## WOMEN'S REFUGE

May 2021

Happy Mother's Day!

## A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

"The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense." Prov. 27:9

More than 900 years before Christ, the wisest man in the world, Solomon, wrote about the advantages of companionship. In Ecclesiastes 4:9 he states, "*Two people are better* off than one, for they can help each other succeed."

I have been gifted by the loyalty, support, and companionship of Cheryl Deal for my entire time at the Women's Refuge. Her dedication to the ministry has helped it prosper in many areas.

Therefore, I am both happy and sad to announce that Cheryl Deal is now officially retired from her position as our Director of Counseling Services. Cheryl has been on staff at the Women's Refuge since 2007, almost 15 years, serving in many capacities. One of the most important roles she has played has been my steadfast friend and confidante. She has had a great ability to be future minded for the ministry.

Solomon certainly knew how to sum up our human emotions in his beautiful poetry found in Ecclesiastes 3, titled "A Time For Everything." We are reminded there is a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to embrace and a time for parting. It is sad



to have Cheryl depart yet I rejoice with her as she spends more quality time with her family. I will greatly miss her positive presence and cheerful whistling heard around the office.

Cheryl applied her degree in Marriage and Family Therapy with her knowledge of the Scriptures to reconcile many couples and families. Our community counseling has grown under her direction. She was intimately involved with each resident who came to the Women's Refuge for healing. In addition to the counseling responsibilities, Cheryl was an educator, often facilitating the many support groups offered at

the Refuge. Throughout the years, Cheryl has been responsible for training and equipping our Biblical counselors, interviewing applicants desiring to come into our program, evaluating each individual residents? spiritual, mental and emotional health and developing a curriculum to meet their specific needs. Cheryl regularly met with our house managers and was responsive to support them with training, materials and implementing needed changes. She was instrumental in developing our Online Program, which opened additional help to those all over the world who could not physically attend our program.

And she did all this with grace.

Her thoughtful style as a Director and mentor has played in important role in the growth and success of this ministry.

Cheryl, you are going to be missed. I know you have more than earned the right to spend more time with your loved ones.

Please join me as I extend our warmest wishes for the future to Cheryl Deal and her family.

Diane A. Ludwig

Farewell Prayer Ted & Donna Robart, Founders of the Women's Refuge

## Dear Father,

As we say farewell to our beloved friend, Cheryl, we entrust her into Your care. We pray for happiness and joy to be ahead of her, for wisdom and guidance to be beside her, and for grace and truth to be behind her reminding her of all that she gave to others here at the Women's Refuge. There are many people who came who were genuinely healed emotionally, mentally and spiritually by the gifts and talents that Your Holy Spirit gave for her to share. The staff, the boards and all the past residents and counselees will miss her greatly. I, Donna, will be eternally grateful for all her love, devotion and respect that she gave to me personally. We pray for her husband, Glen, and all their family across the world that You will always love and protect them, wherever they go. We honor them as our family, too. God bless them in Jesus' Name. Amen & amen. Ted and Donna Robart

## Remembering My First Love

I came here as a complete mess, but we all are, honestly. I believe my first love was placed in a human, one that I allowed to completely break me. While here God has reminded me that He is to be "my first love" He needed to isolate me from the world to remind me that He was more than enough. That He is good, faithful, caring, kind and above all, loving. I was reminded that He has amazing plans for me. I thought Christ was my first love. But, I got things turned around. I have learned a lot about forgiveness and the power



of Romans 12:2 and truly understanding Jeremiah 29:11 and God's promise. God is so good and faithful. He is truth and He will set us free, although you can get carried away ... with the world. But Christ will never stop chasing you. Many thanks for the Women's Refuge; they have taught me that love is enough when found in Jesus Christ.

- Izzy, 1 Month Resident



God has taken my sadness from the depression that I had before and when I arrived. He has turned it into His joy that comes bubbling out of me like a fountain. He has reminded me of the truth of my identity in Him. I'm still praying for the restoration of my family, but I now know that my happiness doesn't depend on that and that all things are in God's timing. I am deeply loved by my Father!

-Laura, 1 Month Resident



**Needs** When you give to the Women's Refuge, your investment saves lives... The landscaping budget is limited and that's why Sue can use your help with hedge trimming and edging. Also our residents could benefit from spiral notebooks, pens, and highlighters. Volunteer at the front office and help answer phone calls, filing and more. Please call today (772) 770-4424. You can make a difference!



**Praises** -- We recently received a grant from George E. Warren to purchase a computer for our bookeeping department. Thank you Lord for answered prayer as you also provided the funds to help refurbish our drive way from Christ by the Sea. Praise the Lord!!! Hallelujah AMEN! You deserve to be praised!





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