



WOMEN'S REFUGE
OF VERO BEACH

HAPPY *Father's Day*

June 2023

HOW DO YOU SPELL LOVE?

As a young boy, sitting in the front seat of my father's taxi, I could hear the chatter of the radio communications between other taxi drivers and the dispatch center. I can recall the darkness broken only by the lights on the dash, and the repetition of streetlights as we passed by houses and businesses, buttoned up for the night. At times, the taxi was a cocoon with just the two of us, wrapped in the smell of old leather and oil. We would talk about anything and nothing and would eventually rest in comfortable silence. The highlight of sharing this time with my father was hearing the parrot, owned by May, the dispatcher, talking into the mic, repeating things we would say back and forth. My Dad and I would roar with laughter. I loved those times.

My Dad was one of 12 children raised during the Depression. There was never enough money to make ends meet. Because of this experience, Dad worked two and sometimes three jobs to provide for our growing family. From the ages of 10 through 17, my father's main employment was as a custodian for our local school. To spend time with my dad, I would assist him working by his side, repairing plumbing, fixing electrical, painting, cleaning, and doing general repairs. This was a critical learning experience in my life with Dad as my mentor. I learned skills of various trades and what sacrifices must be made to provide for others. That has served me well to this very day. I am thankful for the time and effort he poured into me, preparing me to be a capable and confident man.

Proverbs 22:6 *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Recently, I had the joy of spending time with my daughter and her family. I thank God for the opportunity to interact

with them and get to know their interests and concerns. Their laughter was a blessing to hear. However, I noticed our world is full of distractions that rob us of the brief time we have together. Cell phones, electronics, social media, TV, and work issues compete for our attention.

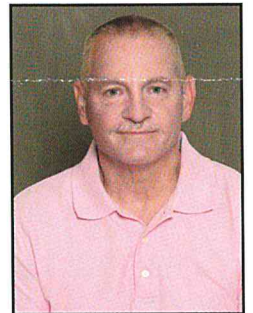
Looking back, I realized I followed in my father's footsteps. It was right to provide for my family, and if it meant working two jobs, I did. Unfortunately, I didn't realize the cost to my children and myself, until it was too late. Children spell love, T-I-M-E. Spending moments with them one on one is critical. Mostly, I was not present for them, but present for others doing my job. My priorities were upside down.

What I am sharing is a hard lesson learned. I pray that some father reading this will rethink the priority of making money over spending time with his spouse and children. Spending time with my earthly father brings back wonderful memories but they can't compare to the time I spend with my heavenly Father. I have full access to Him, any time of day. The joy I have knowing He is there, listening to my concerns, and giving me direction for my life brings me comfort that is hard to put into words. He offers me forgiveness for mistakes I have made as a father and He has graciously redeemed the time.

Job 33:28 *"He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit, and my life will see the light."*

God is our Father and He wants to spend TIME with you because He LOVES you.

Bill Ludwig
Board Member



Prayer by Founder Donna Lee Robart

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us

from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and power, and glory, forever and ever. Amen,

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.



Kimberly and Maddie

3-Month graduates making big strides

The Women's Refuge would like to congratulate Kimberly and Maddie for graduating the 3-month program. Both have plans to continue with their healing and enrollment.

Kimberly says she's found freedom in Christ, grace, and forgiveness. "I hope to seek Him more intimately as He draws me deeper."

According to *Maddie*, she's accomplished so much in so little time. "I've grown in the areas of patience, how to control my anger, and forgive others," she said.

The Lord is doing some great things here at the Women's Refuge. Call 772.770-4424 to learn how you can too!

Lenia is healed

"When I came to the Refuge I was feeling burned out, lost, tired, and confused. These three weeks at the Refuge helped me step back and refocus my priorities. I had the opportunity to deepen my relationship with God and start my healing process. I have learned new tools that can help me as I live a more peaceful life, guided by God. Now I know it is possible to live without fear, the importance of setting healthy boundaries, and I know that God loves me unconditionally." ~*Lenia*



Lenia

Working with Purpose

Debbie Walker heard about the Women's Refuge and its Resale Shop through her church, St. Paul's, a faithful supporter of this ministry. As a sales clerk at the Resale Shop, Debbie helps wherever she's needed. She says, "I like working here knowing that I'm helping others and I am doing it unto the Lord, sharing with the community what the Women's Refuge is all about!"



Debbie

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..."
Colossians 3:23-24.

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 wk class; \$30
\$15 cost of book**

**JUN 9 - JUL 14
3-5 PM**



772-770-4424

www.womensrefugevb.org

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Proceeds Benefit Women's Refuge of Vero Beach





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