

# Shared Blessings

Sheltering Wings wasn't there for Becky 30 years ago. But thanks to you, we're here now.

Becky left her abusive marriage about 30 years ago – a decade before Sheltering Wings opened. She had nowhere to turn.

"If Sheltering Wings had existed then I would have been there. I had to leave with my kids, and I went into hiding for 6 weeks going from rentals to family members and then eventually landing at my sister's house. He stalked me, talked about killing me to family and friends, and even bragged about sitting in a parking lot with a gun pointed at me. He told a friend he was working on a bomb to blow up my car. He went so far as to show my kids the gun he planned to use to murder me. It was a nightmare."

Thanks to you, families just like Becky's are safe today.

Like you, Becky is now working to make sure people know about Sheltering Wings and are able to access our services. Today, she's a volunteer and a donor. She knows there are families out there who need help either through emergency shelter or through one of the many services offered to people who don't need shelter.

Names in survivor stories may be changed for their protection.



"Sheltering Wings is a place of healing for so many. God helped me through the hardest time in my life and set me up to help others." — Becky

"It's a place of healing for so many. Even though what happened to me was so long ago, coming in to volunteer and being a part of the work is healing for ME. It's important to me that I give back now. God helped me through the hardest time in my life and set me up to be able to help others."

Becky married her husband Ray shortly after high school. She thought they would be happy. But, after the birth of their first child, the abuse started. It escalated from emotional and financial to physical and sexual abuse. Becky was expected to push her boundaries, and was constantly told she wasn't good enough.



“‘It’s okay Mom; I’m not afraid to die.’ That’s when I knew we couldn’t do this anymore.” — Becky

“I didn’t know the terms narcissist or gaslighting when this was happening to me. All I knew was that it made me feel terrible. I can see it all now.”

Becky threatened to leave the marriage but her husband told her there would be no divorce. Someone would have to die first.

“As the kids got older, they saw what was going on and started to question it. One night I got a call from my daughter in hysterics. Ray had grabbed her brother by the shirt collar and bent him backward over the kitchen table. It turns out my son had asked his dad why he didn’t help mom even though she worked so hard.”

Not long after that Ray did the same thing to Becky. He also began keeping a loaded gun in the drawer by his bed. Becky saw this and feared for the worst. After a heated argument between her husband and son, Becky hid the gun.

“He found out it was gone and he started screaming at me. The argument kept escalating. Then he pulled another gun out that he’d hidden in the garage. My son put himself between that gun and me. After his dad stepped away, he looked me right in the eyes said, ‘It’s okay Mom; I’m not afraid to die.’” Becky, paused, with tears in her eyes. “That’s when I knew we couldn’t do this anymore. My kids shouldn’t have to live like this.”

Becky made a plan. She and the kids left, but it wasn’t easy. And it was quite dangerous.

**Sadly, Becky’s story isn’t unique. There is a woman or a man in your community right now who needs to escape abuse. Thanks to you, Sheltering Wings is here to help.**

Becky is now doing for others what she needed.

“Giving to Sheltering Wings is healing for me. God’s faithfulness to me is all the reason I need to be faithful to him. He brought me through this. My prayer is that someone who needs Sheltering Wings will find them. Maybe someone who doesn’t have the help that I had will get safe.”

**Thank you for joining this prayer. Your support means safety is available for families like Becky’s.**

Your gift **DOUBLED** now through Dec.31.

Your \$1 becomes \$2 (up to \$10,000) thanks to matching gift from Bailey Trucking and Cindy Bailey. Use the enclosed envelope to mail you gift or scan the QR code to give online.



# YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS...

**72%**  
OF RESIDENTS



72 percent of the residents living at Sheltering Wings this year have exited to safe housing. Thanks to you, nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all clients are now living in stable, independent homes. Up 20% from 2023!

**4**  
RESIDENTS



Four residents recently found new jobs in October with the support of Sheltering Wings programs—and YOU! And, four clients were certified as forklift drivers this year. All of them are on their way to stability and independence in 2025.

**51**  
HOURS



51 hours of respite childcare in October alone meant that parents could attend stability-building programs, case management meetings, legal and medical appointments, search for jobs and more on their path to independence.

**4,800**

PEOPLE



Sheltering Wings educated 4,800 people so far this year in trainings at churches, schools, businesses, and in the community. People learned about healthy communication, neighbors learned how to build strong communities, and those in need found help. Call us to schedule training at your church or business.

## Smart Charitable Giving

Do you need to make a charitable gift before the end of this year? The last business day is Dec. 30.

Here are four ways you can make a huge impact for Sheltering Wings:

- Consider a Qualified Distribution from your IRA directly to Sheltering Wings
- Consider a transfer of stock (rather than selling it first)

## Dec. 30 final business day of 2024

- Include Sheltering Wings in your will
- Make a year-end gift that will be matched \$1 for \$1 up to \$10,000 thanks to Bailey Trucking and Cindy Bailey.

I'm here to work with you on your specific needs and wants for your gift and to provide information you need.

Paige Vanzo, Donor and Engagement Director  
[pvanzo@shelteringwings.org](mailto:pvanzo@shelteringwings.org) | 317.386.5049

# LOOK WHAT YOU'VE MADE POSSIBLE . . .

Your support makes a difference at Sheltering Wings. Without donations, without volunteers, without prayers — none of this would be possible. Thank you for what you've done this year. Thank you for your continued support so that together we can do even more!

## A Safe Home for the Holidays

Marion already received the perfect Christmas gift — a safe home for her daughter.

After living at Sheltering Wings for more than a year, the mother and daughter moved into their own apartment this fall.

"The little girl — so shy when she got here that she spoke to no one — was dancing and telling us about her new room," says Amy Kollmeyer, Sheltering Wings Emergency Services Manager. "Her joy will stick with me."

You made this holiday joy possible! For Marion and her daughter — and also for six other families who moved into safe housing in October alone. Thanks to you, these 16 people moved from Sheltering Wings into safe, stable, independent housing. That's the best gift they'll receive this year!



## Upcoming Events

Help break the cycle of abuse in 2025! Find all Sheltering Wings events at [ShelteringWings.org/Event](https://ShelteringWings.org/Event).

**FEBRUARY 18**

Hop for Hope



**HOP 4 HOPE**

**MARCH 13**

Men IN Action READ

Sign up at:  
[ShelteringWings.org/Read](https://ShelteringWings.org/Read)



**APRIL 11**

Premier Event 2025

"Standing In The Gap"

For details, tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit [ShelteringWings.org/Standing](https://ShelteringWings.org/Standing)