



WOMEN'S REFUGE OF VERO BEACH

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength

October 2024

Celebrating: Faith, Family, and Healing

We're excited to invite you to our Seventh Annual Christmas Banquet this December 14th, where we will be presenting our premier speaker, Leah Vance Simpson.

Leah longs for people to see and understand the joy of embracing every day by understanding God's story. She received her degree in public speaking/communications and spent time working in education, broadcast sales, and local government. As a Christ follower, she is enthusiastic about all things home and family. Spiritual formation, family, mental and emotional health, domestic proficiency, and hospitality all provide motivation for Leah's content on a podcast, blog, and in two books. She spent over 25 years homeschooling her five children, as well as tutoring other children.

Leah writes a weekly blog, *Nurturing My Nest*, and hosts a companion weekly podcast, *Embrace Your Everyday*, with her husband, Tim. Both *Nurturing My Nest: Intentional Homebuilding and Custom Built Education*, and *Hum of the Home: Routines and Rhythms of Homemaking*, offer inspiration and practical ideas.

In addition to the full-time work of educating her own children, she has served as a Bible teacher, the leader for children's conferences in India, coached students to national wins in speech and debate, directed a large Awana Bible memory group, founded a field-trip program, and pioneered several sizable educational groups.

The primary spiritual influence in Leah's life was her mother, Aloha. After many years of missionary work, the normally positive Aloha found herself struggling with discouragement, despair, and depression compounded by menopausal symptoms. In 2002 after ten years of very little sleep, severe weight loss, breast cancer, and two psychotic episodes, led to being admitted for a 15-day stay in a psychiatric ward. This prompted Leah to reach out to Donna Robart at the Women's Refuge.

By God's kindness, Aloha spent the next three months at the Refuge. Her grace journey is one of incredible healing and renewed joy. Aloha's family feels that the work done by God at the Refuge gave them an additional 18 years with their mother. In the following years, the Vance family has cheerfully given to encourage the ongoing work on the Refuge.

Join us at this year's banquet to hear more of Aloha's remarkable story as told by her oldest daughter, Leah.



Leah Vance Simpson

Monthly Message from the Executive Director

I encourage you to listen in on the podcast "Embrace Your Everyday" with Leah and Tim Simpson. The show is very uplifting and informative! This couple has great chemistry as you will witness at our upcoming banquet.

Home and family resonate with me, being one of six children and from parents married for over 65 years. I give my parents credit for my spiritual formation, being the first ones to introduce me to God. They also introduced me and my siblings to the value of participating in housekeeping chores and hard work. In early childhood, my parents' friend asked why such a big family didn't have a dishwasher. My father replied wisely that he had six of them.

Family life can have its struggles I admit. But it can teach us so much about being others minded, helping one another and striving together to accomplish goals. I am blessed to have great memories of my childhood.

Hearing some experiences of those we counsel, I realize how fortunate I was to have the love of my parents and siblings, and recognize no family is perfect. At the Women's Refuge, we commonly refer to ourselves as family and that is true. We are the family of Christ and are journeying through this life together, distinct individuals yet united for His purpose.

As the Refuge family, we recognize that God is calling us to extend help, hope and healing to those families and individuals experiencing emotional, mental and spiritual struggles. As Leah can attest, getting help can impact entire families and generations in a positive way. Call us today to hear how we can help you!



Diane A. Ludwig
Executive Director



I came to the Refuge in January of 2024 feeling depressed and lost. Though I made excuses not to come, my sister encouraged me, and God made sure I got here. The experience was life-changing and life-saving. Counseling and group sessions, especially the Codependency class, gave me tools to lead a healthier life.

I often refer back to my notes, helping me maintain boundaries and heal relationships. I am beyond grateful to the women at the Refuge. Their support allows me to face life's challenges with new strength.

Kathy Forelli

EMBRACE YOUR EVERYDAY
It's a Podcast, but it's
also an invitation!

Although life is full of highs and lows, more time is spent in those in-between moments. This podcast is about doing the small everyday things which enable you to do the grand things in your marriage, home and family.

Live a life you will remember.
<https://nurturingmynest.com/podcast>



Listen Now



Spreading Hope and Healing

On September 9th, Christ the King Church of Sebastian graciously invited the Women's Refuge to share our message of help, hope, and healing. We were honored to be selected for the ELCA Annual "God's Work. Our Hands" Project.

The congregation gave us a warm and heartfelt welcome. Diane Ludwig eloquently shared our mission, and we were moved by the beautiful testimonies from Lisa Miller and Kathy Thompson.



Save the Date

December 14, 2024

*Women's Refuge of Vero Beach
Annual Christmas Banquet*

**Join us for an elegant evening
of dining and entertainment
to support our ministry.**

You're invited!

MEET & GREET

Meet the Staff – Campus Tour – Learn More

RSVP: (772) 770-4424

When?

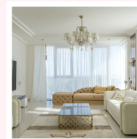
Wednesday
September 25 & October 30
10:30 – 11:30 am

Where?

Women's Refuge Campus
1850 Lemon Ave
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Shop 🛍️ Donate 🛍️ Volunteer

Proceeds benefit the Women's Refuge of Vero Beach



Shop new season styles now
in-store and online!

Monday & Saturday : 10AM-3PM
Tuesday - Friday 10AM - 4PM

(772) 567-3598 | wrrstore@gmail.com | 1615 10th Ave. Vero Beach, FL

poshmark.com/closet/womensrefuge [📷](#) [📱](#) [📺](#) [📺](#) chairish.com/shop/wrrsale



*Thank you to our
newsletter sponsors!*

