



Hope Deferred and a Call to Justice

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick." — Proverbs 13:12

For many, these words ring painfully true this year.

In the decades since credible allegations of sexual exploitation linked to Jeffrey Epstein first emerged, including reports in the late 1990s and a federal investigation in 2007 that documented exploitation of minors, justice has felt slow, incomplete, and, for countless survivors, elusive. The staggering release of millions of documents in recent years was meant to shed light. Yet too often it has done the opposite: exposing survivors' identities in public records without their consent, rather than holding all responsible parties accountable.

Survivors of trafficking and sexual assault already carry immense burdens. When institutions fail to protect their privacy, respect their dignity, and pursue justice with urgency and integrity, it deepens the

wounds of trauma and discourages reporting of similar crimes. It reinforces a dangerous message: that survivors are seen, but not believed; heard, but not protected and traffickers will not face consequences.

Just last year, Virginia Giuffre, one of the most vocal survivors who fought to bring these abuses into the light, died by suicide. Her advocacy helped give voice to others who were silenced for too long. Her loss is a stark reminder of how deep the pain runs and how desperately the world needs systems that deliver justice with compassion and accountability.

No wonder trafficking and sexual assault remain underreported. When justice is delayed, obscured, or mishandled, hope withers.

As people of faith, we are called not simply to feel outrage, but to act. Isaiah 1:17 urges us: **“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and please the widow’s cause.”**

What does that look like?

- Center survivors’ voices, but protect their privacy.
- Support trauma-informed legal and reporting reforms.
- Advocate for transparent institutional accountability at every level.

Justice is not a moment, it’s a movement that requires action.

If you are outraged, *please know that we are too*. Instead of consuming stories about survivors, advocate for them. Stand with them. Work with organizations like Sheltered91 and local government to ensure history does not repeat itself.

Survivors *deserve* justice; not just in word, but in practice.

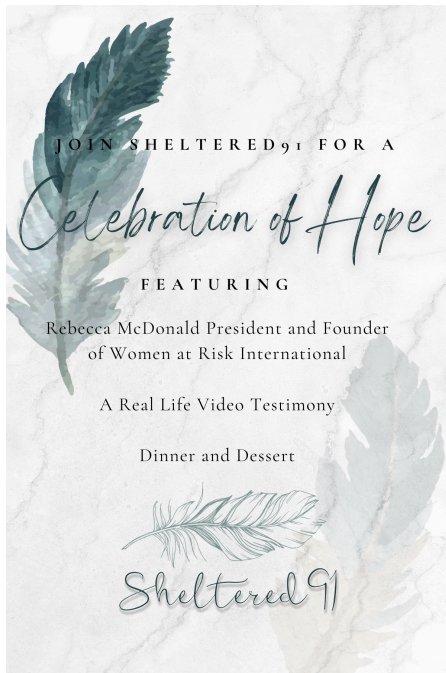
Julie Ipema, MSW MDiv

Founder and CEO

Support Survivors

Celebration of Hope ~ April 23

Join us for an inspiring evening of celebration as we reflect on all God has done through Sheltered91. Our theme



this year, "Building Strong Foundations for Brighter Futures," highlights the life-changing impact made possible through your support. The event will be held on April 23 @ 6:30pm at Briar Ridge Country Club. Reserve your seat or a table below!

Reserve Your Seat

Check Out Our 2025 Gratitude Report

I am so excited to share our 2025 Gratitude Report with you! Reflecting on the ways God, and so many of you, blessed Sheltered91 this past year is truly one of the best parts of my job. Our focus word for last year was peace, and throughout this report you will see how God used both people and circumstances to bring a deeper sense of wholeness and peace to Sheltered91 and to the women we serve. Click on the picture to access the report and learn about the difference your partnership can make.



We Love Our Volunteers!

Our staff would not be able to do what we do without the many volunteers who generously share their time, talents, and compassion with us. They are the heart behind our mission and the hands that help carry it forward every single day.



This month, we had the joy of honoring these incredible individuals at our Volunteer Appreciation Brunch held at Faith Church Highland. It was a meaningful time of gratitude, fellowship, and celebration as we reflected on the impact they make in the lives of those we serve.



To each of our volunteers: thank you. Your willingness to show up, serve faithfully, and invest in others truly makes a difference.

If you feel called to get involved, we would love to welcome you. There are many different ways to serve, whether behind the scenes or directly supporting our programs. Click the link below to explore current opportunities and submit an application.



Together, we can continue making a lasting impact.



Get Involved

Sneak Peak ~ Video Coming...



Enhancing Trust

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.