



Shared Blessings

Kylie's heart raced as she pulled into the parking lot...

She made it. She was safe.

She turned the car off and looked at the faces of her three kids in the back seat.

Her heart broke for them.

She knew she was doing the right thing, but it was the hardest thing she'd ever done.

Kylie and her kids had been through terrible physical, emotional, and financial abuse. She knew she couldn't let her kids continue to live that way. She knew SHE couldn't keep living that way.

This last time she'd left; she'd gone to her parents' house, but he followed her there.

He banged on the door for days at all hours. They called the police, but he'd just leave and come back again. He'd even text Kylie pictures of the police looking for him.

A friend of Kylie's mom suggested she call Sheltering Wings. Kylie called and began talking to an advocate. Together, they made a safety plan. Over many weeks, she would call Sheltering Wings after her husband went to work and after the kids went to bed.

She slowly gathered their birth certificates and social security cards, packed bags, and hid



them in the trunk of her car. Then, when she was ready, she pulled into the lot.

She sat for a minute looking back at her children. Emma, her oldest, had already seen so much. She'd seen most of the abuse first-hand and had started having nightmares. All Jarrod and Kelsey, her little ones, knew was that they were scared of their daddy.

Kylie's mind raced. She thought of the upcoming holidays and, for just a second, she wondered if she was making the right choice. She reached back and grabbed Emma's hand.

Emma looked at her and then opened her car door.

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Your Impact as a Supporter of Sheltering Wings:

You make sure every call for help is answered ... and so much more.

You join with us to provide safety and help families get back on their feet after abuse.

It's because of people who care enough to give their time and funds, and those who tell others about us, that families fleeing abuse can find shelter and loving support.

So far this year you've helped house **203** men, women, and children in our Emergency Shelter. By the end of the year, we expect that number to be more than **225**.

You're also preventing abuse. Your support raises awareness and creates action in churches, schools, and businesses. Our prevention programs are in every Hendricks County school corporation!

In the coming year, we'll keep working toward some big goals.

We're thankful for friends like you who will be a part of the work to:

- **Become a Dual Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Agency** – this will best serve the victims of sexual assault who come to us for help.
- **Continue to strengthen and grow our prevention efforts** – we've hired a second member of the Prevention team to keep this program strong and our community healthy!
- **Better support the childcare needs of clients in shelter and out** – we've been awarded a grant from Early Learning Indiana and the Lilly Endowment to help get this started. We're hiring full and part-time respite childcare staff. Support from donors and the community will mean this program can grow and continue.
- **Hire additional staff and work to keep the excellent team we have now.** Our people are our programs. If you know someone with a passion for helping others in a Christ-centered environment, send them our way!
- **Remodel the Shelter.** We need more space.

If you're reading this, know that **YOU** are what makes the difference at Sheltering Wings.

Without donations, without prayer, without people who care enough to refer others – none of this would be possible.



Here's more of your impact by the numbers:

1500+

HELP CALLS expected to be answered this year.

1

CHILD OF SHELTERING WINGS STAFF MEMBER

comforted another student at school who'd witnessed abuse at home, and then went to a trusted adult for help.

46

PEOPLE IN SHELTER

at the time this is being written;
25 Children with a parent.

40

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS

clients stay in Shelter. You provide this critical time for healing, rebuilding and starting again stronger.

Spotlight **Steve & Pat**



Steve and Pat plan to leave a gift to Sheltering Wings in their Will. They also give through their retirement funds.

They're a great example of what folks can do in their retirement to help others.

Steve and Pat's smart and careful planning will mean lives saved through the Shelter.

Their plans also protect their assets, and mean that they can take advantage of tax savings now.

"Failing to plan is planning to fail. If you're reading this, please talk to an advisor about putting together your plan. It's God's calling for Pat and I to use our blessings for the sake of others.

This year we were able to contribute \$20,000 by carefully planning a gift via stock.

We know that Sheltering Wings does great work and that we can trust them. We're proud to be a part of their mission and to help," said Steve.

We're so grateful to include Steve and Pat as members of the 2002 Society for planned gift donors.



They are safe, but the story is far from over...

As Emma opened the car door, Kylie bravely followed suit. Together, they walked through the doors of Sheltering Wings for the very first time.

Greeted with love and acceptance, Kylie saw that Sheltering Wings is more than just a shelter—it is a place of hope and healing. A place where both she and her kids could start over and build a life free from abuse.

Now, they are safe. But Kylie's story is far from over. There's a long, hard, and sometimes scary road ahead of her. Kylie needs courage, encouragement, prayer, and YOU.

By being a part of the work done at Sheltering Wings, you show survivors like Kylie that a

community of people is cheering them on and walking with them in their journey to safety and freedom.

They basically have to start over from very little. Kylie has a plan to save some money and is beginning to have conversations with her case manager about what it will take to get an apartment for her and the kids. She's fighting hard to keep full custody of the children and gain what's rightfully hers in the divorce settlement.

Thank you for caring. Thank you for showing moms like Kylie that they deserve better. Thank you for showing young people like Emma, Jarrod, and Kelsey that abuse isn't normal and they deserve better.

If you'd like to make a donation to support this work, please know that Cindy Bailey and Bailey Trucking will match all gifts \$1 for \$1 up to \$20,000 now through December 31.

Visit www.ShelteringWings.org/NewsletterChristmas, scan the QR code, or send back the enclosed envelope with your gift.

**Kylie's story is inspired by real experiences of families helped by Sheltering Wings.*



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. The holiday season often proves a reported increase in

domestic abuse. Financial pressures, alcohol consumption, trying to create the “perfect” Christmas, and increased family time can all contribute to the rise of domestic violence.

We want you to be equipped to know how to respond when you think a family member might be experiencing abuse.

Here are a few general guidelines:

- Express concern
- Reassure them it’s not their fault
- Be supporting and non-judgmental
- Help them develop a safety plan
- Remember, it’s their choice to leave

If the person hasn’t confided in you yet, your main goal is to show love and support. Remember, they don’t need to admit to being abused. They just need to know that you see that they might be unhappy and that you’re available to talk if and when they have something to say.

Find more resources at
www.FreedomIDeserve.com



Smart Charitable Giving: it's for everyone.

Below are smart gifting options that could help you save on your taxes this year.

Your donations to Sheltering Wings save lives.

Truly. The work done here is only possible because of caring people like you who choose to give. That's why it means so much to me as the Board Chair to share information that may help YOU as you help others.



Here are some smart giving ideas as you plan for the end of 2023:

- **Gifts of Appreciated Stock**– Gifts of stock made directly to Sheltering Wings can keep you from paying capital gains tax. If you're giving stock, it's a great option to do a direct transfer to charity rather than sell and pay taxes.
- **IRA charitable rollover** –if you are 70 and a half or older, you can issue a tax-free contribution of up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to charity. This could reduce or eliminate what could be assessed as taxable income for you. You can donate all, or a portion, of your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to a charity. It's called a qualified charitable distribution or QCD. You can also make charitable distributions directly from an IRA before RMDs begin. This is a good option if you don't need all of your retirement income, want to give to a great cause, and want tax benefits.
- **Donor Advised Funds (DAF)** –If you already have a DAF, give our team a call to talk about what giving from your fund could mean to Sheltering Wings. You can establish a Donor Advised Fund through your local community

foundation or wealth manager (such as Edward Jones, National Christian Foundation, Thrivent, Vanguard, or others). You receive a credit for the charitable gift in the same year you put it in the fund, then you can direct funds to Sheltering Wings and other qualified Charities whenever you'd like.

- **...and a gift to consider at any age: Bequests**–gifts through your Will or naming Sheltering Wings as the beneficiary of life insurance: Bequests are a simple gift that can be a set amount of cash (i.e., \$25,000), a part of the estate (i.e., 10%), or the value of the estate after everything else is paid out. They can also include personal property, real estate, stocks, bonds, and more. If you have unneeded life insurance policies, you can also name a charity as a beneficiary.

Let us know if you have questions about how your gift could benefit families served by Sheltering Wings.

Paige, our Development Director, is happy to provide you with our tax ID, address, and other needed info. You can give her a call at (317) 386-5049 or send her an email at pvanzo@shelteringwings.org.

As a 4-star (highest rated) "Charity Navigator" Charity, we pride ourselves on good financial stewardship and strong planning. We know you are free to choose a charity that's meaningful to you, and we're so grateful for your past and future support to help end domestic violence.

Speak to your financial advisor about what might be best for you. Nothing in this communication is meant to be used as tax or wealth management advice.

Happy Planning and God Bless You,

Alyson Lurker, CPA
Sheltering Wings Board Chair