



WOMEN'S REFUGE  
OF VERO BEACH

July 2021

## THE KEY TO JOY AND FREEDOM

As a young girl in fourth grade, I loved playing softball and could hardly wait for practice after school that day. At the final bell, I hurried to help my older sister with the sports equipment we needed. After hauling out the gear, and locking up the storage room, I was handed the key and we headed out to the field. Enjoying the freedom of finally being outside, I reveled in doing cartwheels in the outfield with other team members (isn't that a required warm-up?). Did I mention I had put the key to the storage room in my top pocket? After practice, when my sister asked for the key, it was evident I had lost it somewhere out on the field during my grand display of gymnastics. The coach was certainly not pleased with this turn of events and the entire team was dispensed to the field to do an intense search for the lost key. Yes, it was finally found but my embarrassment and my irresponsibility in handling the key were overwhelming to me even at this young age.

It is often very disturbing to us when we lose something valuable. In the parable of the lost coin in Luke 15:8-10, Jesus takes us along in the search with the woman who lights up her house, sweeps, and explores her house carefully as she looks for her lost treasure. Imagine her intense anxiety over losing such a valuable coin. With joy, she calls her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her *"for I have found the piece which I lost."*

At the Women's Refuge, we have a lot to rejoice over. First and foremost, that God's truth is transforming the lives of the lost that come to us searching for answers. Applying and receiving God's truth is the key to a real spiritual change

in hearts and souls. Second, we are thankful that God is moving in His timing to bring more residents to this unique healing program. The key for us is to be unwavering in our belief for His direction of the ministry. And third, we rejoice in the faithfulness of the saints who contribute to this ministry in so many ways: physical, prayerful, gifting, and financial. We hold the key to true joy and freedom; the pure gospel of Jesus Christ and we are supported by you to bring the light of Good News to those trapped in darkness. What a privilege it is to see a soul unburdened by shame, guilt or depression and begin their new life strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit. We must continue this calling the Lord has given us and *"be confident to know that He who has begun a good work will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* Phil 1:6

I have a framed print in my home that reads: "Prayer should be the key to the day, and the lock of the night." This key of prayer is the treasure that we have found and value it dearly. We have the priceless gift of opening the doors of heaven and entering in.

*"And the Lord said: 'I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house (Refuge) which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.' "* 1 Kings 9:3



Diane A. Ludwig  
Executive Director

### *Prayer from our founder,* Donna Lee Robart

John (not his real name) came to see me years ago on the advice from a friend of his. I believe that this friend said to John, "This woman will tell you what you probably need to know, but don't want to hear." This was a beginning of a friendship and sort of an accountability relationship that he was used to in going to AA meetings. Not that he always did what I advised him to do, but he was pleasant when he said, "I don't think so." But the very first thing that he did do that would literally change his life was to ask Jesus into his heart. He told me that he liked knowing that God was in control now. He told many, many stories of his life as a sponsor to dozens of men over the years. He called me his "godmother" especially when he needed some encouragement and prayer. I read the Bible to him with a loud voice because he was hard of hearing. I remember that he repeated after

me parts of Psalm 71 which made quite an impression on him and he said it many times, **"I found what I was looking for."**

Psalm 71 is the prayer of an old man asking God to rescue and help him. In it, the author reveals deep knowledge of a loving God and an assurance that God would hear his cry. The last time I saw him was two years ago when he came to talk about his cancer. He said, "I'm going to trust the Lord for whatever happens." And, you know what happened? The Lord took him home. Pray for his family who miss him. We all miss him, but we'll see him soon. Pray with me.

*"In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be put to shame. Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape; Incline Your ear to me and save me. Be my strong Refuge."* Psalm 71:1-2

# Total Transformation!

Before I came to the Women's Refuge, I was a wreck, crying nonstop, hysterical with a lot of anxiety, depression, and resentment. At the Refuge, I found peace not only through the counselors but also through the curriculum. It has changed my life, and the same can happen to you. It's not easy, but it's worth it in the end. You will feel like a different person.



No therapy is going to give you the truth in this way. This ministry teaches God's truth and how much He loves you. I'm not anxious or worried anymore. Now, I leave it all to God. So, I encourage you that no matter what you're going through, give the Refuge a chance. Everybody here is amazing. Trust me—they've all walked a similar path as I have. Thank you so much Women's Refuge!

- Veronica, 3 Month Resident

  
**WOMEN'S REFUGE**  
 OF VERO BEACH  
 HELP. HOPE. HEALING.

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