"I was at the lowest spot anyone could be. Setting short-term goals and checking them off helped build my self-esteem. If I can do it, anybody can.”  
- Cara

Friends,

For almost 40 years, Alternatives Inc. has been a place for new beginnings. Many of our clients, like Cara, come to us in need of shelter and in search of ways to build a better future. To help meet their immediate and long-term needs, our staff has responded this year with several new beginnings of our own. Among them:

- Alternatives has joined a cohort of Indiana domestic abuse agencies participating in a national program called Move to End Violence. Working collaboratively, we are gathering research that will move us beyond crisis intervention and toward more in-depth prevention.

- We are supporting the introduction of a Lethality Assessment tool to help law enforcement officers assess the likelihood that domestic violence situations could escalate leading to serious injury or homicide. At the center of the assessment tool is a list of questions officers ask victims. The score that emerges helps indicate whether they should contact a victim’s advocate immediately or make a referral for assistance.

- Our new three-year strategic plan (2017-2019) is in place and calls for intense efforts to increase awareness and prevention of domestic violence in our East Central Indiana service area.

- We have begun training our staff on inclusiveness to ensure we never use words that unintentionally make a client feel uncomfortable.

- Our staff are expanding the Raise the Bar program statewide. They offer training to employees of alcohol-serving establishments on how to recognize signs of potential domestic or sexual victimization and provide the skills to intervene safely.

- With the retirement of Mary Jo Lee as Alternatives’ long-serving CEO, we have reorganized our staff, reassigned some responsibilities, and have created the position of community engagement specialist to strengthen our relationships within the counties we serve.

The community has been especially generous this year with our list of donors exceeding 300 names for the first time in our history. Many supporters responded with memorial gifts in tribute to Lori Spillane, a former Alternatives board member who worked tirelessly on our behalf. Eradicating domestic violence was one of Lori’s passions, and her legacy includes the creation of our annual Holiday Heroes shop that enables children in our shelter to shop for their family at Christmastime. Holiday Heroes has become a tradition at Alternatives and is an annual project of employees at Availity and Neuroscience Research, Eli Lilly and Company.

Friends turned out in record numbers in 2017 to support our various fund-raising events. As examples, our annual golf outing raised $31,000; our first-ever auction of new and gently used purses generated gifts of $24,000; and Mary Jo’s retirement gala resulted in an outpouring of support totaling a phenomenal $43,000. And speaking of Mary Jo’s retirement celebration... Our board members surprised her with the announcement they have established a scholarship fund in her honor. We’re in the process of determining application dates and details, but we envision annually awarding a scholarship grant to a recipient who has been affected by domestic violence in some way.

We were honored this year when the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence cited four of our employees for their work on behalf of victims. Kandi Floyd was named 2016 Outstanding Domestic Violence Professional; Ashley Waterbury-Carpenter and Rachael Smith were honored as 2016 Outstanding Preventionists; and Mary Jo Lee received the Harlene Bartlett Award.

Our sincere thanks go out to Jack Shearer and Linda Hajduk who retired from our leadership board after many years of dedicated service. We welcomed incoming board members, Julie Hettinga and Kristin Balazentis.

As we begin a new year with new faces, new responsibilities, and new challenges, we feel we are making real progress toward fulfilling our mission to eradicate domestic and sexual violence through education, prevention, and intervention. We identify with the words of Hannah, a former shelter resident who credits Alternatives with helping her make a fresh start: “I am stronger than ever and pumped full of hope.”

Thomas F. Bannon  
President

John Y. Lee  
Chief Executive Officer
Circle of Friends

Indiana Firefighters Association
IU Health Tipton Hospital J. Crew
Preetham & Sony Jetty, MD
Todd Jones
Kappa Kappa Kappa, Lambda Chapter
Keg-N-Bottle, Inc.
Cagney King
Kiwanis Club of Greenfield
Lafayette Township Home Ec Club
Senator Timothy & Cynthia Lanane
Lavelle Financial
Timothy & Jeanne Lee
Kristi Lemenick
Lets Paint 4 Fun, Inc.
Robert & Julia Likens
Wes & Diana Likens
Lincoln Square Family Restaurant
Jim & Tracy Limville
LLR Inc.
Tom & Marcia Lyons
Madison County Bar Association
Madison County Federal Credit Union
Maplewood Cemetery
Gary Martin
Ben & Sandy McCurdy, MD
James & Margaret McKeen
Ronald L. McNabney, Attorney at Law
Ronald & Sharon McNabney
Scott & Lynn Mellinger
Jeff & Pam Mock
Modern Trailer Sales
Jennifer Neff & Girl Scout Troop #2096
New Horizon United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women
Pendleton First United Methodist Church
Charles & Karen Pfeiffer
Elizabeth Ploog
R.A. Pritt Electric, Inc.
Craig & Beatrice Ramey
RBC
Redder Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.
Renewing Management, Inc.
Lori Lynn Reynolds
Riley & Sons Inc.
Raymond & Patricia Robak
Robins’ Carpet Cleaning
Helen Roof
Rowland Title Company
Royal Flush Plumbing
Rosselle-Johnson Funeral Service
Jane E. Ruff
Sagamore Training Systems
St. Vincent Mercy Hospital
Tony & Mary Schmid
Thomas & Susan Seel
Richard & Donna Sharp
Sara M. Shipman
Jennifer Sigler
Julie Slavon
R. Rev. & Mrs. William E. Smalley
Jada Sparks, Carpenter Realtors
Lori Spencer
State Farm Insurance
Dick Laird
State Street Pub
Chester & Joyce Stewart
John P. Summers
Rebecca Ann Summer
Melissa Supan
Tipton Kiwanis Club
A Total Tan of Anderson
Trinity United Methodist Church
Jill Troha
TRUCKSHOW.ORG
Amy Turner
UAW Local 662 Retiree Chapter
UAW Local 663 Retiree Chapter
John & Cynthia Vajner
Warner Bodies
Clayton Winston
Michael & Ann Wilczynski
Kellie Wille-Bush
Bryan R. Williams
Diane Wilson
Sarah Wilson
Paule Wright
Ye Olde Head Shoppe
Salon & Spa LLC
George & Kathleen Zink
Rhea D. Zink
5 Things YOU HELPED US Achieve in 2017

- Provided 8,045 safe nights in our emergency shelter for 362 individuals impacted by domestic and sexual violence
- Responded to 3,927 crisis line calls
- Served 17,762 meals and snacks
- Helped 440 people through our non-residential services
- Trained 120 alcohol servers to recognize the signs of a potential assault and how to intervene on behalf of the victim

Funders

- Anderson Community School Corporation
- Anderson/Madison County Association of Realtors, Inc.
- Brees Dream Foundation
- Christ Church Cathedral
- City of Anderson CDBG
- City of Greenfield
- Community Hospital Anderson
- Community Materials Corporation
- Domestic Violence Network
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis
- Hamilton County CDBG Program
- Hancock County Community Foundation
- Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority
- Legacy Fund, a CICF affiliate
- Madison County Coalition Against Substance Abuse
- Madison County Community Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- The REALTOR® Foundation
- Sam’s Club Community Funding
- Shelter Alliance
- Tipton County Foundation
- Tipton County Foundation Women’s Fund
- United Way of Central Indiana
- United Way of Madison County
- Vectren Foundation
- Verizon Foundation
- Walmart Foundation
- Youth Leadership Academy of Madison County
Alternatives Inc. strives to eradicate domestic and sexual violence through education, prevention, and intervention in Central Indiana.

Mission Impact Testimonials

PAULA’S STORY

“I would like to be an advocate for abused women and children. I am determined that my story will not die, neither will I ever be ashamed to tell of my journey.”
— Paula

“Paula” was alone with an abusive husband. It was at the hospital after he had physically assaulted her that she was directed to Alternatives. “Alternatives has impacted my life and has given me strong determination to help fulfill my goals.” Paula wishes to go back to school and pursue a career as a CNA.

Her journey has given her purpose to help others and she says this to others facing abuse. “Seek help once your abuse starts. It will not stop, no matter how much the abuser promises that it will never happen again. It will and it will get worse. At the first sign or act of abuse, don’t hesitate. Seek help. Don’t be a victim. Love does not hurt.”

FIONA’S STORY

“Alternatives has made a huge impact on my life. I spent almost a year and a half there. If it wasn’t for the support of the staff, I’m not sure where I would be today.”
— Fiona

“Fiona” was led to Alternatives the night her ex pointed a gun at her and told her son that he was going to kill her. Alternatives was the only place she knew of and because of embarrassment, she had put off leaving much longer than she felt she should have. During Fiona’s stay at Alternatives, she received so much help and direction, today she has changed her major to social work so she can help other women.

“The staff at Alternatives helped me realize my own potential and I have been building on it ever since. I am working towards becoming financially stable and finishing my degree at Anderson University. I would like to come back to work in a shelter and help women like me. It’s hard, but I refuse to give up. I want my children to have the best life possible.”
“Without Alternatives, I would be on the streets and would not be able to care for my son.”
- Jessica

“I’ve come a long way. I don’t want my kids to worry about anything. I don’t want them to go through what I went through. A mother is supposed to protect their children.”
- Melinda

“Alternatives saved me and was my pillar of support during a time of unimaginable pain & chaos.”
- Tiffany

“I never had a support system before Alternatives. They helped change my attitude and learn to put my kids first.”
- Julie
MACKENZIE GREER
Community Partner

“We are so pleased to be able to partner with Alternatives to bring the residents new clothing and remind them they are valued, loved, and worthy of compassion.”

Mackenzie is a volunteer who is using her own business to bring joy to the residents of Alternatives. Through LuLaRoe, Mackenzie has come to the agency and given the residents opportunity to look through the different clothing styles and make two personal selections. Mackenzie encourages her LuLa community to help meet our immediate needs and therefore, continues to help grow our support.

There are many ways to give to the agency and we are so thankful to Mackenzie for her creative and truly impactful ideas, which offer hope to those who may be battling lingering effects from past abuse.

Victims are not alone, and can escape the terror.

SARAH WILSON
Board Member

“Having been a victim of domestic abuse, I have always wanted to help others realize they are not alone and can escape the terror and break the cycle.”

Sarah joined our board in May 2013 to help bring domestic violence awareness into her community, where she is one of the leaders of the Hancock County Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She was a victim (although she doesn’t like the word victim) of domestic abuse. She considers herself lucky she had a family to help her get out of the situation before it impacted her children, not wanting her son or daughter growing up thinking abuse was acceptable. Sarah appreciates that in addition to being a shelter, Alternatives focuses on education to help break the cycle of abuse. Alternatives is honored to have Sarah, her passion and support for this cause that is near to her heart.

Volunteering makes a big impact on our mission.
2017 FINANCIALS

WHERE OUR FUNDS COME FROM

- Community Support: 31%
- Federal & State Grants: 45%
- Foundations & United Ways: 21%
- Program Fees: 1%
- Investments: 2%

HOW WE USE OUR FUNDS

- Emergency Shelter: 60%
- Transitional Housing: 6%
- Prevention: 5%
- Outreach: 17%
- Admin. & Fundraising: 12%

REVENUE

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<th>Revenue Source</th>
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<td>Inkind Contributions</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Federal &amp; State Grants</td>
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<td>Program Fees</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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EXPENSES

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LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Thomas F. Bannon: President
- Christine L. Nottingham: Vice President
- John B. Harris: Treasurer
- Kristi Lemerrick: Secretary
- Tina Baker: Head UC Racing & Casino
- Kristin Balazentis: PNC Bank
- Alfred E. Behrens: Behrens Paint Spot
- Marsha D. Gebuhr: Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis
- Julie Hettinga: Likens Farms & Trinity UMC
- Dr. Patrick Hill: Anderson Community School Corporation Board of Trustees & Dept. of Labor Studies, IU School of Social Work
- Margaret M. McKee: El Lilly & Company
- Beatrice R. Ramey: Right at Home
- Mary Schmid: Kleemme Maintenance & Construction Inc.
- David A. Shapiro, M.D.: Henry County Memorial Hospital
- Blanchard H. Shearer: Attorney-at-Law
- Sandra L. Volk: Community Volunteer
- Diane R. Wilson: RE/MAX Real Estate Groups
- Sarah Wilson: Eli Lilly & Company

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- Mary Schmid, Chair
- David A. Shapiro, M.D.
- Sarah Wilson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Thomas F. Bannon, Chair
- John B. Harris
- Kristi Lemerrick
- Christine L. Nottingham
- Aaron Regier
- Terra Skinner

FINANCE / PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- Alfred E. Behrens
- John B. Harris, Chair
- Mary Huff-Campbell
- Christine L. Nottingham
- Aaron Regier
- Terra Skinner

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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- Melinda Neeley
- Beatrice Ramey
- Pat Storm
- Shawn Swindell

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

- Kristin Balazentis**
- Julie Hettinga**
- William Ingles
- Julianne Jarrell
- Jim Linville
- Sharon L. Rich, Chair
- Kati Wasilewski

TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Thomas F. Bannon, Chair
- John B. Harris
- Kristi Lemerrick
- Christine L. Nottingham
- Sandra L. Volk

*Service concluded in 2017
**Joined in 2017

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Hancock County: 317.462.8777
Tipton County: 765.675.1409