



WOMEN'S REFUGE
OF VERO BEACH
Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength

May 2024



Generations of Changed Lives

Acts 20:24 is the scripture that best describes to me the calling for Christian mothers. *“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”* (NLT)

I am in the process of writing true short stories for my children and grandchildren in remembrance of some of the ways the Lord has ministered through my husband and I, which led me to think about my own mother in a new and wonderful way.

My mother died when I was 19 after suffering with cancer for the last five years of her life, so I never knew her as an adult. Now, here I am 88 years old and just beginning to “know” her. There is knowing and there is **knowing**.

I knew my mom loved the Lord, after all she took my brother and I to Sunday school every single Sunday. I still have a lovely chain of pins for 10 years of perfect attendance which showed me that she was serious and steadfast about her desire for us to know the Lord. She was a Sunday school teacher to the very young, but she was never my teacher. My mother grew up on a farm and had 18 siblings which included three sets of twins, of which she was one.

Recently, I had occasion to connect with an old Sunday school friend who was five years behind me. It has been over 60 years since I had contact with her, and she told me something really special. She said, “I have wanted to tell you that I am so grateful to your mom.

She was my Sunday school teacher and led me to the Lord as a little girl and changed my whole life.” What a precious gift from the Lord! I now could see my mom as an adult.

Why would I share this precious knowledge and gift from the Lord with you? Because I was a Biblical counselor at the Women’s Refuge of Vero Beach for close to 25 years and saw many broken women, many of whom were mothers, who needed a place to rest, heal and be restored. I had the privilege of counseling and ministered to many broken women over the years, many of whom were mothers who were able to return to their homes renewed, healed with relationships restored.

The Women’s Refuge is a special and unique ministry that the Lord brought into existence over 27 years ago to minister through the Word of God and many other Biblical resources to bring healing and wholeness to wounded or broken women, many of whom were mothers. Remember the old saying, “If momma ain’t right, nothing is right.”

I am grateful for the many friends of the Women’s Refuge of Vero beach who have sacrificed to make this unique and Biblical ministry happen.

Barbara Gardner
Biblical Counselor, Advisor, Author



Monthly Message from the Executive Director



As I was preparing for this message, I asked our dedicated intern, Ashley, what came to her mind when I mentioned the month of May. She smiled wide and exclaimed “Flowers!” I heartily agreed. Flowers are wonderful, they are pretty, give off a pleasant scent and they sometimes produce **fruit!** Yes, the maturation process of flowering shrubs can produce the juiciest fruit of strawberries, blackberries and other fruit. But it does all start with a seed; a seed that has been planted in rich soil, watered, cared for and fed.

At the Refuge, we want the world to know about our Heavenly Gardner, the One who cares for us, tends to our needs, waters us with His Word, and helps keep out the weeds that can choke our growth. Our desire is to plant the seeds of hope to the frail ones who need the Master’s touch to bring them back to full life; to blossom forth and *“spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.”* 2 Cor 2:14 ESV

Diane A. Ludwig
Executive Director

Surrender is freedom!

“This has been life changing for me. I have uncovered some issues I was burying and realized my need for forgiveness. I have learned so much about myself and who I was and know I need to completely surrender to Jesus. I have learned not only how I need to forgive, but about how I was broken. God has held me through it all with His grace and His mercy. I am so encouraged and excited to make great changes, mainly putting God in charge, not me!” ~ Kathy




Discover our Garden of Grace Podcast:
Cultivating Inspiration, Growth, and Transformation
Listen the 3rd Monday of every month
youtube.com/@womensrefugevb

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the resolute team from Treasure Coast Tree & Landscaping for their invaluable assistance in enhancing the beauty of our campus. Sue, our exceptional groundskeeper, spearheads a successful recycling initiative that not only pays for tools but also enhances the upkeep of our immaculate grounds.



Drew, Estevan, Alex, and Sue

Anger Management

Identify what anger means to you, what its purpose may be, where it comes from, and how to gain control over it.



6 week class; \$40 plus cost of the book (\$15)

May 3 – June 7 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Call (772) 770-4424 info@womensrefugevb.org

This month, the Women’s Refuge was delighted to savor the delicious generosity of breakfast burritos, a thoughtful gift from Pathway Church!

Thank you!

Bible Study (Coed): Free

Ongoing – Fridays, 8:30 – 9:30 am

You’re invited to our Meet & Greet
• May 29 • June 26

- Learn about our services
- Food and fellowship
- Tour our campus
- RSVP (772) 770-4424

Wish List

- Bags of almonds (plain)
- Ziplock bags (all sizes)
- Gift cards from Publix and Walmart (for food and household items)
- Gift cards for gasoline

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Proceeds Benefit Women’s Refuge of Vero Beach



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RESALE SHOP**

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