibility that I and many others take very seriously.

What’s something about you people would be surprised to know?

I’m not a great golfer, but I’ve hit two holes in one. More lucky than good!

Upcoming EVENTS

Premier Event | June 11

Sponsorships available now for one of our favorite events of the year! Come Walk in Their Shoes with content creators Kristin & Danny, best known for their funny lip-sync mashups. We’ll hold this event in person and offer an online event experience. **More at shelterinwings.org/shoes.**

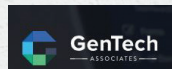


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Christmas in July 2021 Details about the month’s activities are coming soon.

Watch this newsletter and [Shelteringwings.org/ChristmasinJuly](https://shelterinwings.org/ChristmasinJuly)



COVID-19 has been deadlier than you know

Being quarantined with an abuser is a nightmare.

Deaths related to domestic violence increased 102% in the 10 months of pandemic during 2020, compared to the same period a year earlier.

(Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence)



A pandemic complicates an already terrible situation: Everyone's mental health is strained. Survivors may be afraid to live in a community shelter right now. The severity of mental health issues among our residents is the highest it's ever been, leading some to decide to return to threatening environments.

That's why we're so thankful for you. You make it so Sheltering Wings can provide a safe place of escape 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Once adults and their children are safely here, your help gets them on their feet again. For many, that safe haven becomes the gateway for affordable housing.

Your support through these times means women, men and children don't have to feel trapped by an abuser. You're helping to provide a safe place to go. We're so thankful to be part of such a caring community.



Abuse + pandemic:

IDEAS FOR ACTION!

An end may be in sight, but we have a way to go before things return to normal. As we move together in the right direction, can we ask you to keep these ideas in mind?

- Connect us with rental property managers to find affordable housing, the **#1 need of our families.**
- Visit our website to access resources to help identify abuse.
- Talk with your church leaders or employer to make sure they have a policy or plan in place should they suspect someone is in an abusive relationship.
- Host an item drive using our Amazon Wishlist.
- Donate a vehicle or other goods to the shelter.
- Make a monthly donation or a one-time gift.
- Volunteer in our office or our residential areas.
- **Call our 24/7 helpline at (317) 745-1496 if you or someone you know needs help.**

This is a rough time for us all. Thank you for walking with survivors who have already overcome so much.

For your safety:

If you or someone you know needs to escape abuse, please do not wait to call. We are doing everything we can to keep our families safe, and we're here for you. If emergency shelter is not needed or if you're not comfortable coming in, we have other ways to help. **Call our 24/7 helpline at (317) 745-1496**

Healthy Me and Stronger Us

I want 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
- \$10
- \$_____

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): □□/□□ CV# _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

We never share your email address.

Please Contact Me:

- I want to know more about remembering Sheltering Wings in my Will.
- I have made plans to remember Sheltering Wings in my Will or otherwise. Please contact me for details.
- My employer will match my donation.



Become a Partner

IN PREVENTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The average amount of a planned gift may surprise you

You don't have to be a millionaire (or even close) to make an impact!

How encouraging is that? To know you don't have to be wealthy to truly change lives!

The average planned (estate) gift is between \$35,000 and \$70,000.*

A planned gift is a donation you set up now that will be given in the future, such as through a Will (most common) or Trust. Including Sheltering Wings in your Will is one of the most amazing ways to be there for survivors of domestic violence far into the future. You can designate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate in your Will to benefit Sheltering Wings.

A gift in your Will could change the lives of survivors and their children. I'd love to speak with you about this - always without obligation!

Please contact me, Sheltering Wings' (new!) Development Director, Paige Vanzo, at (317) 386-5049 or pvanzo@shelteringwings.org.



Paige Vanzo

Have you already remembered Sheltering Wings in your Will or other plans? Let us know on the form in this newsletter! We'd be delighted to recognize you in this year's annual report.



*Blackbaud, the world's leading cloud computing provider serving the social good community.



THANK YOU

Special thanks to those who supported the shelter, adopted a family and gave our families a Christmas to remember.

- **Curry & Associates, Lori Young and her team, Town of Danville, Hendricks Regional Health and DEEM** for making a new Lift Station possible.
- **Jody Toth** and her furniture barn for giving a fresh start to people who didn't think one was possible.
- **Mark Putman, Marty Loy, Linda Havenor** and everyone for moving families into new homes with furniture from the barn.
- **Ink Therapy** and **R&M Electric** for their wishlist drive support.
- **The Hendricks County FOP** for their Christmas support to families.
- **The Indiana Pacers** and **Hendricks Regional Health** for food donations.
- **Christy Paddock Advisors** for support of our Life Skills Program, and **Pools of Fun** for supporting Technology and the El Roi Fund.



Stay connected

Domestic abuse can be prevented with your help. Stay informed and equipped:

LIKE US on Facebook
(@ShelteringWings)

FOLLOW US on Twitter, LinkedIn,
Pinterest and Instagram
(@ShelteringWings)

Sign up for our monthly INSIDER email and other mailing lists of interest at
shelteringwings.org/news