

Dear Reader,

You are the reason I took this job.

I spent some time learning about Sheltering Wings before joining the team last year, and do you know what I found? I found your strong, consistent support at every turn. I learned that you have the backs of our clients, their families and this shelter.

I knew I'd be in good hands here.

**This community of donors, volunteers and all-around good people like you is why I love this job and what makes our work possible.** From the food in our pantry to the beds our residents sleep in, to every service we offer, you're the hero of this work.

We continue to **need your help every day.** Thank you for staying involved and for stepping up to end the cycle of abuse.

God bless and Merry Christmas!



Paige Vanzo

Development Director

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Planned giving should be called

*planned hope.*

Because when you leave a gift in your Will, you are planning to deliver hope to people for years to come.

Let's talk about protecting your family and planning hope for survivors of abuse. Call without obligation.

(317) 386-5049

SHELTERING WINGS

P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

Coming up!

January 12 is our 20th anniversary and our annual "Pay it Forward" event.

Do a random act of kindness in honor of the mission of Sheltering Wings and post on social media with #PayItForward

**f** Keep up with Melissa's #WednesdayWisdom, or learn how to be ready when a friend needs help:

**i** LIKE US on Facebook (@ShelteringWings)

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

**in** SIGN UP for our Executive Director's monthly INSIDER and other news at [shelteringwings.org/news](http://shelteringwings.org/news)

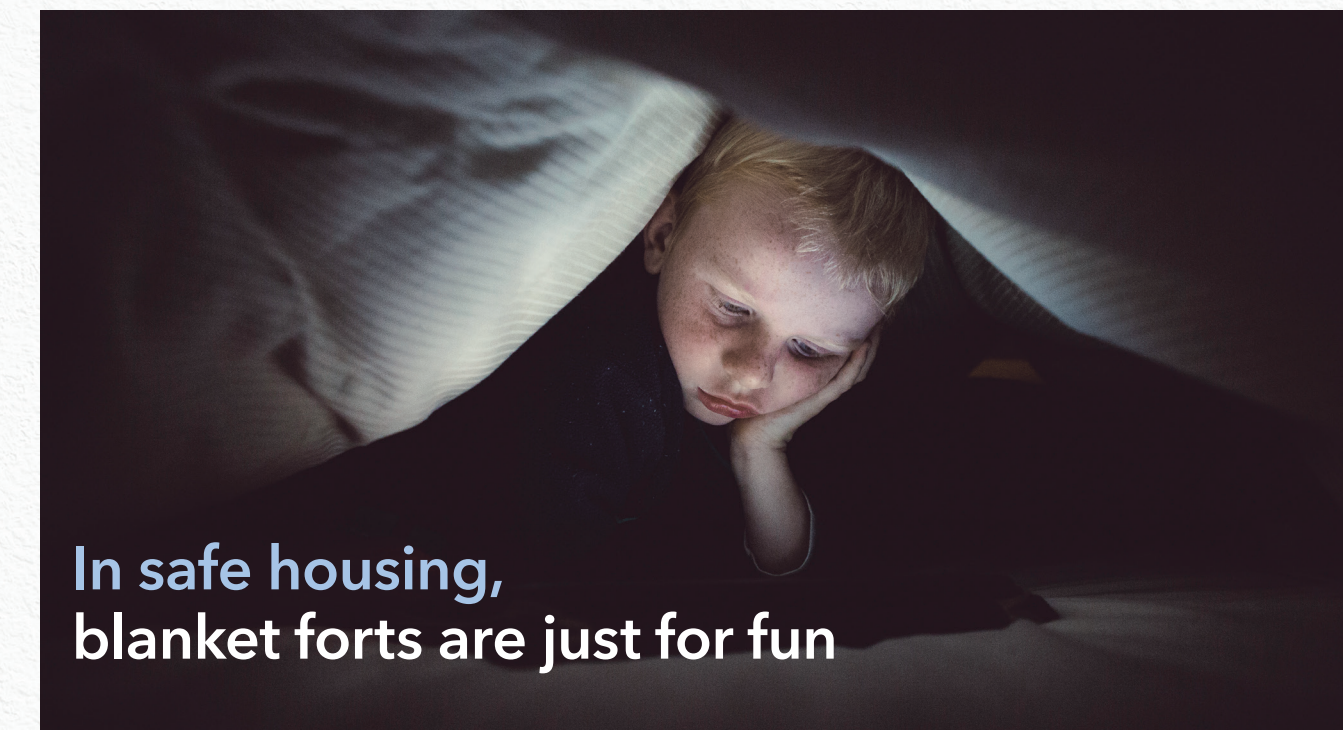
We're Hiring!

If you or someone you know has a passion for helping survivors of domestic abuse and thrives in a supportive, Christ-centered environment, consider a career with Sheltering Wings. Find details at [shelteringwings.org/get-involved/careers/](http://shelteringwings.org/get-involved/careers/)

YOUR NEWS FROM SHELTERING WINGS Winter 2021

# Shared Blessings

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [Isaiah 41:10-12 NIV](#)



In safe housing, blanket forts are just for fun

Cade, 10, remembers feeling safe inside his blanket fort.

*"I built it for when I got scared. I didn't like it when my mom was getting yelled at and crying and the TV was so loud, so I'd hide in there."*

He straightens his small shoulders. "But I don't need a blanket fort now. Now we're going to have our own home and Mom says we won't let anybody in who wants to make us feel bad."

Now, many families like Cade and his mom will have their "own home" at Haven Homes, permanent supportive and affordable

housing for Sheltering Wings residents that is opening very soon!

"Being able to feel safe has made a world of difference in this kid," said Cade's mom. "In both of us, actually. I feel like we're a real family with a future. I can't wait to give Cade a calm, safe, and happy life here."

As you gather with your families (even virtually) this holiday season, take a moment to remember the families who risk so much to get to Sheltering Wings and work so hard to learn to live independently. And join us in celebrating that soon they can move into new apartments at Haven Homes. (See related article)

Names in survivor stories may be changed for their protection.

## Itemize? Don't itemize? Talking Tax Savings for 2021.

As a member of the board at Sheltering Wings and a CPA, I wanted to share a few opportunities for you to get the most benefit from your charitable giving through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act.



### Here's what you need to know:

Extended from 2020 into 2021: **taxpayers who itemize can make tax-deductible charitable gifts for cash donations up to 100% of their adjusted gross income** (previously 60%). If you do not itemize, don't fret! The CARES Act allows taxpayers a charitable deduction of up to \$300 in cash donations - \$600 for married couples filing joint.

Other opportunities include donating publicly traded stocks or IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). By gifting appreciated publicly traded stock rather than cash, **you can deduct up to 30% of your AGI with stock.**

It's **always more beneficial from a tax savings standpoint to transfer appreciated stock assets directly to a charity**, rather than sell and donate the cash. Also, if you are receiving IRA distributions, you can elect to transfer up to \$100,000 annually in IRA assets directly to charity.

Speak to your financial advisor about how these changes may help you. In the meantime, **let us know if you have questions about**

**how you can benefit families served by Sheltering Wings**, and how we can make sure you have the documentation you need for your 2021 taxes.

**Merry Christmas to all of you!**

**Alyson Lurker, CPA**  
Sheltering Wings Board Member



You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors. Nothing in this communication is intended to constitute legal or tax advice.

**Healthy Me. Stronger Us.** In 2021, Sheltering Wings has answered **1,091 HELPLINE CALLS**, welcomed **189 NEW RESIDENTS** and helped **19 FAMILIES** move to safe housing. **THANK YOU!**

## Does Abuse Stop During The Holidays?

**No. But we hear about it less.**

"Be on your best behavior. It's Christmas!" Sound familiar? You might have a specific voice in mind when you read that phrase.

Think of how that sentiment changes the way you do things during the holiday season. Now, for a moment imagine you're trying to also give your children a special holiday.

In a typical year we get more crisis calls in the early fall, then as we approach the warm-glow of the holiday season the phones ring less. **Imagine how painful it would be for your kids to see you as the person who ruined Christmas.** Of course

we know that's not true, but it's a real fear for our families.

We're deeply concerned. Throughout 2021 we've seen a spike in the severity of domestic violence and we fear the stressors of the holiday season will fuel the trend. You may be as heartbroken as us to know we're hearing of more strangulation and of extreme violence, especially toward pregnant women.

We urge you **to know what to look for.** If you suspect that you or someone you know is being abused, please let us help. Start at **freedomideserve.com** or call us at 317-745-1496.



## Haven Homes:

**Not defined by domestic abuse**



**Haven HOMES**

You'll be excited to hear that very (very!) soon, several families and survivors will move into Haven Homes – their very own places to live!

Supportive housing like Haven Homes is a proven and cost-effective way to build healthy, strong communities.

Now, survivors can live in a safe space that's not defined by domestic abuse. Haven Homes will provide much-needed affordable housing for dozens of area families, too. We're so grateful to be part of this effort with RealAmerica and Cummins Behavioral Health Systems.

**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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Now - Dec 31 your gift will be Matched! Cindy Bailey and Bailey Trucking will match your gift \$1 for \$ 1 up to \$20,000!!**

### Please contact me to discuss:

- Planned giving (wills, bequests, donor-advised funds)
- Volunteering to help on the front desk at the Shelter
- Holding a donation drive or third party fundraiser
- Scheduling a training for my church or workplace
- Conducting children's activities at the shelter
- Inviting a shelter rep to speak, or conduct a training my church or group
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ *We never share your email address with anyone.*