

Like a Leaf that Does not Wither



WOMEN'S REFUGE
OF VERO BEACH

October 2021

Psalm 1:2-3 says, "...but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

I was 28 years old, serving as the Assistant Pastor in a medium-sized church. Our oldest son was in preschool, and so when I wasn't working, my attention and focus went to our son, family, and running the household. I was setting very little time, if any, aside for daily devotions. It seemed that we had barely adjusted to the idea of having our second baby when tragedy struck our young family experienced. I was more than halfway through the pregnancy when we learned that our unborn baby boy had died. Due to the term of the pregnancy, I had to go through labor and delivery with our little one. I was grieving, physically exhausted, and my spiritual tank was empty. All those months of working and raising our family but not being in God's Word, caught up to me in our crisis. I was able to take some much-needed time off to rest and heal at my parents' home while they helped take care of our oldest son.

Early one morning during my quiet time, I read Psalm 1, and tears began to stream down my face. I wrote the entire Psalm out by hand in the front of my Bible. In those moments, I knew that I never wanted to be that spiritually dry again.

Right then and there, I prayed and vowed before God that I would never neglect to be in His word daily again. Since then, I have had other painful and challenging seasons in my life, going through the heartache of divorce, the tragic loss of my 17-year-old nephew in an automobile accident, but through the years, I learned to rest on the assurance and the truth of that Psalm. I learned a valuable lesson about life and faith during one of the saddest seasons of my young adult life.

You see, when we practice the habit of meditating on God's word daily and applying it to our lives, no matter what life brings our way, we no longer have to wither, but instead, we can be like roots planted in the streams of HIS living water.

I thank God for the healing ministry of Jesus Christ that the Women's Refuge offers to women and families when they are hurting, in crisis, grieving, or searching for healing. The Women's Refuge provides a safe place for retreat and restoration for those in a difficult season of their lives. This ministry would not be possible without your faithful support

In Christian love,

Rebecca



Rebecca G. Calahan,
Board President

Prayer from our Founder Donna Lee Robart

Months ago, at 6:30 AM. "I feel, I sense, I think and possibly I know that You are not only giving me forgiveness for my momentary lack of faith yesterday, but You are giving me understanding and wisdom as I seek Your Presence today. Visiting yesterday at Hospice House, later around a resident at the Refuge, and then reading Your Word this morning triggered that yearning inside of me to experience Your Presence again. The women certainly were voicing their longing in so many words for Your Presence yesterday. Now, I do sense Your Presence is here in the Word this morning with me. In their desperation, I saw and felt their hunger for truth. "Are You here with me/us?" I sensed their brokenness and pain. This is strange to view this in two different situations....one that seemed to be "other directed"

and one that seemed to be "me directed." But You are showing me today that both of those were directed towards You.

Lord God Almighty, You are glorified in these encounters of raw need. Stripped of pretense and superficiality, these women were demonstrating that their pain was intensely focused on Your Holy Spirit and Your refuge. Nothing else will do. You love them, Lord. Amen and amen."

*"I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2*

Meet Lori

“When I filled out the application to come to Women’s Refuge of Vero Beach, I was exhausted, hopeless, depressed and experiencing burnout from my work as a Director of a non-profit organization. My desire was to get closer to God and ask for guidance, wisdom and for His will to be done in my life in every area, including my marriage.



My time here has been filled with blessings. It has not been easy, yet necessary for my well being. I found my “true” identity in Christ. I was given so many tools, resources, great Christian counseling and a safe place where I truly felt understood. I learned to be more aware of my co-dependent tendencies, which started to change as I worked the program.

I came for two weeks, yet stayed for a month. I am so grateful to have done this. I know that God started a good work in me which He will bring to completion. I have joy again, a smile on my face and I am ready to face the challenges of life with a true Christian perspective NOW.

I know that Jesus lives in me and I in Him. God IS with me and I am looking forward to living a guilt and shame free life as a fully forgiven and unconditionally loved daughter of God.

I love the Refuge, it’s staff, excellent counselors and will be forever grateful for Donna and her vision giving tough love and speaking the truth in love always. I leave with my cup full and looking forward to God’s perfect plan for my life. Committed to work on my marriage God’s way, not in my power or my way.

Thank you, Lori

PS: I am FREE 🎵



Thank you

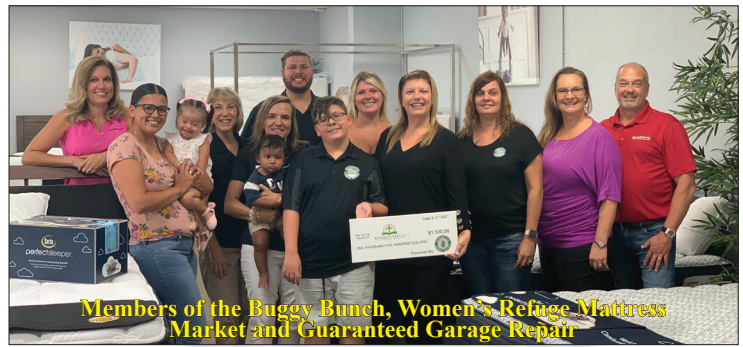


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Members of the Buggy Bunch, Women’s Refuge, Mattress Market and Guaranteed Garage Repair

Small acts of kindness can transform the world!

Last month when Steve and Janice Milesic, owners of Mattress Market raffled the \$2,000 mattress set with proceeds benefiting Women’s Refuge and the Buggy Bunch Family Center— raffle winner Tracey Yodice of Guaranteed Garage Repair wanted to pay it forward! Tracey later announced she was donating the prize back to charity. Today, Yodice and her team drove all the way from Stuart to personally present the winnings to the two agencies. Women’s Refuge and Buggy Bunch walked away not only with new mattress sets, but also a special contribution of \$1,500. We are forever grateful! Thank you Mattress Market, Guaranteed Garage Repair and those who participated in the raffle. Together we are making a difference in our community!



Rotary VB Secretary Brenda Bradley, WR Executive Director Diane Ludwig, Rotary VB President Opey Angelone, and Rotary Member Andrew Morrison

The Rotary Club of Vero Beach recently presented our ministry with a \$700 donation in support of our mission. We are humbled by their generosity and the crucial role they play in our community. From our hearts to yours - thank you!



VBCBA Vice President Steve Schwartz, President Marreen Nicolacci, and WR Executive Director Diane Ludwig

The Dinner For Four fundraiser held this summer was a huge success! The vision to make a difference in our community through collaboration birthed the partnership with the Women’s Refuge and the Vero Beach Christian Business Association. To us, YOU are our heroes. We wanted to take the time today to say thank you for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so we can continue to transform the lives of those who need it most right here in our community.