



**WOMEN'S REFUGE  
OF VERO BEACH**  
*Psalm 46:10 God is our refuge and strength*

April 2023

# BEAUTY IN BROKENNESS

**K**intsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery. In the act of restoring the pottery, its shards are glued back together with a mixture of lacquer dusted with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. What results is a bowl or a vase transformed into an even more beautiful object. The breakage and repair are treated as part of the history of the object rather than something to be disguised.



As an artisan repairs a pot or vase with the Kintsugi method of lacquer and precious metals, so God “glues” our lives back together. 2 Corinthians 3:18 reads, *“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*

There is beauty in brokenness, for God repairs the brokenness in our lives with Himself, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Then beauty is reflected and revealed in our lives, making us more beautiful than ever before.

Isn't Kintsugi a metaphor for how God takes our broken lives that were once beautiful and transforms them into a greater work of art displaying His glory?

Each of us was originally meant to be a beautiful and unique creation of God. We were *“fearfully and wonderfully made.”* Psalm 139:14.

But we broke that beautiful work of God with sin resulting in damage to our lives, souls, and hearts. *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Isaiah 53:6. Not only have we broken ourselves, but we have broken others and others have broken us with thoughts, words, and actions.

Yet our lives are not to be cast off, thrown away, or thought to be now worthless like a piece of broken pottery. We cannot fathom what He is willing and able to do for us in our broken state. *“For the Lord desires to heal and to save.”* Jeremiah 17:14. And from Psalm 147:3, *“He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.”*

At the Refuge, we believe there is beauty in brokenness, for God repairs the brokenness in our lives with Himself, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Refuge is a safe haven for those seeking wholeness where God repairs and restores the brokenhearted. Then, His beauty is reflected and revealed in our lives, making us more beautiful than ever before.

To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!

*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,”* Ephesians 3:20.

*Bobbi Smick,*  
Board Member



# PRAYER

by Founder Donna Lee Robart

**I**'ve been reading a book by Nancy Guthrie called *“God Does His Best Work With Empty.”* Below is a prayer she chose to serve as a guide for us as we seek to talk to God about the emptiness in our lives:

*“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be*

*strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

Ephesians 3: 14-19







Diane A. Ludwig, Morella, and Jill Miller

# VICTORY WALK

For Morella, a three month resident, learning how to read the Bible is just one of the many accomplishments she's achieved here at the Refuge. In a few weeks, God restored her hope, and she even accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Morella's enthusiasm is contagious. You can see the light of Christ shining through her smile as she continues her daily studies and activities. She hopes to get baptized before Easter. As her family in Christ, we continue to walk alongside her, ministering the Word of God through a structured curriculum, and providing Christ-centered counseling as part our residential program. Stay tuned for more exciting news about how God is working through the women He brings to the Refuge.



## Thank You

More than 300 walkers/runners attended the Women's Refuge Annual Love 5k at Riverside Park on Feb 11. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made this event possible!



**WOMEN'S REFUGE LOVE 5K walk & run**

**Thank you to our Sponsors!**

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# OLYN

## Thank You

Volunteers from Operation Love Your Neighbor, First Methodist Church went above and beyond here at the Refuge on Feb 11. They pressure washed the exterior of our counseling offices and residential program buildings, as well as cleaned up debris around the property.



WOMEN'S REFUGE OF VERO BEACH

**Volunteer Appreciation BBQ**

FUN • FELLOWSHIP • FOOD

Saturday  
**APRIL 22**  
4:00-6:00PM

Located At  
**WOMEN'S REFUGE CAMPUS**  
1850 LEMON AVENUE  
VERO BEACH, FL 32960  
RSVP BY APRIL 14

with the **FOUR GREEN BONES** BARBECUE

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