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*"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath  
are the everlasting arms."  
Deuteronomy 33:27a*

*"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,  
and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud,  
that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."  
~Isaiah 55:10-11~*

### *FROM THE HEART OF A FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER*

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Women's Refuge of St. Johns County,

We have just completed our seventeenth year in operation - A true experience in trusting in the Lord.

Our founders, Ed and Joan Clements believed the most valuable treasure is the Word of God. The goal of the Refuge has been to teach the Word and make disciples. We know there is no situation or hurt that cannot be remedied by applying the Word of God. It is a blessing to see our residents grow as they learn and apply God's Word to relationships, wounds, unforgiveness, self- acceptance, significance, and their traumatic experiences in life.

The Refuge is a sanctuary where hurting women can come to experience the great love our Heavenly Father has for them. Not everyone graduates, but every woman who enters the Refuge is exposed to the Word of God and its value.

*The word of God never returns void but accomplishes the purpose for which God sent it out.* The women in the home experience grace and mercy, some for the first time in their lives. They learn that their mistakes are not who they are. They have a new identity in Christ - they are no longer identified by their behavior but by their Savior! I can hear Joan saying "That's not who you are" when one of the residents would talk about her past life. It is critical that we speak the truth in love.

The result of their stay at the Refuge is a changed life. Some struggle when they first leave us, others chose to return to their old lives, most of our graduates are able to create successful lives. **All have been exposed to God's Word and His unconditional love.**

You are a vital part of the lives of these women. Without your prayers and contribution, the Refuge would not exist. On behalf of the Women's Refuge of St. Johns County, we thank you.

*Merry Christmas  
From our Home to Yours*

Sincerely,

Linda Huff  
Secretary



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