

When God shows up to do business, you'll know. For me, it took years of narcotics and drug abuse until I finally threw my hands up and said, "okay God I can't do this anymore, I need you to help me." I spent most of my adolescence using drugs and drinking alcohol. When I became an adult, my addiction had progressed into full blown insanity. I spent from the age of 18 to 24 in and out of the county jail, detoxes, rehabs, and hospitals. Finally, in 2015, God brought me to the end of myself. Ridden with a blood infection that spread to my lungs and my heart - I was very sick. Laying in the county jail, drugs almost took my life, but God had a different plan.

After a lot of prayer, my family found out about the Women's Refuge and I was able to have a phone interview with Joan while in jail. I will never forget her sweet, but firm voice. She accepted me. She said I could come. I didn't know what that looked like and I had never been to St. Augustine before, but I knew Jesus was at work, so I listened. I arrived at the Women's Refuge and I was welcomed with open arms into a family. A family of loving, nurturing, God-fearing, Jesus-loving people. Joan and Ed, Debbie, Cookie, Linda, John and Deb, CJ, and so many more people that I adore so much took time out of their lives to pour into me and love me when I was at my lowest.

The Refuge allowed me to focus on what's the most important thing in the world and that is my relationship with Jesus, as well as my family and myself. I am forever grateful for the morning devotions, church, Bible studies and heart to heart talks with my dear sisters in Christ. I truly believe the Women's Refuge of St. John's County was divinely orchestrated by God. The Holy Spirit flows through the home and the people who are involved with the Refuge. I am truly blessed to have been able to have the opportunity to let Jesus transform my life through the Women's Refuge. God has restored my relationship with my daughter and my family. Since graduating from the Refuge in 2016, God blessed me with another beautiful daughter (now 2) and a great life. I thank Jesus every day and not a day goes by I do not think of my family at the refuge and my transformation in Jesus Christ!



Dana & her beautiful family

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17