

## Linda Wilk

Linda Wilk came to Marion, IN from Nebraska in 1989 to pursue a career in journalism after receiving her Bachelor of Science. She worked as a reporter for the Chronicle Tribune until 1994 when she was hired by Family Service Society, Inc. as the Director of Programming for Hands of Hope during a time when domestic violence was becoming prevalent in the community. Before accepting the new position, she had been serving the organization as a volunteer in her free time. Wilk is married and has three daughters.

Wilk oversees the Hands of Hope programming including the shelter, the staff, educational programs, parental programs, and partnerships with schools and neighborhood associations. Wilk serves as Chair of the Mayor's Commission Against Domestic Violence, and is a member of the Governor's Domestic Violence Prevention & Treatment Council as well as the Indiana Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Council.

Wilk sees her work being fulfilled when she witnesses people going good, caring things in the community. "I really believe it's a ripple effect. If we can do our part, I believe others will see and do their part. Even the small things can be impactful." – Wilk

Whether you are striving for peace or you're doing a simple good deed in your community, Wilk says you must take action somehow. "If you don't, nothing is going to change, and things will eventually deteriorate." Wilk also asks the following question of the Marion community: "If you are influencing others, is it for the good, or for the bad?"

Wilk says she loves this community and loves her neighborhood, but she says she is frustrated with the negativity. "When I decided to relocate to Marion, I was asked 'Why would you want to live here?' Marion can be its own worst enemy. We have so many good things going on.....you just need to open your eyes." – Linda Wilk