

November 2025

Lessons from a Simpler Day

I was raised the oldest of five girls. We were raised in a series of humble Methodist parsonages, scattered across upstate New York. I am the daughter of a country preacher and a stay-at-home mother who served faithfully as choir director wherever my father pastored. Church wasn't just something we did on Sundays, it was the rhythm of our entire lives. From the moment I took my first breath, I don't think I missed a Sunday service, Sunday school lesson, youth group meeting, bell choir rehearsal, choir practice or covered dish supper.

We lived a simple, small town life where children played outside until the streetlights came on. We always knew Mom and Dad were home. My father wasn't focused on raising scholars or overachievers; his deepest desire was that we grow up to be kind, loving, good-hearted, Christian women. We were taught to share our toys, get along with one another, and to treat others the way we wanted to be treated.

These days, in order to encourage faith-filled choices we often ask our youth, "What would Jesus do?" But in my

family, growing up in the 1960s and 70s, we didn't just ask the question, we lived the answer. My father didn't only preach about Jesus; he modeled His love through simple, consistent acts. Some of the greatest lessons I ever learned were through the words of familiar Sunday School songs, or Bible verses my father would walk around saying like a mantra, "*All good things come to those who love and serve the Lord.*"

Today, as Director of Development at the Women's Refuge, I reflect on those early teachings. At its heart, our ministry is about the same simple, life-changing truths: showing the love of Jesus through compassion, forgiveness, and grace. Since coming here I have witnessed many women experience hope and healing as they encounter His love. The Refuge reminds me that the lessons I learned long ago are still transforming lives today. If you would like to know more about the Women's Refuge call 772-770-4424 or visit our website at womensrefugevb.org.



Judy Graziosi
Director of Development

Message from the Executive Director

How fortunate to have an upbringing where God's Word was boldly proclaimed, taught and modeled. Without this foundation, our society, and our lives, can become chaotic.



Diane A. Ludwig
Executive Director

When these values are missing during the early years, it often leads to lives marked by hardship and hopelessness. Now as adults, the difficulties become increasingly harder to overcome, leading to depression, anxiety, instability and loneliness.

We're here to help. We offer hope to the hopeless, help for the weary and fainthearted and healing for the wounds of the past. Our Christ-centered program and

our biblical counseling center is dedicated to "*proclaim good news to the poor (in spirit).*" God has ordained this ministry to "*bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from the darkness for the prisoners (those in bondage to emotional, mental and spiritual bondage.)*" The entire passage in Isaiah 61 is full of hope, knowing God has unending mercy for those in suffering.

We can help you with your suffering. We offer a new turning point in your life, by putting your trust in Christ and learning how to apply His Word to your circumstances and see the Spirit of God produce fruit in your life - starting today. We are here at the Women's Refuge, confident, capable and caring. Call us at 772-770-4424! We'd love to hear from you.



**WOMEN'S REFUGE
OF VERO BEACH**

8TH ANNUAL

Christmas Banquet

GUEST SPEAKERS | FORMER RESIDENTS



Lori Stanwood



Christian and
Vicky Borghini



Stephany Wagner



Autumn Carlson

Revelation 12:11

**"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and
by the word of their testimony . . ."**

Saturday, December 13th | 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Oak Harbor Club, 4755 S. Harbor Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32967

Join us for an elegant evening of dinner, a lavish silent auction, live music by Riptide, and a special presentation of inspiring testimonials of lives transformed at the Refuge.

Become a sponsor today and make a lasting impact!

- ___ \$10,000 Light of the World Sponsor: Reserved table of ten in Tier 1 Premium seating.
- ___ \$5000 Guiding Star Sponsor: Reserved table of ten in Tier 2 Premium seating.
- ___ \$2750 Everlasting Light Sponsor: Reserved table of ten in Tier 3 Premium seating.
- ___ \$1750 Starlight Circle Table Sponsor: Reserved table of ten.
- ___ \$500 Candle of Peace Sponsor: Gift to the Women's Refuge as a friendly gesture of support.

Call Judy at **772-236-6659** or email Judy.Graziosi@womensrefugevb.org to make a Donation

TESTIMONIAL

"During my time at the Refuge, God reminded me of people I still needed to forgive. He taught me to bring everything to Him and to trust Him more. I know this will impact my family, because the peace I've received will overflow into their lives too. I am so thankful for the women who serve here. Their patience and kindness touched me deeply and helped me in many areas of my life."



Zenaida
3-week former resident

ON-GOING CLASSES

MONDAYS

WOMEN SEEKING TRUTH

(Women's Study)

Ongoing Class: Free
(Plus Cost of Book)

Time: 7-8:30 PM

THURSDAYS

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

(Women's Study)

12 wk Class: Cost \$60
(Plus cost of book)

January 15 - April 2

Time 3:00-5:00 PM

FRIDAYS

ANGER MANAGEMENT

(Women's Study)

6 wk Class: Cost \$40
(Plus cost of book)

February 20 - March 27 2026

Time 3:00-5:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY

(Men & Women) Free

Time: 8:30-9:30 AM Ongoing



Shop



Donate



Volunteer







**WOMEN'S REFUGE
OF VERO BEACH**

Resale Shop



1615 10th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772)567-3598 | wrrstore@gmail.com
Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-3pm

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your Christmas
Gift Shopping!**










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Thank you to our
newsletter sponsors!







2025 Christmas Banquet

Scan this QR code to reserve
your spot today, or call
Judy at 772-236-6659