



**For Immediate Release**

Dec. 21, 2007

**Contact:** Claire Belby, 317/956-5232 or 317/523-7145

**Local REALTORS® gift \$7,000 to benefit Hendricks County homeless**

This holiday season, the women and children served by Sheltering Wings Center for Women have a little something extra to be thankful for.

This week, the domestic violence shelter was presented with a check for \$7,000 from the REALTOR® Foundation. The funds will be used to support its transitional housing program for women and children of domestic violence. This is the fifth time Sheltering Wings received assistance from the REALTOR® Foundation; in 2007, it was granted \$15,000 to help sustain its emergency and transitional housing, medical services, job training, meals and counseling.

“This investment from the REALTOR® Foundation will impact women fleeing domestic abuse by ensuring they not only have a safe haven from abuse, they have access to essential programs to help them recover,” said Marina Keers of Sheltering Wings. “The transitional housing program at Sheltering Wings provides women with free housing for up to two years, job skills classes, a parenting group, a healthy relationship group and case management services. Our goal is to help women transition from abuse to independent, safe living.”

In October, the REALTOR® Foundation announced a record-breaking \$80,000 in grants to 12 local charities that supply critical, emergency housing for victims of unforeseen circumstances.

In addition to championing Sheltering Wings, grants were also awarded to organizations across central Indiana, including:

- Christian Help, Inc. (Johnson County)
- Coburn Place Safe Haven (Marion County)
- Wellspring, aka Community Service Center of Morgan County (Morgan County)
- Desert Rose (Morgan, Johnson, Owen, Brown and Hendricks County)
- Gennesaret Free Clinic (Marion County)
- Hancock Hope House (Hancock, Shelby and Rush County)
- Holy Family Services (Marion County)
- Julian Center (Marion County)
- Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center – Fostering Independence (Marion County)
- Partners in Housing Development Corporation (Marion County)
- Pathway to Recovery (Marion County)

Established in 1984, the REALTOR® Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR). Through its work in transitional housing — which the Foundation defines as the step between emergency shelter and permanent homeownership — the organization partners with existing organizations to address homelessness throughout central Indiana.

Each year, the Foundation looks to support the vital work of organizations that serve people displaced because of domestic violence, natural disaster, or those affected by economic hardships that have made them temporarily homeless.

“The extent of homeless in central Indiana is inexcusable. REALTORS® have now made a huge step forward in this fight by raising enough to award grants to 12 organizations,” said Mark Dudley, 2007 president of the REALTOR® Foundation. “These groups all fill a unique need and are spread across the region allowing our dollars to help more people than ever before in one grant cycle – it’s tremendously gratifying.”

Money was raised through annual events like the REALTOR® Foundation Golf Outing, and individual and corporate donations from the real estate community.

*For more information on the REALTOR® Foundation, visit [www.realtorfoundation.org](http://www.realtorfoundation.org).*

###

*This information has been provided by the REALTOR® Foundation and the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR). Established in 1984, the REALTOR® Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR). MIBOR, the professional association representing central Indiana's REALTORS®, serves the needs of more than 7,500 members in Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, and Shelby counties.*