



*Psalm 46: I God is our refuge and strength*

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."*

*Psalm 32:8*

## Unfolding Grace: Discovering Who He Is

I often think it takes a long time to truly know someone—to see and experience their authentic self. At first, we form impressions of others that may or may not be accurate. As the relationship grows, those impressions either deepen or need to shift. Discovering who someone truly is takes patience, flexibility, and even effort. It's a journey that can span decades.

For example, as we approach our 50th wedding anniversary, I recently learned something new about my husband! Much like marriage—or any friendship—truly knowing God doesn't happen quickly, it takes time.

It takes time to know Him well—to see and experience His character and to come to truly believe that He is who He says He is.

When we first encounter the Lord, we often come with assumptions—some accurate, some distorted. It takes time and grace to come to know Him rightly.

When a woman first comes to the Women's Refuge, she may be struggling in many ways. Her first encounter is with staff members who have come to know the truth about God—His character—and are continuing to grow in their experiential knowledge of Him. The staff of the Women's Refuge seeks to ground each woman in the truth of who God is, using the Bible as their guide and sharing the evidence of their own Christ-transformed lives. These are vital components in healing emotional and spiritual brokenness.



*Bobbi Smick  
Board of Directors*

The Women's Refuge may be a woman's first introduction to the Lord, a source of strength through hardship, or a place where faith deepens and matures. This is God's desire for all of us: to know Him rightly and deeply. And He has provided the Women's Refuge as a way to help fulfill that desire and walk with others on this sacred journey.

## Message from the Executive Director



*Diane A. Ludwig  
Executive Director*

Sitting across from each woman entering our program, there is a polite back and forth as we get to know one another. As the conversation unfolds, they share what led them to ask for help from the Refuge and we inform them of what we offer. First impressions are challenging; they are significant in forming an instant impression of someone which may not necessarily be accurate.

Over time, their true personality comes forth and we see where we can guide them in the truth of who God says they are. Time gives them the opportunity to encounter a new routine, read and understand the Word of God, receive individual counsel for their sufferings and learn new ways to grow in hope and faith. They are active participants in their maturing and healing process.

Being with a woman in this journey can be challenging yet rewarding. It's a joy to us as we see the light of Christ shine forth in those who grab hold of His truth, acknowledge His forgiveness for their past failures and embrace their new identity as His children whom He loves. We discover a new creation!




**Revelation 12:11**  
**"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony . . ."**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**Christmas Banquet**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Saturday, December 13th | 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Oak Harbor Club, 4755 S. Harbor Dr. Vero Beach  
 Join us for an elegant evening of dinner, a silent auction, live music by Riptide, and a special presentation of inspiring testimonials given by women whose lives were transformed at the Refuge.  
**Become a sponsor today and make a lasting impact!**  
 For more information, please visit [www.womensrefugevb.org/ChristmasBanquet/](http://www.womensrefugevb.org/ChristmasBanquet/)  
 Call Judy at 772-770-4424 or email [PR@womensrefugevb.org](mailto:PR@womensrefugevb.org)

September 22, 2025  
 Vero Beach Country Club  
  
**WOMEN'S REFUGE OF VERO BEACH**  
**26th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**  


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**Topics:** What is Codependency? What is wrong with being Codependent? What is the solution? And more.  
**November 6,7,8**  
**\$195** To spend the night on campus  
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 [www.womensrefugevb.org](http://www.womensrefugevb.org)  
 1850 Lemon Ave., Vero Beach  
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**WOMEN'S REFUGE OF VERO BEACH**

## TESTIMONIAL

### Held by Grace: Finding Strength in Shelter from the Storm

I was afraid to begin the *Shelter from the Storm* support group at the Women's Refuge, but I prayed for courage - and God answered.

From the moment I arrived, I was met with love, support, and encouragement by Kathy, CJ, and the other women in the group. The workbook was deep and honest, filled with true survivor stories and comforting, accurate Scripture that pointed me toward healing.

This group gave me the strength to face my past and the hope to move forward. I am no longer alone. God's grace and the kindness of these women carried me through.

**Alone I can't - together we can.**

*Thank You, Lord, for the Women's Refuge.* - Michele

### DONATE ONLINE TODAY

**Your \$60 Gift =**

One hour of biblical individual or family counseling.

Go to our website for more giving options.

[www.womensrefugevb.org](http://www.womensrefugevb.org)



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