



WOMEN'S REFUGE OF VERO BEACH

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength

February 2024

"What is God's Heart Towards You?"

We usually think of romantic love when we think of Valentine's Day. However, it is an appropriate time for us to think about God's love for us. Have you ever wondered what God's heart toward you is? Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard captures God's heart towards us in his parable

"Suppose there was a king who loved a humble maiden. The king was like no other king. Every statesman trembled before his power. No one dared breathe a word against him, for he had the strength to crush all opponents. And yet this mighty king was melted by love for a humble maiden who lived in a poor village in his kingdom. How could he declare his love for her? In an odd sort of way, his kingliness tied his hands. If he brought her to the palace and crowned her head with jewels and clothed her body in royal robes, she would surely not resist – no one dared resist him. But would she love him? She would say she loved him, of course, but would she truly? Or would she live with him in fear, nursing a private grief for the life she had left behind? Would she be happy at his side? How could he know for sure? If he rode to her forest cottage in his royal carriage, with an armed escort waving bright banners, that too would overwhelm her. He did not want a cringing subject. He wanted a lover, an equal. He wanted her to forget that he was a king and she a humble maiden and to share love across

the gulf between them. For it is only in love that the unequal can be made equal. The king, convinced he could not elevate the maiden without crushing her freedom, resolved to descend to her. Clothed as a beggar, he approached her cottage with a worn cloak fluttering loose about him. This was not just a disguise; the king took on a totally new identity. He had renounced his throne to declare his love and to win hers."

In Philippians 2:6-8 we read, "Jesus Christ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

Friends of the Refuge, may there be no doubt of God's heart toward you. He has proven his love for us through Jesus Christ!

Becky Calahan
Board President



Monthly Message from the Executive Director



We Need You! — I am reminded daily how good God is to us. From the ones who "happened" to hear about the Refuge to those who have given their time and talents over the many years. We are amazed at how God brings people to us who want to give back in some way, whether it's helping on a project, giving of their resources or by prayerful and financial support. During this new season, I encourage those who have a bit of time to spare, a few hours here or there, to

volunteer with us. We have a need for help in picking up donations, answering phones in the office, collecting scrap metal to recycle, gardening needs, helping at our resale shop and much more. Even if it's a one-time event. I pray God continues to draw by His Spirit those He knows we need. That is you!

Diane A. Ludwig
Executive Director

Jumpstart into the New Year!



Meet Barb from Michigan. She is one of our 2-week residents who is getting the year off to a focused and godly start. She is enjoying the quiet time away to get into God's Word and study about how she can embrace His truth. We so often listen to the lies the world tells us. If you or anyone you know needs a jumpstart into this new year, please come and see us!

Support Groups

Anger Management: This class helps women identify what anger means to them, its purpose, where it comes from, and how to control it. Anger Management is a 6-week class held on Fridays, 3-5 pm from February 16 - March 22. Cost of the class is \$40 plus the cost of the book.

Shelter from the Storm: This class provides hope and healing in a safe environment for women who have suffered from sexual abuse. Shelter from the Storm is a 12-week class held on Thursdays, 3-5 pm from March 28 - June 16. Cost of the class is \$60 plus the cost of the book.

You're invited to our
Meet & Greet
• Feb 28 • March 27

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

We are hiring! We are looking for a dynamic, Spirit-filled woman to join us as a full-time Marketing Coordinator/Public Relations Manager. This position provides development, planning & management of events/marketing activities to raise awareness & support of the ministry. Responsible for all fundraising activities including grants, social media & print marketing. She must be passionate, energetic, & team-oriented, have excellent verbal & written communication, interpersonal & negotiation skills, time management & organizational skills. Attention to detail & ability to meet deadlines a must. Proficient with MS Office Suite and/or related software such as InDesign, Canva, etc. Min. 3 yrs experience in Communications/Public Relations/Marketing or related fields highly desired. Salary negotiable based on experience.

Apply today! Email: info@womensrefugevb.org



VNA and Women's Refuge

2024 Health & Wellness Forum *and luncheon*

Wednesday
March 13, 2024
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Oak Harbor

4755 South Harbor Drive, Vero Beach

Tickets: \$125 per person

Doors open at 11:00 am

Visit with Speakers and Panelists
11:00 – 11:45 am

Luncheon and Program
Start at 12:00 pm

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

womensrefugevb.org/events/health--wellness-forum

Guest Speakers and Panelists

Key Note Speaker
Dr. David Peter, Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital

Lundy Fields, President/CEO Visiting Nurse Association of the Treasure Coast

Diane Ludwig, Executive Director Women's Refuge

Vicki Soule, Chief Executive Officer Treasure Coast Community Health

Marie Andress, Chief Executive Officer, Whole Family Health

Dr. Phil Cromer, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Association in Indian River County

Dr. Wayne Creelman, Psychiatrist University of Florida

Karen Diegl, President/CEO Senior Resource Association

Dr. Rich Wyderski, Owner Wyderski Health

MC/Moderator: Cindy Bryant Indian River Publishing & Media Consultants, Inc



Back Row: Jill Miller, Lanie Bishop, Lynne Lerch, CJ McDaniel, Paula Bogart, Carol Lopez

Front Row: Diane Ludwig, Suzanne Chesser, and Pam Proctor

"Grant"ing Grace!

The Women's Refuge staff would like to thank Suzanne Chesser with the Fred Griffin Legacy Foundation for the generous grant recently awarded to the Refuge. It is with humble and gracious hearts that we accept donations and grants that enable us to continue serving God by serving those He brings to the Refuge. We could not do it without the support from others.

Thank you to our newsletter sponsors!

