



Sheltered 911



2024 GRATITUDE REPORT

*Reflecting on our journey,
Thanking God for the people.*



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Letter from the Director



Julie Ipema
MSW, MDiv
Executive Director

What defines a company? In my view, it's the people involved. From the founding of the organization, to the donors who support it, to the volunteers who serve and the employees who contribute their skills, it's the individuals who truly make a difference —each of you included! Reflecting on 2024, I am profoundly thankful for the dedicated board and talented staff at Sheltered91. Their commitment enables us to offer exceptional care for women who have been exploited. I am also incredibly grateful for all of you! Many of you volunteered, donated funds, joined us for our Celebration of Hope, and provided weekly meals. Together, we are positively impacting the lives of survivors and our community. In 2024 we successfully launched the Reach Independent and Transitional Living Program and ended the year by providing supportive housing services for five survivors! It is through our joint efforts that we will continue to deliver essential services to those in need. By God's grace, we have achieved remarkable milestones in just a few years, yet there is still much more to accomplish! We must expand our outreach, acquire our own vehicle, initiate our prevention program, and build our financial reserves so that we can consistently provide the housing and therapeutic services that survivors rely on. We are deeply grateful for your prayers and partnership in our mission. May God richly bless you ~ thank you for being an important part of this work.

Julie

Company Overview

*He will cover you with his feathers and under
His wings you will find refuge, His
faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

Psalm 9:14



Vision

We envision a world where every survivor encounters the transforming love of Jesus and is empowered to live free, healthy and fulfilled, and where no person is bought, sold or exploited.

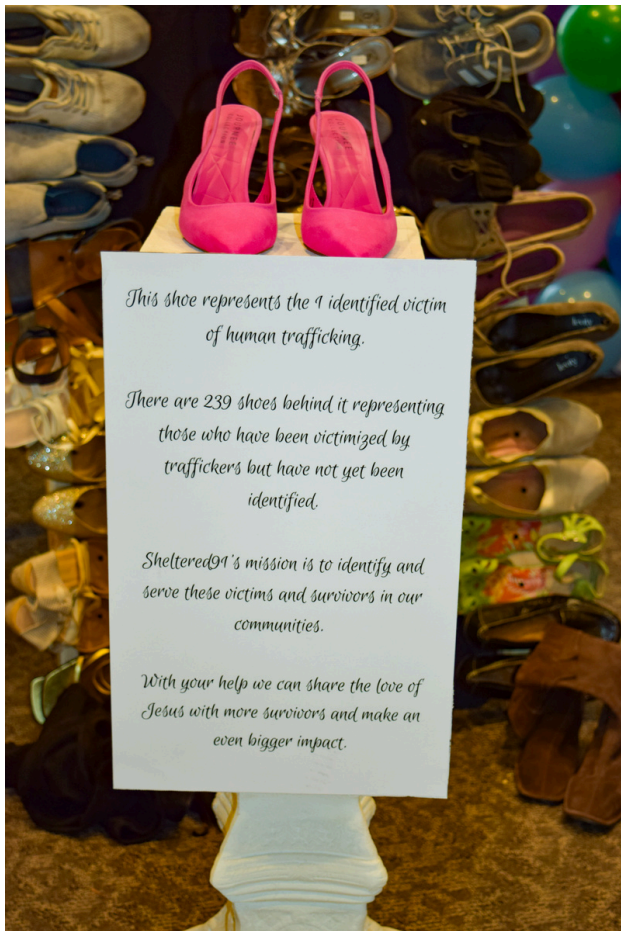
Mission

To create safe spaces of hope and healing for people who have been or are at risk of being sexually exploited.

Board

Kevin Botma, Chairman
Leah Evenhouse, Secretary
Shari Krajewski, Treasurer
Polly Weiss
Rebecca Haan, LCSW
Von Matthews, MBA CFE
John Ipema

History



The brief timeline above illustrates how God has empowered us to create an organization, launch the Center for Hope and Healing, and serve survivors for an entire year. We are continually amazed by how God meets our needs and opens doors where none seem to exist. This timeline stands as a testament to the impactful work we are achieving together! Thanks to your generous gifts, prayers, and support, we were able to assist 14 women in 2024. These women connected with our staff and each other through weekly meals, individual and group therapy, and case management assistance. Because of you, we can provide women with essential resources such as food, shelter and transportation. Our aim is to keep identifying and supporting survivors for many more years to come. We hope you will continue to support this crucial ministry as we spread the love of Jesus to trafficking survivors in our communities.

Sherry's Story

"Through this program I have moved from instability to stability and a bright future."



Sherry participated at Sheltered91 through the Restore Program (formerly Rise). She came to us with a traumatic story of childhood and familial trafficking. Having been part of the foster care system most of her life, she trusted slowly and cautiously. Sherry was struggling with anxiety and fear which were holding her back from achieving her goals in life. Through weekly therapy and the support of her mentor, Sherry began to take steps toward her goals. She also benefitted from our Creative Expressions art group and worked extensively with our volunteer artist to create pieces that helped her express her feelings and boost her confidence. Learning to identify and express her feelings in a healthy environment gave Sherry the courage to stand up for herself and express her feelings in healthier ways in her relationships with her child and extended family. Today, Sherry has her own housing, transportation, gainful employment and is enrolled in college. She hopes to become a social worker to help other women and teens who have experienced similar circumstances. We look forward to supporting Sherry's progress and celebrating her completion of the Restore Program in 2025.

Isla's Story

"Thank you for giving me another chance at life."



We started meeting with Isla in the spring of 2024. At that time, she was enrolled in another program and facing challenges in maintaining her sobriety. She needed housing, and as soon as we could, our staff reached out to offer her a spot in the Reach Transitional Living Program. After enrolling in rehab, she completed her first 30 days and moved into our home. Isla continued to focus on her sobriety through Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), attending weekly individual and group therapy sessions, while also working on her goals with case management. By the end of 2024, she had achieved over 100 days of sobriety! Research indicates that stable housing is crucial for survivors, as it lays the groundwork for recovery, healing, and the rebuilding of their lives. We witnessed firsthand the positive effects of stability as Isla flourished in her new environment. She will remain in transitional housing for six to nine months before transitioning to the Independent Living Program, where she can stay for up to two years. We have high hopes for Isla's future as she navigates her path to employment and successful independence while accomplishing her goals. Her humor, resilience, and determination serve as an inspiration to both the staff and other women in our program. Go Isla!

Employee Spotlight

"I am inspired by the survivors we serve."



Vashti Hatch MHS, CADAC, CODPI, ASAR

Program Director

Vashti, also known as Ti, joined Shetered91 in June 2024. She holds a B.A. from Tougaloo College in Mississippi and a M.H.S. from Governors State University in Illinois. Ti's professional background includes roles as a therapist and manager of a crisis intervention team. She draws inspiration from the resilience and bravery of the survivors we support, which fueled her passion to establish the Reach Transitional Living Program. Recognizing the need for emergency and short-term housing for survivors, Ti encouraged us to envision a different approach. Ti's input was instrumental not only in seeking out properties but also in developing the foundational guidelines for the program. Ti's dedication to delivering exceptional, gospel-centered care makes her an effective Program Director, therapist and a strong team leader. In her role, she oversees both participant care and the case management team. We deeply appreciate her vision, commitment, and hard work this year as we launched the Reach Program and offered vital support services to our participants.

"When asked how we would find clients, we assured supporters that God would send them - and He did!"

Board Testimony



Polly Weiss

Board Member

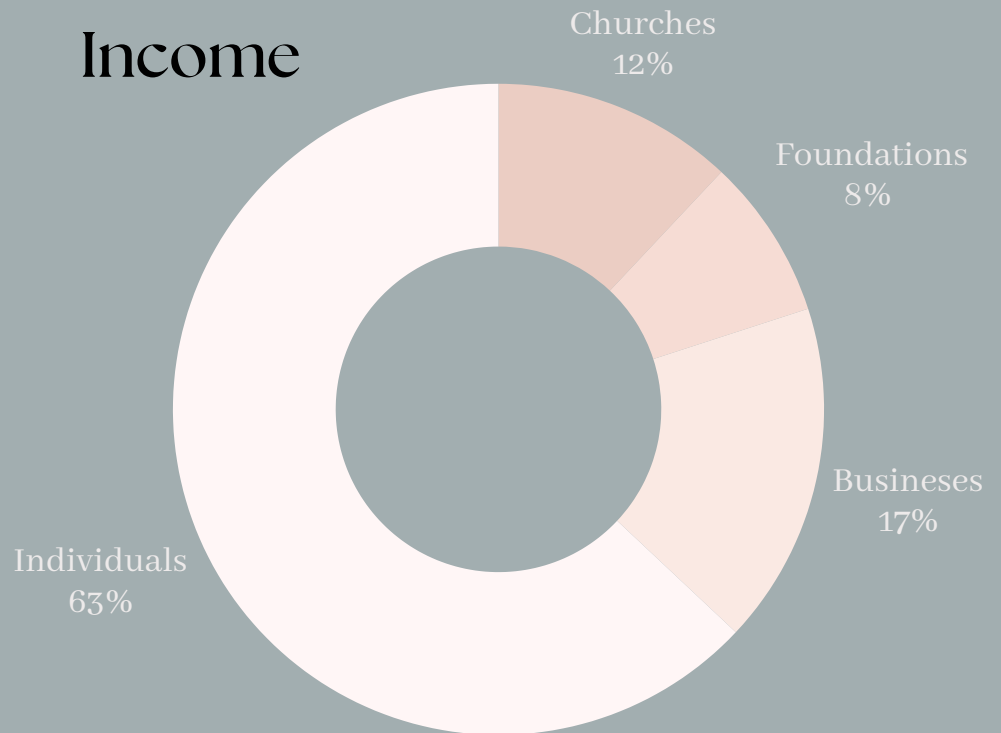
For the Sheltered91 Board, 2024 was the “year of Compassion”. Each month we read from the book *Compassion, A Reflection on the Christian Life* by Henri J.M. Nouwen. This quote stood out for me last year: *“When we form a Christian community, we come together not because of similar experiences, knowledge, problems, color or sex but because we have been called together by the same God. Only God enables us to cross the many bridges that separate us; only the Lord allows us to recognize each other as members of the same human family and frees us to pay careful attention to each other.”* God created a bridge fifteen years ago when Julie Ipema and a small group of women from Crete Church in the south suburbs, including me, traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to better understand the issue of sex trafficking “over there”. The formation of Sheltered91 happened twelve years after that trip, because of God’s relentless pursuit of survivors and His equipping of the Sheltered91 team. By the end of last year, Sheltered91 had a full staff and was able to serve fourteen exploited and trafficked women, leading with introducing them to Jesus. Last night the board heard a powerful participant testimony and in 2025 we’ll celebrate as the first graduate of the Restore program as she walks across that bridge into her new life in Christ! We know this is just the start for many other women, getting to know Jesus and taking those same steps in the coming years. 2024 was fast paced, impactful, filled with grace and even with a little fun. We were richly blessed by God’s plan!

Financial Report

"We give to Sheltered?I because we believe this ministry meets a vital need in our community."

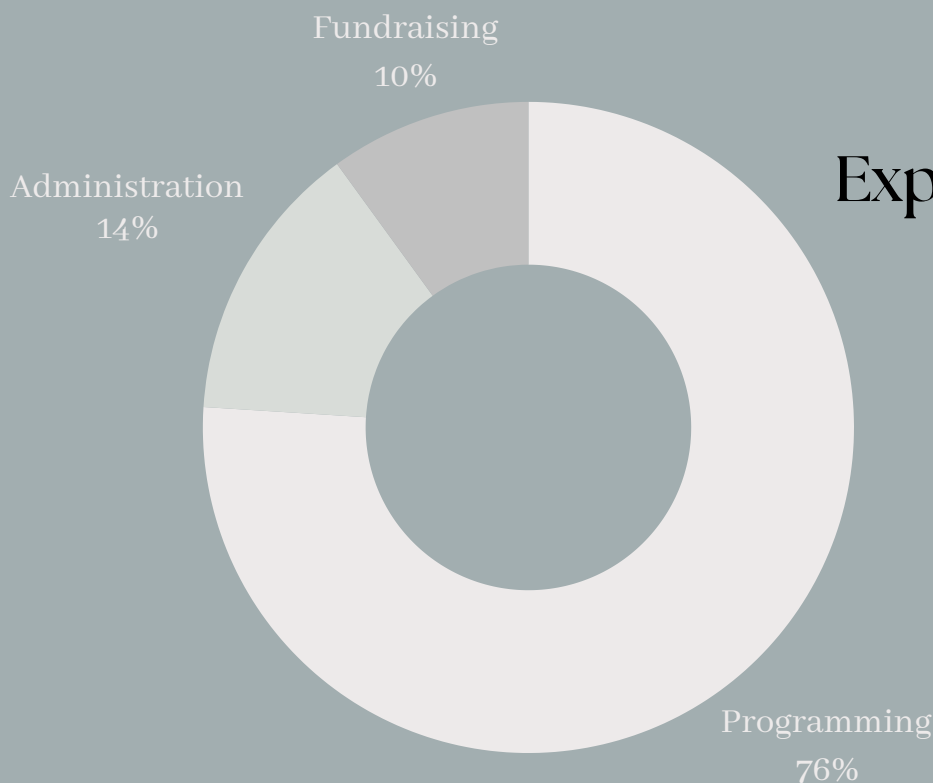
Income

In 2024, the majority of income was generated from individual donors, while support from churches and businesses has doubled in comparison to the previous year.



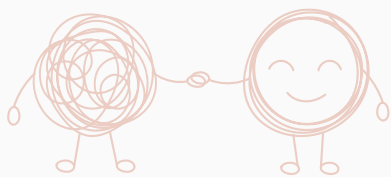
Expenses

In our first full year of serving survivors, over 75% of our expenses were allocated directly to programming.



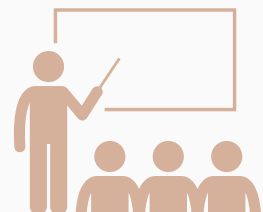
*"Without Sheltered 91,
I'd be nowhere near where I am today."*

Our Impact



179 hours of therapeutic services

Educated 550
people in the
community



Connected with 30 Survivors



10 group meals and
therapy sessions
2 holiday parties

Served 14 Survivors



Provided housing
assistance to 5
Survivors



Contact Us



219-730-2046 | www.sheltered91.org | admin@sheltered91.org

P.O. Box 463 Schererville IN 46375

GET INVOLVED



Pray 9:14

Sign up to receive our weekly prayer text on Friday mornings and pray with us at 9:14am every week.



Volunteer

There are many ways to volunteer with Sheltered91 from donating a meal, to driving or mentoring.



Give

Sheltered91 is a ministry, and we depend on churches, individuals and businesses for support.