



Shared Blessings

Pregnancy Doesn't Stop Abuse

Sheltering Wings' has case managers, even at the bedside with new moms.

Can you imagine a woman you care about having no friends or loved ones with her as she delivers a baby?

Areta had three young children and was pregnant with her fourth when she fled her abuser. With her family far away in Nigeria, she had no one except the people at Sheltering Wings to turn to for help.

Her case manager, Carla Leathers, stepped up as she always does. It's no wonder Areta took to calling her "my American mama."

And when the young mother went into labor, it's no surprise she wanted Carla at her side. As her labor stretched into 10, 15, then 20 hours, though, Areta became more concerned with Carla than herself.

"She kept saying, 'Just go home, mama. You need your rest,' and I just kept saying, 'No, I am not going home until the baby is born.' I couldn't imagine not having anyone with me in that situation, and I wasn't about to leave her alone."

Expectant mothers have a special place in the hearts of Sheltering Wings' case managers.

"I've been at four births so far," Carla said. "It's a wonderful opportunity. Being pregnant is a really hard time, and then it's the most beautiful time. It's an honor to be asked to watch a newborn come into a world of safety."

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says that **one in six women experience abuse for the first time while she's pregnant, and abusers abuse more than 320,000 pregnant women every year.**

Thanks to your support of Sheltering Wings, mothers like Areta can have a safe and joyous delivery. Read on to learn more about the people you help at Sheltering Wings.





Supporter SPOTLIGHT

You are the reason what we do is possible.

We never ask our families to pay for the support they receive. Your care and concern keep us all in awe and gratitude. So, as you take a look at what we've been up to, we hope you share our sense of pride. We're in this together!

Big things you've helped do this year:

1. Only two cases of COVID-19.

You've given us the flexibility to weather COVID-19 with **just two residents testing positive since the pandemic began**. Support from foundations, individuals and community partners has meant we could pivot when needed to keep our families safe. Thank you!

2. Reaching families where they are.

We're reaching more survivors by meeting families where they are, literally. The severity of domestic abuse and the number of abuse-related deaths have been rising while survivors have been afraid to come to a communal shelter. So we've worked hard - and still are - to **reach any survivor who needs our help, wherever they are**. As of May, we've helped 124 residents, 29 non-residents and 507 Helpline callers.

3. Volunteers and classes are back!

Our life-skills classes are key to so many residents getting back on their feet. Not only are these programs getting back to normal - **our childcare volunteers are back, which means more residents can attend classes!**

By the Numbers, So Far in 2021:

7,921 emergency shelter nights (Peaceful nights of safety)

35 families in safe housing after leaving Sheltering Wings (Housing is one of the top four needs of our clients!)

424 case management sessions (See page 1 for a great story.)

46 kids participated in our Children's Services program (That's 46 healthier, happier children)

102 residents taken to essential appointments (Transportation is another top need!)

439 teens provided with info on dating violence

42 adults welcomed into the Embracing Empowerment support group



Here's why we need

Christmas in July



Your gifts and support every December see us through June. Residents can find allergy medicine, clean towels, baby bottles, shaving cream. Office staff and volunteers have file folders, cleaning supplies, gardening tools. **By July, though, our shelves are getting empty again.**

So, we celebrate Christmas in July to spread Christmas cheer through the second half of the year. Will you be part of Christmas in July 2021 at Sheltering Wings?

Here's how you can help: **Give. Gather. Share.**

Give. Make a monetary donation – or donate items. A group of generous donors will match each gift up to \$10,000!

Gather. Host an Amazon Wish List drive with your church, business or group. Camaraderie drives participation!

Things in high demand:

- Copy paper
- Trash bags: 13 and 55-gallon
- Disposable plates, bowls, cups and cutlery
- Paper towels
- Bleach
- Packaged snacks (*think 20 kids home for the summer!*)

Share. Spread the word to your friends and community about helping survivors – and to people who need our services. Share social media posts and let us know what you're planning for Christmas in July by tagging @ShelteringWings and using #GiveGatherShare.

Whether you give, gather or share, you are key to our residents' ability to build stable, independent lives.

Visit ShelteringWings.org/ChristmasinJuly or call Paige Vanzo at (317) 386-5049.

Presented by:



I want to spread Christmas (in July!) Cheer!

and have my gift matched to help 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): □□ / □□ CW _____

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.
- My employer will match my donation.
- I want to host a wish list or item drive.
- I want to schedule a training or presentation at my church or workplace.



Are you prepared if someone in your life tells you they are being abused?

We're here to help you be ready.

You could save a life by helping them see that *it doesn't have to be this way*. freedomideserve.com has easy-to-follow resources, conversation starters and more.

Churches and workplaces: We've got you covered too. We can equip your congregation or staff with the tools they need to walk someone towards freedom. Reach out to schedule a free training today.

Stay informed and equipped:

- ✓ **GO TO** freedomideserve.com to learn more today
- ✓ **LIKE US** on Facebook (@ShelteringWings)
- ✓ **FOLLOW US** on Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram (@ShelteringWings)
- ✓ **SIGN UP** for our monthly INSIDER and other emails at shelteringwings.org/news to stay in the know"

SHELTERING WINGS

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And more of your amazing work this year.



Thank You!

We'd like to extend a very special thank you to the sponsors, donors and friends who made our 2021 Premier Event "Walk in Their Shoes" a wonderful night.

Thanks to you, approximately \$190,000 was donated and raised on June 11, 2021!

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