

Civic Group Partner Kit

October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

This kit is filled with tools to help you raise awareness, start conversations and take action in your community. From social media posts to event ideas, each piece helps us build a future free from abuse.

Together, we are a voice for hope and healing.

What's Included



Welcome Letter

Learn about this month's focus, what's in this kit and more ways to partner with Sheltering Wings.



Informational Materials

Facts about domestic violence in Indiana and the work of Sheltering Wings.



Social Media Toolkit

Sample graphics and messages to help you spread awareness.



Engagement Ideas

DVAP Month events and other ways to support Sheltering Wings.



Civic Group Guide

Tips, guides, materials and suggestions for community involvement.





Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Dear Partner,

This October is **Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month (DVAP)**, and Sheltering Wings is focusing on the power of connection. We believe stopping violence starts with people and the strong bonds and communities that support them.

Our 2026 theme, “**Stronger Together: Connection Prevents Violence,**” reminds us that people are stronger when they have both inner strengths and support from others. Self-worth, good values, healthy choices, safe relationships and caring communities can all help stop violence before it starts.

This year, we’re using the **Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets** to guide our work. Some assets grow within us, like the strength to face hard times and make healthy choices. Others come from the people around us, like family, schools, workplaces, churches, neighborhoods and other caring relationships. Together, these assets help people feel safe, valued and connected.

In this kit, you’ll find ideas, activities, and tools to help you learn, connect and take action. Together, we can build safer communities.

Learn more and find DVAP Month tools at ShelteringWings.org/DVAP.

With appreciation,
The Sheltering Wings Team

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Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

DVAP Month 2026 | “Stronger Together: Connection Prevents Violence”

Focus: Internal + External Assets for Stronger Communities

Personal growth matters. But people don’t grow alone. We also need safe relationships and caring communities. When our own strengths and support from others come together, violence is less likely and everyone benefits.

Here are the four areas we’re focusing on this month.



Safe Relationships

Healthy relationships are built on respect, trust, care, open talks, and clear limits. Safe relationships help people feel valued, supported, and free to be themselves.



Belonging & Support Networks

We all need people and places where we feel seen, included, and connected. Strong support helps people feel less alone and makes it easier to find care, help, and resources when they need them.



Community Responsibility

We all have a role in helping prevent violence. When neighbors, schools, workplaces, churches, and groups work together, we can build communities where people feel safe, cared for, and supported.



Hope & Future Orientation

Hope helps people see a safer, brighter future. Goals, support, and chances to grow can help people make healthy choices and build strong futures.



Safe Relationships

What it looks like to build this internally:

You know that healthy relationships are built on respect, trust, care, open talks and clear limits. You know that love should not make you feel afraid, controlled, or pushed to do things you don't want to do. You are learning what feels safe, how to speak up for your needs and how to treat others with care and respect.

How It Might Show Up:



Adults

- Share needs, concerns and limits in a clear and kind way.
- Notice warning signs like control, threats, being cut off from others or being made to feel at fault.
- Have open and honest talks without fear, shame or threats.
- Ask for help when a relationship feels unsafe or unhealthy.



Children/Youth

- Know they can say "no" to touch, teasing or pressure they don't want.
- Tell a trusted adult when someone makes them feel scared or uneasy.
- Know that jealousy, nonstop texts or trying to control someone is not love.
- Practice saying sorry, listening and respecting other people's limits.

How to Promote in Community Settings:

Setting	Example
Church	Talk about healthy relationships, respect and limits with youth and adults. Make it safe for people to ask for help. Teach leaders how to spot signs of abuse and respond with care.
Business	Build a workplace where people are treated with respect. Share domestic violence help and resources. Teach leaders how to support a team member who may be facing abuse.
Civic Group	Start talks about healthy relationships and ways to prevent abuse. Share local resources at events. Support efforts that help build respect and safety.
School	Teach healthy friendship skills, respect and ways to work through conflict. Talk about bullying and dating abuse early. Make sure students know which adults they can turn to for help.





Belonging & Support Networks

What it looks like to build this internally:

You know that we all need connection. You are willing to reach out, accept help and build strong bonds with people who help you feel safe, cared for and supported.

How It Might Show Up:



Adults

- Stay close to people who support your health, safety and growth.
- Ask for help when life feels like too much instead of facing it alone.
- Check in when someone seems alone or cut off from others.
- Spend time with groups and people who make you feel valued and welcome.



Children/Youth

- Can name trusted adults they can go to when they need help.
- Feel included in a class, team, club or youth group.
- Have friends who respect their limits and support healthy choices.
- Know they still belong when they make mistakes or need help.

How to Promote in Community Settings:

Setting	Example
Church	Create small groups, mentors and care teams that help people feel known and supported. Check in with families who may feel alone. Make it easy for people to find help and resources without shame.
Business	Build a workplace where people feel seen, valued and supported. Make sure staff know where to find help and resources. Create ways for coworkers and mentors to support one another.
Civic Group	Plan events where everyone feels welcome. Connect families with local help and resources. Create ways for people to volunteer, meet others and build strong bonds.
School	Use mentors, clubs, peer groups and class activities to help students feel included. Look for students who may feel alone and help connect them with people they can trust.





Community Responsibility

What it looks like to build this internally:

You know that we all have a role in building safe communities, supporting survivors and speaking up when abuse is ignored or excused.

How It Might Show Up:



Adults

- Speak up when you hear harmful jokes, blame placed on victims or excuses for abuse.
- Learn how to respond with care when someone shares that they are being hurt.
- Help prevent abuse by giving your time, sharing resources or raising awareness.
- Help create places where people are treated with respect and safety comes first.



Children/Youth

- Tell an adult when they see bullying, threats, or unsafe acts.
- Don't laugh along with hurtful comments or attempts to control others.
- Include someone who is being left out or treated poorly.
- Know that being a helper means getting a safe adult involved.

How to Promote in Community Settings:

Setting	Example
Church	Create clear safety rules. Teach staff and volunteers how to respond to domestic violence. Talk openly about abuse and ways to support survivors.
Business	Create clear workplace rules for domestic violence. Share information on where to find help. Work with local groups on training, donation drives or awareness events.
Civic Group	Share ways to help prevent abuse at meetings and events. Invite local experts to speak. Support local efforts that help keep people and families safe.
School	Make sure students know how and where to report unsafe acts. Teach them how to safely speak up or get help when they see someone being hurt. Include families and staff in efforts to build a safe school.





Hope & Future Orientation

What it looks like to build this internally:

You believe that growth and change are possible. You can see a future where you feel safe, supported, connected and hopeful.

How It Might Show Up:



Adults

- Set goals that help you feel safe, heal and grow.
- Believe people and communities can change with the right help and support.
- Encourage others by noticing their strengths and growth.
- Take small steps toward the future, even when life feels hard.



Children/Youth

- Can name something they are looking forward to.
- Set a goal and know which adults can help them reach it.
- Know that what they are going through now does not define their future.
- Notice their strengths, celebrate growth and keep trying.

How to Promote in Community Settings:

Setting	Example
Church	Offer mentors, prayer, support groups and help for families. Give people hope while taking abuse and safety concerns seriously.
Business	Help staff learn and grow through training and new chances to succeed. Offer support and care when life gets hard.
Civic Group	Create ways for people to lead, serve and volunteer. Support youth programs and local projects that help families grow stronger and build connections.
School	Teach students how to set goals and plan for the future. Connect them with trusted mentors. Celebrate their effort, growth, and healthy choices.





Domestic Violence in Indiana

Domestic violence is not just a personal issue — **it's a community issue.**

Domestic violence affects people and families across Indiana. Our state has one of the highest rates of domestic violence against women in the nation. Each year, lives are lost and families are harmed by abuse.

Many survivors also struggle to find the safety and help they need. As **trusted community partners**, we can learn the signs of abuse, respond with care, and work together to build safer communities for all.



42.5% of Indiana women and **27.9% of Indiana men** face physical violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

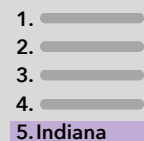


20% of all violent crime in Indiana is linked to domestic violence.



65% of murder-suicides involve an intimate partner. Of those killed, **96% are women.**

Indiana has the 5th-highest rate of domestic violence against women in the nation.



Indiana received an "F" grade from Break the Cycle, based on high rates of domestic violence, gaps in legal help, and nearly **95% of shelter requests going unmet.**



Sheltering Wings Mission

Sheltering Wings Center for Survivors has provided services for survivors escaping domestic abuse since 2002. We build stable and independent lives through essential programs offered in a supportive and Christ-centered environment.

Programs and Services

Sheltering Wings is a comprehensive care hub for survivors of abuse and their children. We're the only domestic violence shelter in Hendricks County and one of the two largest in Indiana. Our services include:

- 24/7/365 helpline
- Emergency shelter and housing help
- Victim advocacy, including protective order filing
- Stability-building programs and case management
- Counseling and emotional stabilization programs
- Children & Youth programming
- Community training and education
- Youth and teen domestic and dating violence prevention

By the Numbers

Sheltering Wings serves all of Central Indiana (and beyond), including Marion, Boone, Hendricks, and Hamilton counties.

In 2025:

- 1,316 helpline calls answered
- 356 adults and children served through shelter and community-based programs
- 6,685 community members educated

**If you or someone you know is
experiencing abuse, we can help.
Please call our 24/7 helpline at
317-745-1496
or visit ShelteringWings.org.**



Social Media Tool Kit

Thank you for being a part of Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month. This year's theme — "Stronger Together: Connection Prevents Violence" — reminds us that safe, strong bonds help us grow. When people feel safe, cared for and like they belong, they can build on their strengths, make healthy choices and have hope for the future. This toolkit will help you share that message with others. Together, we can help people see the strengths they already have and build the strong bonds that can help stop violence before it starts.

Relevant Hash Tags

#StrongerTogether #ConnectionPreventsViolence #DVAPMonth #ShelteringWings

Social Media Content

Download graphics and use the accompanying suggested text or be inspired to create your own post for LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, or X (formerly Twitter) or for other presentations.

Shared Content

Follow us on social media for quick and easy ways to share impactful content throughout Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month.



Stronger Together: Connection Prevents Violence

SHELTERING WINGS
+

Social Media Content

Download graphics and use the accompanying suggested text or be inspired to create your own post for LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, or X (formerly Twitter) or for other presentations.



CAPTION: Your voice matters. Domestic violence affects so many lives, but together we can break the cycle. Share this message, raise awareness, and help us build stronger, safer communities. Visit ShelteringWings.org/DVAP to take action.

#StrongerTogether #ConnectionPreventsViolence #DVAPMonth #ShelteringWings



CAPTION: A check-in. A listening ear. A safe place to belong. Small moments of care can help build stronger relationships and safer communities. Learn more at ShelteringWings.org/DVAP.

#StrongerTogether #ConnectionPreventsViolence #DVAPMonth #ShelteringWings

Social Media Content

Download graphics and use the accompanying suggested text or be inspired to create your own post for LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, or X (formerly Twitter) or for other presentations.



CAPTION: This October, we unite with Sheltering Wings to break the silence on domestic abuse. Together, we can raise awareness, support survivors, and create change. Every voice matters. Visit ShelteringWings.org/DVAP to learn more.

#StrongerTogether #ConnectionPreventsViolence #DVAPMonth #ShelteringWings



Events

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Brownsburg National Night Out Against Crime Plainfield National Night Out Against Crime

Visit our booths at both events. We'll also have a booth set up for Men IN Action information.

Brownsburg: Lucas Oil Raceway Park from 5:00-7:30 pm.

Plainfield: Hummel Park from 5:00-7:00 pm.

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Purple in the Pews

Everyone is encouraged to wear purple to church on the Sunday before Purple Thursday as a symbol of our shared commitment to domestic violence awareness within our faith community.

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Purple Thursday

On National Wear Purple Day, everyone is encouraged to wear all things purple as a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor, and personal commitment to raising awareness about domestic violence.

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Danville National Night Out Against Crime

Visit our booth at Town Hall from 5:30-7:30 pm. We'll also have a booth set up for Men IN Action information.

Dine to Donate

Support our mission just by enjoying a meal! Visit any of the participating restaurants listed below on their scheduled dates, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to help us continue our work. Be sure to mention our organization when you order — every bite makes a difference!

Cunningham Restaurants - October 22

Dine at any CRG restaurant in Hendricks County



Partnership Opportunities

We're so thankful for your support. When we work together, we can do even more. Whether you already partner with Sheltering Wings or want to find a new way to help, here are a few ways to get involved:

Host a Training

Invite us to speak at your business, school, church or group about domestic violence, how to prevent abuse and healthy relationships.

Sponsor a Program or Event

Give funds or needed items to support programs such as teen dating violence prevention, survivor services or community training.

Volunteer as a Team

Give your staff paid time to volunteer or plan a group service day. Your team can help with events, projects or donation drives.

Donate Goods or Services

Give items from our current needs list, such as personal care items and home supplies. You can also give services such as printing, design or repair work.

Promote Our Work

Share our events, resources and posts to help more people learn about Sheltering Wings and domestic violence.

Partner With Us in a New Way

Have another idea? We'd love to hear it! We're always open to new ways we can work together to help our community.

For training or prevention, please contact Jarod:

Jarod Haskell | 317-386-5053

For giving, sponsorships or volunteer opportunities, please contact Paige:

Paige Vanzo | 317-386-5049

Learn more at ShelteringWings.org



Community Guide to Domestic Violence

Support for Civic & Community Leaders

Why this matters to civic leaders...

Domestic violence affects the whole community. Civic leaders — from local government and law enforcement to public service and community groups — can help spot signs of abuse, connect people with help and build safer communities. In Indiana, more than 42% of women and nearly 28% of men have faced violence or abuse from a partner. Behind these numbers are people and families who may need safety, care and support.

Know the signs...

Domestic violence may lead to:

- Calls for help or police visits to the same home
- Problems with housing or reports from neighbors
- Someone pulling away from others or showing signs of fear
- Trouble getting to work, school or health care due to abuse at home

How to respond...

DO:

- Listen and show that you care.
- Connect people with trusted local domestic violence help.
- Keep their information private when possible and follow any rules you must follow.
- Use words that show care and respect.
- Share trusted resources at meetings, events and online.
- Help people learn about their options and take steps toward safety.

DON'T:

- Take over someone's choices or tell them what they must do.
- Put yourself or others in danger by trying to step into a violent event.
- Share someone's story without their OK.
- Treat domestic violence as a "private matter" that the community should ignore.



Community Guide to Domestic Violence

Support for Civic & Community Leaders

Ways civic leaders can make a difference...

- Host or support events that teach about safe, healthy relationships and domestic violence.
- Invite Sheltering Wings to speak at local meetings or events.
- Share domestic violence help and resources in newsletters, public spaces and online.
- Support safety-related policies in housing, transportation, and public spaces
- Help law enforcement, schools and local groups work together.
- Take part in Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (October) and Purple Thursday (Oct. 15) to show public support.

Trusted resources to share...

- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence: icadvinc.org
- Sheltering Wings: shelteringwings.org 24/7 Helpline 317-745-1496
- 211 Indiana Helpline: in211.org

Your voice matters...

Civic and community leaders help shape the tone and safety of the places we call home. By showing support for survivors, promoting prevention, and connecting residents to help, you are building a safer, stronger Indiana.

For inquiries regarding training or prevention, please reach out to Jarod Haskell at 317-386-5053.

If you or someone you know is facing abuse, we can help.
Call our 24/7 Helpline at 317-745-1496 or visit ShelteringWings.org.

