

YOU Make the Holiday Season Special

“What cookies do you want to make for Santa this year?”

I remember my mom asking my brother and I this question every Christmas Eve. Even when we got older and weren't as excited about the idea of Santa Claus, she would still ask us what cookies we wanted to make for Santa. And then we'd proceed to make the cookies (and eat some) together.

We all have memories that surround Christmastime. Building a snowman, putting a star on top of the tree, or maybe singing carols.

With your help, we can keep the Christmas traditions going for our families here at Sheltering Wings. We understand that being away from traditions can be hard. We want to support our families in the best way possible.

And to do that, we need YOUR help!

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, but sometimes those can be difficult to feel when living at a shelter. With your help, we can bring back the traditions and sprinkle some joy and celebration into the holiday!

Here are just a few ways that you can get involved this holiday season!

- Host a wish list drive at your church, business, or group!
- Volunteer to wrap Christmas presents or help with a Christmas event!
- Make a financial contribution! You make everything we do at Sheltering Wings possible through financial contributions. Thank you!

Have questions? Want to learn more? Contact our Volunteer Project Coordinator, Lisa Stiers, at lstiers@shelteringwings.org or (317) 386-5056.

Thank you, so much, for helping make this Christmas a special one for our families. YOU help to put the joy in Christmas.

Wishing you love and joy this Christmas season,

Jenna Harris, Communications and Annual Giving Officer
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(317) 386-5050

SHELTERING WINGS

P.O. BOX 92 | DANVILLE, IN 46122

SAVE THE DATE | FRIDAY MAY 5, 2023

TOMORROW'S

Hope

BEGINS TODAY.

2023 Premier Event
featuring **Tony Dungy**
Friday, May 5, 2023

Mark your calendars to join like-minded people who want to help families fleeing abuse. Find tickets and sponsorship information at shelteringwings.org/hope

Stay connected with Sheltering Wings

LIKE US on Facebook ([@ShelteringWings](https://www.facebook.com/ShelteringWings))

FOLLOW US Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn ([@ShelteringWings](https://www.instagram.com/ShelteringWings))

SIGN UP for our Executive Director's monthly **INSIDER** and other news at shelteringwings.org/news



YOUR NEWS FROM SHELTERING WINGS Winter 2022

Shared Blessings

Sarah and her girls endured awful abuse. You made it possible for them to escape.

For 15 years, Sarah and her children endured unspeakable abuse at the hands of her husband. Her written testimony holds 17 pages of things no one should ever have to go through.

Now, they're safe and building a new life.

“He controlled every aspect of our lives. Everything we did, everywhere we went. How and when we cut our hair, what music we listened to, what we ate for dinner, what we got at the grocery store, who we spent our time with... how we spent our days—even if he wasn't home, he was in control.”

The abuse was beyond physical. He was verbally, emotionally, spiritually and sexually abusive. At the drop of a hat, he would fly into a rage.

Sarah felt as if she didn't have anyone to turn to.

“Everyone I tried to talk to excused his behavior ... told me it wasn't really abuse. I needed to be a “better wife” – submissive, obedient, and always ready to satisfy my husband.”

But Sarah knew in her heart that this wasn't her fault. She knew she had to find a safe place for her and the girls.

“My girls were terrified of their father. My oldest daughter had debilitating stomach cramps from anxiety and fear. She told me that she wanted us to get a divorce. My youngest told me that she wanted to run away because she was so scared of him.

That opened my eyes— I had to do something.

Out of desperation, I got in the car and just drove. I wound up at my mom's house, sobbing



No one deserves what Sarah and her daughters went through. Your support made their safety possible.

on her couch for a few hours. I called Sheltering Wings, and they promised my girls and I three beds by 3 pm the next day. That gave me 24 hours to figure things out, and a safe place to sort my life out for the next year, where we would be absolutely untouchable to my husband.

The next morning, I woke up and started packing. And the girls and I left.”

Sarah is working to build a new life with her girls, safe and independent from her husband.

“I will never go back. Watch me spread my wings and show my babies what it's like to learn how to fly,” said Sarah.

We're so proud of her.

Names in survivor stories may be changed for their protection.

YOU can Build a Safe Culture for your Workplace

The owner of a small business called our crisis line after an employee bravely shared that her spouse was abusing her. This boss responded immediately and his team came together quickly to find a safe place for her to stay.

But he called Sheltering Wings later because he saw that his business wasn't prepared for a crisis like this. He asked the shelter for education and training for all his employees and ways to spread domestic violence awareness to others.

A situation like this is why we're passionate about getting education and training to our community.

You have the power to make sure that your business has the knowledge and training to be prepared for a crisis like this. Do you know how to respond in a way that leads the victim to safety and freedom?

Here are 3 easy ways that you can make a safe culture for your workplace:

1. Stop saying inappropriate jokes in your workplace. Jokes that poke fun at domestic violence, abuse, suicide, or any form of violence are not funny. They can even make people feel unsafe. When you stop using these jokes, you provide space for victims.
2. Implement a Domestic Violence Policy. We can help you draft a Domestic Violence Policy in your place of work so that you have set guidelines to follow when an employee mentions they're being abused.

3. Sign up for a domestic violence training. Beyond the knowledge your team will gain, the simple act of setting aside time for a training speaks volumes. When victims see that you are taking abuse seriously, they hear you say, "This is a safe place for you."

We can't do this work without you. Thank you for your efforts to end domestic violence and prevent abuse.

For training questions, contact Melissa Echard, (317) 386-5061 or mechard@shelteringwings.org.



So far this year you have helped do things like:

Provide safe housing for **184 RESIDENTS**.

Answer **1,155 CRISIS CALLS**.

Made sure **56 RESIDENTS** could move into safe, independent housing.

Help with **13 PROTECTIVE ORDERS**.

Educate **5,278 PEOPLE** so that our community is better equipped to prevent domestic violence.



Thank you to our donors and friends!
You have protected families throughout 2022, and we are so grateful.

(These statistics represent January 2022 - September 2022.)

You don't have to win the lottery...

My mom told me if she won the lottery, she'd make a big gift to her favorite causes.

I wish now that I would have said: "That would be nice. But, Mom, you don't need to win big to help."

Gifts made by non-lottery winners; teachers, farmers, other workers - truly impact charities. And a gift from your Will, Life Insurance, or other plans *will* change lives.

Contact me any time to talk about how you can help survivors and their kids by gift planning.



Paige Vanzo, Development Director
pvanzo@shelteringwings.org
(317) 386-5049

Nothing in this communication is meant to provide financial advice.

This Holiday Season: I want to protect families served by Sheltering Wings

Simply fill out the information below, or give online at shelteringwings.org/gift.



Please contact me about making a *monthly* tax-deductible donation and joining the new Hope Monthly Giving Society! By giving monthly, you can sustain hope for those fleeing abuse.

\$150 \$75 \$35 \$20 \$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) ____/____/____ CVV ____|____|____

Signature _____ Print Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Please contact me to discuss:

- How to make a planned gift or join the 2002 Planned Gift Society
- 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.



CUT HERE